

National Park Service NPS NEPA Handbook Fundamentals

Washington, DC
May 24-26, 2016

This 3-day course provides a full overview of National Park Service (NPS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) practice based on the 2015 NPS NEPA Handbook. The course will focus on improving NPS NEPA practice so that NEPA reviews are concise, focused and timely. The course will cover topics including the legal and policy foundation for NEPA; the circumstances that trigger the need to comply with NEPA; and Council on Environmental Quality and Department of the Interior requirements. It will also cover standard NPS practices for categorical exclusions (CEs), environmental assessments (EAs), and environmental impact statements (EISs). The course will discuss key elements of NEPA reviews including timing, scoping, alternatives development, impacts analysis, public review, and decision documents. The relationship of other regulatory requirements to NEPA reviews, such as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act will be covered in brief. The course will also provide an opportunity to learn about how the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) program can be used to support your NEPA reviews.

Course Objectives:

At the end of this training course, participants will understand:

1. When to initiate NEPA reviews;
2. How to meet NEPA's procedural requirements and conduct focused, concise, timely and legally sufficient NEPA reviews;
3. The importance of identifying and describing the proposed action;
4. The concept of significance as it relates to issues analyzed, the magnitude of an impact, and the NEPA pathway;
5. How to use CEs;
6. Process steps for EAs vs EISs, and
7. The role of NEPA in the decision-making process.

Participants: Park Superintendents, managers, park NEPA coordinators or other staff involved with NEPA requirements. Priority given to NPS employees who prepare NEPA documents and those responsible for ensuring compliance w/NEPA guidelines.

Dates: **May 24-26, 2015.** Class starts at 8:00 am and concludes at 5:00 pm. Note: Additional trainings NER, SER, MWR, and PWR are anticipated to be scheduled in 2016

Location: U.S. Park Police Anacostia Operations Facility, 1901 Anacostia Drive SE, Washington, DC 20019. Venue is Metro accessible, via the Green Line, Anacostia Station.

Travel Cost: Travel paid by benefitting account.

Application: **Application deadline is April 29, 2016.** Apply through DOI Learn [Here](#). Or on the "Welcome" page, click on "Search the Catalog" near the center of the page. Search on "NPS NEPA Handbook." Scroll to the bottom to the sessions available.

Disregard 'Number of Open Seats' information. You must first apply and then your supervisor must approve your request in DOI Learn. All students enrolling in this class will be placed on the wait list. Enrollment status and logistics information will be sent the week of May 2nd through email.

Questions: Please contact Melissa Stedeford, (303-969-2256) or melissa_stedeford@nps.gov or Jeri Hall jeri_hall@nps.gov.