

National Park Service
NPS NEPA Handbook Fundamentals
Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, Asheville, NC
December 6-8, 2016

DAY ONE: The first day of this training provides a high level overview of National Park Service (NPS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) practice based on the 2015 NPS NEPA Handbook. Topics that will be covered include 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 basic NPS requirements and process steps for categorical exclusions (CEs), environmental assessments (EAs), and environmental impact statements (EISs). The relationship of other regulatory requirements to NEPA reviews will be covered in brief.

DAYS TWO & THREE: The remainder of this course will focus on improving NPS NEPA practice so that NEPA reviews are concise, focused and timely. Key elements of NEPA reviews such as scoping, alternatives development, impacts analysis, public review, and decision documents will be discussed in detail. The course will also provide an opportunity to learn how the Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) system can be used to support NEPA reviews.

Course Objectives:

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

- The role of NEPA in the NPS decision-making process;
- How to meet NEPA's basic procedural requirements;
- When to initiate NEPA reviews;
- The importance of identifying the proposed action;
- The concept of significance as it relates to the NEPA pathway;
- How to use CEs; and
- The basic process steps for EAs vs. EISs.

At the end of Day Two & Three of this training course, participants will understand:

- The importance of focused, concise, timely, and legally sufficient NEPA reviews;
- The detailed process steps for EAs and EISs, including:
 - Describing the proposed action and alternatives to it (including the no action alternative); and
 - The concept of significance as it relates to issues analyzed and the magnitude of an impact.

Participants: Staff in the region that manage NEPA reviews, participate as interdisciplinary team members during NEPA reviews, and/or have a role in implementing NEPA on a day-to-day basis in their parks/programs (e.g., Superintendents, planning & compliance managers).

Dates: **December 6-8, 2016.** Class starts at 8:00 AM and concludes at 5:00 PM.

Location: Blue Ridge Parkway Visitor Center, 199 Hemphill Knob Road, Asheville, NC 28803.

Travel Cost: Travel paid by benefitting account.

Application: **Application deadline is November 4, 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. Select **NPS-2016-1206-BLRI**.

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.* Selection notification and logistical information will be sent by email the week of November 7, 2016.

Questions: Please contact Samuel Fox (719)368-0690 or Samuel_fox@nps.gov; or Jeri Hall jeri_hall@nps.gov.