

**Training Class:**

1. **Best Practice Principles for Environmental Assessments**

This course will introduce students to the concept of Best Practice Principles for Environmental Assessments (BPPs for EAs), describe the methodology used to create the BPPs for EAs, and describe the seven BPPs for EAs that were created during the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) NEPA Pilot Project. Each student will receive a copy of the BPPs for EAs, the training materials, and a training certificate.

**Proposed Agenda April 7, 2014**

7:00 – 8:00 Registration for Conference and Class

8:00 – 9:30 Council on Environmental Quality NEPA Pilots and the Best Practice Principles Pilot– Mr. Horst Greczmiel, CEQ, Associate Director of NEPA Oversight

9:30 – 10:00 Introduction to the Draft Report BPP for EAs – Report of NAEP Pilot Project and Findings, P.E. Hudson, Esq.

10:00 – 10:15 Break

10:15 – 11:30 Best Practice Principles Part 1: Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, and Alternatives for EAs – Ronald Lamb, CEP, Stephen Pyle, Esq.

11:30 – 12:00 Purpose and Need Writing Workshop, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Pyle, and Ms. Hudson

12:00 – 1:15 Lunch Buffett

1:30 – 2:45 Best Practice Principles Part 2: Determination of Significance (Dr. Robin Senner, Mr. Ron Deverman and Ms. Hudson

2:45 – 3:00 Break

3:00 – 3:45 Best Practice Principles Part 3: Public Involvement, Karen Johnson, Mr. Lamb and Ms. Hudson

3:45 – 5:00 Structured Panel Discussion on Improving Environmental Assessments with Q&A Session, Mr. Greczmiel, Mr. Deverman, Dr. Senner, Mr. Lamb, Mr. Pyle, and Ms. Johnson (P.E. Hudson, Facilitator)

Instructors and Panelists:

**Horst Greczmiel, Esq.** joined the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) in November 1999 as the Associate Director for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Oversight. He is responsible for overseeing and implementing the NEPA and CEQ mandates to ensure that federal agencies integrate environmental values into decision-making. Prior to joining CEQ, Mr. Greczmiel worked in the Office of Environmental Law at Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington, DC, responsible for policy development and litigation involving environmental planning compliance responsibilities under NEPA, the Endangered Species Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act. Mr. Greczmiel served in the U.S. Army for 15 years, including tours with the Office of The Judge Advocate General’s Environmental Law Division and a detail as environmental advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health. Mr. Greczmiel received his B.A. from Lafayette College, Easton, PA; J.D. from Rutgers – Camden School of Law, Camden, NJ; and LL.M. in environmental law from George Washington University, Washington, DC.

**Ron Deverman** is Associate Vice-President for HNTB, a national engineering, architecture and planning firm, managing environmental impact assessment projects for transportation infrastructure improvements such as transit, passenger and freight rail, roadways, and bridges. Ron has 30-years’ experience in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) with special expertise in community impact assessment, cumulative effects analysis, and federal environmental regulations, such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, National Historic Preservation Act, and Endangered Species Act. His education includes a BS in civil/environmental engineering from the University of Illinois in Urbana, an MA in literature and creative writing from the University of Illinois in Springfield, and post-graduate studies in NEPA and related environmental studies. Ron is the Past President of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP). He has also chaired NAEP’s national NEPA Symposium, NEPA Working Group, Transportation Working Group (co-founder), and 27th Annual Conference (Dearborn, Michigan).

**P.E. Hudson, Esq.** is the Counsel, Department of the Navy Office of General Counsel in Ventura County, California, where she serves as the Environmental Law and Planning Training Director. The focus of her practice is environmental law and planning, and specifically NEPA; she also develops and teaches courses involving NEPA, environmental planning and impact analysis, and environmental law, with a special emphasis on coastal and ocean resources, to federal employees. She has served as a litigator at a large firm in private practice, and as a federal clerk. Ms. Hudson graduated from Florida State University’s School of Law as the Beverly Stout McLear Environmental and Land Use Scholar. She is a member of the bars of California, Florida and Georgia and the Supreme Court of the United States. Ms. Hudson retired from the Navy as a Commander (Oceanography). Any views expressed are Ms. Hudson’s personal views and not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Navy or Federal Government.

**Karen Johnson, CEP** has been an Environmental Scientist/Specialist for nearly 28 years. She was a Senior Environmental Scientist/NEPA Specialist for Geo-Marine, Inc. (now Versar, Inc.) in Plano, TX, from 2004 to 2013. Her primary responsibilities included managing NEPA documentation projects for numerous Federal agencies under the Departments of Defense, Agriculture, Energy and Transportation at both the individual project and the programmatic level. She also has completed more than 20 Environmental Site Assessments (Phase Is) or Environmental Baseline Surveys for both private and Federal clients. In 2007, she accepted an assignment to spend a year in Guam providing in-house NEPA support for NAVFAC Marianas, which she found both professionally and personally stimulating. Prior to her work with Geo-Marine, Ms. Johnson spent 12 years with Ecology and Environment, Inc. in San Francisco, CA, initially working under contract with the USEPA to do Superfund site assessments, then staffing and managing CEQA and NEPA projects. Her career started by spending five years with the US Geological Survey Water Resources Division in Sacramento, CA.

**Ronald E. Lamb, CEP** is an environmental program manager and senior project manager with more than 25 years of experience in NEPA compliance, environmental compliance and policy, public involvement and community relations, waste management and pollution prevention; litigation support; and issue management. He is a NEPA Specialist at Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps, where he reviews the adequacy of EISs on USMC actions, serves on the Headquarters USMC Environmental Impact Review Board, and represents the USMC to the President’s Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), other Department of Defense services, and other Federal agencies. Ron is co-chair of the NAEP NEPA Practice and served two-consecutive terms on the Board of Directors. Previously, he was a Vice President and NEPA Program Manager for HDR|e2M. Ron has managed the preparation of dozens of EAs and 14 EISs for the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Coast Guard (USCG) and Customs and Border Protection (CBP), U.S. Air Force, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), General Services Administration, National Park Service, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and NASA. Any views expressed are Mr. Lamb’s personal views and not necessarily those of the Department of Defense, Navy, or Federal Government.

**Stephen Pyle, Esq.** is a Senior NEPA Project Manager at HDR Environmental, Operations, and Construction, Inc. Mr. Pyle has 14 years of experience within the environmental field and two years of legal/litigation experience. Mr. Pyle currently manages all aspects of NEPA projects, including EISs and EAs, for various Federal agencies. In addition to completing numerous EAs throughout his career, Mr. Pyle has successfully completed EISs for diverse Federal agencies including U.S. Coast Guard, National Park Service, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and is currently completing a complicated EIS for the U.S. Air Force in the Mariana Islands region. Mr. Pyle has also conducted and taken part in a wide range of environmental compliance activities for Federal agencies related to hazardous waste management, storm water management, and natural resource management. In addition, he is experienced as a litigation clerk, paralegal, legal researcher and litigation attorney for two law firms. Mr. Pyle's legal experience includes general contract law, construction defects, mechanics lien law, oil and gas law, Federal Mine Safety and Health Administration law, and general litigation. Mr. Pyle has represented clients before Texas County and District Court judges. He is a licensed attorney, admitted to the State Bar of Texas.

**Dr. Robert Senner** is a Principal with ARCADIS, a global engineering and environmental consulting firm, and is based in Anchorage, Alaska and Seattle, Washington. Dr. Senner has successfully managed and completed many environmental impact statements and environmental assessments, including NEPA, Washington State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), and Environmental, Social, and Health Impact Assessment (ESHIA) programs. His clients and lead agencies have included most Federal agencies involved in energy, resource development, and transportation, corresponding state agencies, and major energy and engineering companies. He received his Ph.D. in Public Policy (Environmental Law and Economics) from The University of Texas at Austin, Lyndon B. Johnson School of Public Affairs. He also completed advanced studies in biology as a Nuffield Scholar at the University St. Andrews, served as a Royal Society Scholar at the Stazione Zoologica in Naples, and was a National Institute of Mental Health postdoctoral fellow at the California Institute of Technology. He received his Bachelor’s degree from Yale University, where he was a National Science Foundation Scholar. Dr. Senner was an original member of the team selected by the CEQ to conduct the Pilot Project on Best Practice Principles for NEPA EAs. He has published a number of peer-reviewed papers on improving NEPA EAs, cumulative effects assessment and management, and sustainability.