

Call for papers for publication in the scholarly journal:
ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE

The journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals

PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPA
vol. 16 no. 4 (December 2014)

The National Environmental Policy Act is criticized for costing too much, taking too long, and accomplishing too little. We are seeking proposals for articles to take on these criticisms.

The December 2014 issue of Environmental Practice is devoted to practical – not theoretical or academic – improvements for implementation of NEPA. Please consider the fundamental purposes of NEPA when preparing your proposal: to inform public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken, and to facilitate public involvement in decisions that affect the quality of the human environment. We are less interested in papers on better documents and more interested in papers on better decisions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment.

Deadline for submittals is
May 15, 2014 to
dcarro17@depaul.edu

Sample issues of the journal
can be found at:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayJournal?jid=ENP>

Guidelines for publication can
be found at:

<http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayMoreInfo?jid=ENP&type=ifc>

For questions, please contact
Dan Carroll, Managing Editor, at
773-325-2298, or by email at
dcarro17@depaul.edu

We invite manuscripts that touch on any of these criticisms but we are especially interested in those that deal with:

- (i) Problems arising from vague, erroneous, or missing provisions in NEPA-implementing regulations
- (ii) Official guidance. Are our questions being answered authoritatively and in time?
- (iii) Support and active involvement of decision-makers. Budgets, schedules, and—finally—using these documents to make decisions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment
- (iv) Variations in NEPA implementation created by agencies (e.g., actions excluded for one agency but not for another)
- (v) Inflation of the EA into the “mini-EIS” we see commonly today, as opposed to an analysis of significant adverse impacts
- (vi) Inflation of the categorical exclusion into a non-trivial paperwork exercise involving multiple levels of review and approval
- (vii) Cumulative impacts to the global environment, such as individually small increments of greenhouse gas emissions in the context of an EA/FONSI
- (viii) The skill of the workforce. Do NEPA practitioners have the necessary training and access to training to make the findings necessary to populate an adequate NEPA document?
- (ix) Consultants. Do government contracts to prepare NEPA documents increase their bulk, time to prepare, and cost?
- (x) NEPA mythology. How many things do we believe to be true about NEPA that are not true? Are these getting in our way?