

GEOSCIENCES AND ENGINEERING DIVISION

TRIP REPORT

SUBJECT: Preparing and Documenting Environmental Impact Analyses
(AI No. 06002.01.011.045)

DATE/PLACE: June 12–15, 2006; Durham, North Carolina

AUTHOR: B. Werling

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PERSONS PRESENT:

B. Werling of the Center for Nuclear Waste Regulatory Analyses (CNWRA) participated in the Preparing and Documenting Environmental Impact Analyses course on June 12–15, 2006, in Durham, North Carolina. See Attachments 1 and 2 for the list of students and instructors.

BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF MEETING/TRIP:

This trip was part of ongoing CNWRA professional development training. The course was designed to provide an overview on how to prepare and review National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents such as environmental assessments and environmental impact statements. The course was offered by the Duke Environmental Leadership (DEL) Program and co-sponsored by the White House Council on Environmental Quality. The DEL Program offers a variety of courses on NEPA and is part of Duke University's Executive Education Program.

NEPA (enacted in 1969) established a national environmental policy and provided a procedural framework for implementing this policy. This act requires federal agencies to consider environmental consequences in the decisionmaking process. Agencies must define the purpose and need for the proposed action, develop alternatives to the proposed action, and evaluate the environmental effects for each of the options. The goal of NEPA is to foster excellent actions utilizing a transparent process that provides decisionmakers with an understanding of the environmental consequences for proposed actions.

SUMMARY OF PERTINENT POINTS:

The following points were emphasized by the instructors throughout the course:

- A clear identification of the purpose and need for a proposed action is required to generate meaningful alternatives.
- Each resource area should be specifically mentioned in a NEPA document even if it is only a brief justification to explain why the resource is not examined in more detail.

SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES:

The course consisted of lectures, case studies, and group exercises (see Attachment 3 for the agenda). Instructors encouraged discussion and questioning during the lectures that primarily focused on the proper contents for the various sections of NEPA documents. Case studies and group exercises reinforced the lecture material.

IMPRESSIONS/CONCLUSIONS:

Course participants came from diverse organizations including consulting firms and federal agencies. This diversity provided a wide variety of perspectives and experiences concerning NEPA.

PROBLEMS ENCOUNTERED: None.

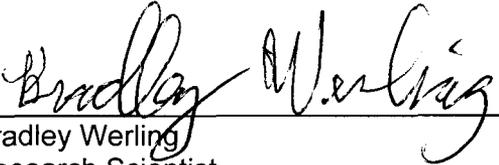
PENDING ACTIONS: None.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

Individuals seeking a solid foundation in the skills necessary to properly prepare or review NEPA documents would benefit from attending this course.

REFERENCES: None.

SIGNATURES AND DATE:



Bradley Werling
Research Scientist

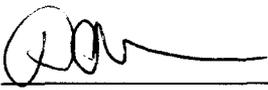
6-28-06
Date

CONCURRENCE:



English C. Pearcy
Manager, Geochemistry

6/28/2006
Date



Pat Mackin
Director of Administration

6/27/2006
Date

ATTACHMENT 1

PREPARING AND DOCUMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSES

DUKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
NICHOLAS SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND EARTH SCIENCES
DUKE UNIVERSITY

June 12 – June 15, 2006

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ATTACHMENT 2

PREPARING AND DOCUMENTING ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ANALYSES

DUKE ENVIRONMENTAL LEADERSHIP PROGRAM
NICHOLAS SCHOOL OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND EARTH SCIENCES
DUKE UNIVERSITY

June 12-15, 2006

INSTRUCTOR LIST

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ATTACHMENT 3

Preparing and Documenting Environmental Impact Analyses

June 12-15, 2006
Duke Environmental Leadership Program
Nicholas School of the Environment and Earth Sciences
Duke University

Time	Topic	Instructor
Monday, June 12, 2006		
8:30 – 8:45	Course Welcome	DEL Staff
8:45 – 9:30	Introduction to NEPA	Wilbur
9:30 – 11:00	The Three Impact Analysis Processes	Betteker
11:00 – 12:00	The Proposed Action and Other Early Things	Wilbur
12:00 – 1:30	Campus Tour and Lunch	
1:30 – 2:00	Writing Purpose and Need Statements	Wilbur
2:00 – 5:15	Practical Exercise No. 1 – P/As and P&Ns	Faculty
5:15 – 6:30	Reception in Nicholas School Courtyard	
Tuesday, June 13, 2006		
8:30 – 9:30	Practical Exercise No. 1, cont.	Faculty
9:30 – 11:00	Developing (Identifying, Screening, Selecting, Describing) Alternatives	Wilbur
11:00 – 12:00	Practical Exercise No. 2 – Alternatives	Faculty
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 4:00	Practical Exercise No. 2, cont.	Faculty
4:00 – 4:45	Scoping and Public Involvement	Betteker
4:45 – 5:00	Parking Lot	Faculty
Wednesday, June 14, 2006		
8:30 – 9:30	Integration of Other Environmental Compliance Requirements	Betteker
9:30 – 10:15	Data Collection and Analysis	Wilbur
10:30 – 11:30	Describing the Affected Environment and Consequences	Betteker
11:30 – 12:00	Practical Exercise No. 3 – Affected Environment and Consequences	Faculty
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 3:00	Practical Exercise No. 3, cont.	Faculty
3:15 – 4:00	Mitigation	Wilbur
4:00 – 5:00	NEPA Management Exercises	Faculty
Thursday, June 15, 2006		
8:30 – 9:30	Cumulative Effects Analysis Techniques	Betteker
9:30 – 10:15	Compiling the Document	Wilbur
10:30 – 11:00	Document Reviews and Responding to Comments	Betteker
11:00 – 12:00	NEPA Management Exercises	Faculty
12:00 – 1:00	Lunch	
1:00 – 1:30	Decision Documents	Betteker
1:30 – 2:45	The Administrative Record and Related Matters	Wilbur
3:00 – 4:15	NEPA Management Exercises	Faculty
4:15 – 4:30	Course Summary and Critique	Faculty

15-minute breaks generally occur around 10:00 and 2:30 daily