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SWCA NEPA TRAINING PROGRAM

Website and contact information:

<http://www.swca.com/training/>

Cathryn Collis

801-322-4307

Other information from the website:

“SWCA Environmental Consultants is one of the largest environmental consulting companies with a focus solely on environmental consulting, with over 350 employees in 20 offices throughout the western U.S.

SWCA is an industry leader in providing open enrollment and customized NEPA courses. Our skilled instructors are senior NEPA project managers and NEPA legal specialists who keep current on the latest NEPA practice trends and legal developments. The three NEPA courses described below are open enrollment courses offered at least once a year. SWCA can customize these other NEPA courses and deliver them to your organization on-site. All SWCA NEPA courses are highly interactive, with significant time devoted to discussing case studies drawn from real NEPA projects. In each course, participants receive a customized training manual as a take-home reference.

Comprehensive NEPA

Course Description: Our “boot camp” style National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) course uses an interactive approach. The course focuses on exploring each phase of the NEPA process, including formulation of alternatives to meet project needs, appropriate public involvement, impact analysis, publication of a decision, and maintenance of an administrative record. We take the complexity of regulatory management and synthesize it into a presentation that is understandable and usable to you. Participants will choose from a variety of NEPA case studies and manage a project from kick-off through publication of the Record of Decision. This course is designed for both NEPA novices and experts. When you finish this course, you’ll understand how to better work with NEPA.

Course Objectives :

After completion of the workshop, participants will:

- *Understand the overall philosophy and purpose of NEPA.*
- *Receive a basic overview of the CEQ guidelines and NEPA case law.*
- *Have a working knowledge of the stages and levels of the NEPA process.*
- *Understand the implications of the decisions required throughout the NEPA process.*
- *Be prepared to determine the appropriate situations for category exclusions (CE), environmental assessment (EA), and environmental impact statements (EIS).*
- *Learn the role of major federal agencies in the NEPA process and understand the responsibilities of the ‘third party’ NEPA consultant in agency analysis.*

- *Have an understanding of the responsibilities and ethics of the lead agency, cooperating agencies, and NEPA consultant.*
- *Understand the step-by-step process from project kick-off through publication of a decision.*
- *Learn how to design a NEPA process and maintain the administrative record to minimize litigation risks.*

Advanced Topics in NEPA: Project Management

Course Description: This course is designed for highly experienced NEPA practitioners whose goals are to learn how to better manage NEPA projects. We will cover topics such as successfully managing an interdisciplinary team; managing agency consultant and proponent relationships; scheduling, timeline control, and budget estimation techniques; streamlining document writing and review; and developing techniques for resolving resource and personnel conflicts. This course is also highly interactive, using case-study analysis and workshop activities to teach course concepts and management principles.

Course Objectives:

After completion of the workshop, participants will learn:

- *How to build an effective project management and interdisciplinary team.*
- *Techniques in working with interdisciplinary teams, managing agencies, proponents, and consultants.*
- *Techniques to resolve resource and personnel conflicts.*
- *Scheduling, timeline control, and budget estimation techniques.*
- *How to streamline document writing and review, and meet NEPA policy regulations.*

The Cultural Side of NEPA: Addressing Cultural Resources in NEPA Analysis

Course Description: The National Environmental Policy Act requires a comprehensive, hard look at the impacts of federal agency actions and decisions on the “human environment.” Much of that environment has to do with the role it plays, or the way it is perceived, in human culture. This course helps those who specialize in NEPA understand the range of cultural values that may be present in the environment, the special legal requirements and professional approaches that apply to different cultural aspects of the environment. Participants will learn how to address the cultural environment using different forms of NEPA analysis and documentation.

Course Objectives:

After completion of the workshop, participants will learn:

- *What the cultural aspects of the environment typically are.*
- *The different forms of NEPA analysis and documentation.*
- *How culture can add to and transform how the natural environment is valued.*
- *How laws like the National Historic Preservation Act, American Indian Religious Freedom Act, and Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act relate to NEPA.*
- *The specialized terminologies used by NEPA experts on the one hand and cultural resource specialists on the other.*
- *How cultural environmental factors can be addressed when screening categorical exclusions, preparing environmental assessments, and preparing environmental impact statements.*

- *How impacts on the cultural environment can be managed under Findings of No Significant Impact and Records of Decision.”*