

# **EPA Section 309 NEPA Document Reviews**

**Region 10 – Seattle, WA June 21-23, 2005**

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## **Tuesday, June 21 – Morning**

### ***Section 1 – Course Overview***

- Course overview/ goals/ objectives/ resources
  - Introductions/ logistics / housekeeping
- Initial review of an EA/EIS (Exercise 1.1)
- Suggested nine-step review process

### ***Section 2--Setting Review Priorities – Sec 309 Review Overview***

- Section 309 review requirements
  - Perspectives of Review (Exercise 2.1)
  - Section 309 legal requirements/ EPA policy
  - Managing the 309 process
    - Responsibilities (Exercise 2.2)
    - Project management considerations
    - EPA Involvement in scoping (Exercise 2.3)
    - EPA as a Cooperating agency
- Laws that frame the 309 review process
- The EPA rating system (Exercise 2.4)

## **Tuesday, June 21 – Afternoon**

### ***Section 3 – Legal Requirements—NEPA Content Review (EPA Impact Review)***

- Review of NEPA the law (Sections 101 and 102) (Exercises 3.1 and 3.2)
- Review of CEQ Regulation requirements (Exercise 3.3)
- Using the Score Card/ EIS checklist
- EPA's NEPA scope of review (exercise 3.4)
- Additional hints for reviews
  - Purpose and Need (Optional exercise)
  - Proposed Action (Exercise 3.5)

## **Wednesday, June 22– Morning**

- Issues (Exercise 3.6 )
- Alternatives ( Exercise 3.7, No Action: Exercise 3.8)

## **Wednesday, June 22 – Afternoon**

- Environmental Impacts (Exercise 3.9, hard look: Exercise 3.10)
- Special Topics
  - Cumulative effects (individual exercise)
  - Incomplete and unavailable info (optional exercise)
  - Environmental Justice
  - Optional exercise

## **Thursday, June 23 – Morning**

### ***Section 4 – Document Quality and Readability (EPA rating “Document Adequacy”)***

- Document Quality Checklist
- Style guide (Exercise 4.1: Optional Exercise)
- EPA adequacy rating (Exercise 4.2 – Rating a NEPA document)
- Optional Exercise

## **Thursday, June 23 – Afternoon**

### ***Section 5 – Preparing Review Comments***

- Section 309 letters -- Content and Format (Exercise 5.1, Exercise 5.2)
- Construct a 309 comment letter outline ( Exercise 5.3)
- Oral feedback (Optional Exercise)
- Course summary and evaluation