SYLLABUS

COLLABORATION IN NEPA

OVERVIEW

This training is designed for experienced National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) professional practitioners who want to develop and integrate collaboration opportunities into the overall NEPA process. The course has its foundations in the Council of Environmental Quality's "Collaboration in NEPA - A Handbook for NEPA Practitioners," and is tailored to NEPA professionals to learn how to assess and plan for successful collaboration within the context of NEPA processes using appropriate tools, techniques, and best practices. Participants also will develop a better understanding of the policy goals of NEPA and the benefits of using collaborative approaches to achieve those goals. This interactive and experiential training will include real-world NEPA case studies and skills practice that enable participants to analyze the potential for collaboration and plan for effective engagement in upcoming NEPA activities.

Learning from the course is relevant for NEPA processes applied to different types of projects and substantive topics (e.g., planning, infrastructure, energy, transportation, multi-agency project, etc.). Training participants will learn alongside NEPA practitioners from across the Federal Government and the private sector.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of the training, participants will have the knowledge/skills to:
- Assess and plan for successful collaboration in NEPA processes using appropriate tools, techniques, and best practices
- Understand the policy goals of NEPA and the benefits of using collaborative approaches to achieve those goals
- Relate the premise and policy underpinnings of NEPA to implementing collaborative approaches
- Identify the benefits and uses of collaboration in NEPA, and an array of tools, techniques, and best practices to achieve those benefits
- Define and articulate the different degrees of collaboration in a NEPA context
- Understand the mindsets, skills, and behaviors conducive to successful collaboration
- Integrate the collaboration mindset and techniques into NEPA planning and implementation
- Assess the potential for and feasibility of utilizing collaborative approaches in NEPA
- Identify obstacles to successful collaboration and develop strategies to address those potential obstacles
- Connect collaboration concepts to real-world NEPA examples
- Apply collaborative principles, tools, and techniques to working with lead agencies, cooperating agencies and stakeholders
- Apply collaborative principles, tools, and techniques to their own NEPA examples

AGENDA
COLLABORATION IN NEPA

DAY 1

MORNING
8:15 AM – Arrive
8:30 AM – Begin Class

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
- Welcome and Introductions
- Objectives of Course
- Agenda and Materials
- Introduce the National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution
- Reflection on Intent and Goal of NEPA

COLLABORATIVE CONCEPTS
- Definition of Collaboration and When It Works Best
- Understanding Environmental Collaboration and Conflict Resolution

COLLABORATION IN THE NEPA CONTEXT
- Benefits of Collaboration
- Critical Considerations for Collaboration in NEPA

LUNCH (1 HOUR)
Lunch on your own

AFTERNOON

ASSESSING COLLABORATIVE CAPACITY, READINESS, AND POTENTIAL
- Assessing the Potential for Productive and Effective Collaboration within the NEPA Process
- Collaboration Feasibility Assessment

DESIGNING COLLABORATION INTO THE NEPA PROCESS
- Collaboration Goals, Commitments, Tools, and Techniques for All NEPA Stages

4:30 PM – Adjourn for the day

AGENDA
COLLABORATION IN NEPA

DAY 2

MORNING
8:15 AM – Arrive
8:30 AM – Begin Class

UNDERSTANDING AND WORKING WITH CONFLICT IN NEPA
- Common Sources of Conflict in NEPA
- People, Process, and Content Considerations
- Strategies for Working with Conflict in the NEPA Process

LEADING COLLABORATION
- Collaborative Mindset, Attitudes, and Behaviors
- Facilitative Leadership

LUNCH (1 HOUR)
Lunch on your own

AFTERNOON

BRINGING IT ALL TOGETHER: COLLABORATIVE DESIGN REVIEW AND SCENARIO CASE STUDY DEVELOPMENT
- Key Opportunities, Priorities, and Principles for Designing and Implementing Collaboration in NEPA

ANALYSIS OF CASE STUDY
- Lessons Learned

COLLABORATION CLINIC
- Connect this Process to Your Projects and Apply Collaborative Principles/Tools/Techniques to Your NEPA Examples

COURSE WRAP UP

4:30 PM – Adjourn for the day