



News from Environmental Training & Consulting International, Inc.

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1. President's Column – Leslie E. Wildesen, Ph.D.

Welcome to our new world! You may have wondered why ETCI's distinctive green-papered newsletter was delayed getting to your physical in-box. The answer is that we are replacing our 5-year-old physical newsletter with this *electronic* one. We hope this email format will be faster and easier for you to read, and keep you better informed about current and future ETCI activities. In addition, it will help us fulfill our pledge as an EPA WasteWise participant to further reduce our use of paper, printing inks, and energy.

Feel free to let us know how you like this new format, and as always we want to know what kinds of articles you would like to see in future issues. We also know you are busy, and may want to access information only from our web site, on your time schedule. Therefore, to unsubscribe to this version of OnTrack, please follow the directions in Item 8, below. Of course, all the past issues of our physical *On Track* are still archived on our web site for your reference. Visit www.envirotrain.com and click on Resources.

So read on to discover a number of changes, enhancements, and flat out NEW THINGS at ETCI, Inc., including:

- Announcement of the beta-test of our Distance Learning Curriculum (and a discount!)
- Description of an entirely new program we call Proponent-Sponsored Training
- Two new projects highlighting aspects of our *NEPACoach*™ program

2. NEPA Toolbox™ courses now available for Distance Learning

Increased security concerns, travel challenges, and budget reallocations resulting from the events of September 11, 2001 are making distance learning options more attractive for many of ETCI's clients. Distance learning, while no substitute for face-to-face interaction with an experienced instructor, can provide much of the content information and practical hands-on activities participants need in order to gain new knowledge and skills.

ETCI is developing versions of its acclaimed NEPA Toolbox™ curriculum suitable for distance learning applications. This Distance Learning Curriculum (DLC) is designed to provide needed information, tools, and learning activities along with one-on-one interaction with instructional staff throughout each course.

Not merely a "point and click" audio-visual presentation on your computer, rather an integrated set of hands-on courseware brings ETCI's hallmark interactivity and stimulating learning environment to your physical desktop as well. All computer materials are platform independent (Mac/Windows).

These distance courses include a comprehensive training manual along with

- on-line audio preview/review materials
- Internet links to regulations and agency guidance
- CD-ROM multi-media presentations
- direct contact via email with the instructor throughout the course

Periodic self-assessments enable participants and instructors to track progress. A Certificate of Completion will be issued upon successful completion of all course activities within 30 days.

Two courses, *Essentials for the NEPA Practitioner* and *EAs with FOCUS™* are available for beta-testing now. Contact us if you want to be a beta-tester (at a 30% course tuition discount).

3. Project Spotlight – Cums and Content

Two new projects are underway, one in Colorado and one in Illinois. The first is a Regional Cumulative Effects Analysis (RCEA) for several highway projects under the auspices of the Colorado Department of Transportation; the second is a Content Analysis for a Forest Plan Environmental Impact Statement, for the USDA Forest Service. Both include components of our training and consulting program we call *The NEPA Coach™* (all of which are available to federal agencies under GSA contract # GS-10F-0163L (899-3)).

The RCEA is, we believe, the first of its kind for highway projects. By using two expert panels, one for natural resources and one for community resources, we are tapping the knowledge and support of local scientists and community experts. The goal is to develop sustainability measures and strategies for the significant resources identified by the panels, that can be used by any project planner in the geographic area covered by the RCEA.

The Content Analysis is a type of project we have begun doing more of recently, as it fits neatly within the NEPA Navigator™ component of our *NEPA Coach™* program. Most agencies have

downsized their staff and budgets so that this time- and brain-consuming task is no longer easily accomplished in-house. Because of the need to read and analyze hundreds, sometimes thousands of responses to EISs (and sometimes EAs), content analysis can create a nightmare for overworked and under-funded agency administrative staff and Interdisciplinary Team members.

Therefore, ETCI is actively seeking more content analysis projects. We have developed database models for tracking commenters and their comments, and our staff and associates bring decades of environmental planning experience to the task of reading comments and understanding the issues they raise. These types of projects are available under our GSA contract, too, so contact us if we can help you out.

4. Swimming downstream

- Make sure when you launch a new program or environmental project that you have incorporated the necessary new *principles* and *processes* in addition to your new suite of *practices*. Just because someone in the organization has decided to use only recycled paper doesn't mean the purchasing department knows about it or has the processes in place to ensure this goal is met. All staff should be trained in the principles underlying environmentally-friendly policies and decisions, as well as the processes or mechanisms to carry them out.
- In these days of budget reallocations and belt-tightening associated with increased security measures, remember that protection of environmental resources through effective environmental impact assessment is fundamental to protection of human society and quality of life. And the best way to ensure effective environmental impact assessment is by applying The Six Keys™... visit our web site for the streaming audio version!

5. Training Spotlight – Proponent Sponsored Training

As one aftermath of September 11, 2001, ETCI has decided to end open-enrollment sessions of our NEPA Toolbox™ workshop curriculum in Denver. We had offered these sessions as a courtesy for our clients with fewer than 6 staff who needed the training, but the new world we all live in has mandated that we develop a different approach.

We believe our new Proponent-Sponsored Training (PST) program will be even more beneficial to you, our clients, and relieve you of the uncertainties related to travel, security and funding in this new world.

Participating in our PST Program is an easy, 3-step process:

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As the Proponent, you select which of our nationally-acclaimed NEPA Toolbox™

workshops will be most useful for your staff, and determine where and when it is most convenient for them to attend. The complete list is available at www.envirotrain.com.

S As the Sponsor, you recruit 1 or more participants who also need the training from each of your local sister agencies (we show you how, with our exclusive PST Sponsor Kit). ETCI then tailors your NEPA Toolbox™ workshop for the agencies and project types represented.

T Then simply sit back and enjoy the Training, knowing that through sponsorship you are enabling all participants to enjoy a more suitable training experience than by attending an unorganized, public course.

There are several ways to make PST most beneficial for you:

- Some sponsors simply make an off-the-shelf version of the selected NEPA Toolbox™ workshop training opportunity available through an announcement to their sister agencies, inviting them to send as many people as they want to until the class is full. This way of sponsoring a NEPA Toolbox™ workshop allows all participants to benefit from the cross-fertilization of attending with representatives of several different agencies, with different project types, missions and approaches.
- Some sponsors explicitly partner with one or more agencies or firms in their local area, each of which has several people who need the training. ETCI then tailors the NEPA Toolbox™ workshop for the agencies and project types represented. This way of sponsoring provides a better educational value for participants, as their specific issues and concerns can be addressed.
- Yet other sponsors invite the applicants, relevant resource or regulatory agencies, and local advocacy groups that are all working on the same EA or EIS project, and thus gain substantial benefits in working through that specific project during their training time. ETCI tailors the workshop to ensure explicit project-related outcomes, akin to working through components of our *NEPACoach*™ program.

Contact us if you are interested in putting together a Proponent-Sponsored Training workshop in your area.

6. What We Do

Over the years, clients get to know us in a certain arena, and are surprised to discover how many kinds of trainings and consulting services we can provide. While all of this information is on our web site, sometimes it is handy to have a one-pager with a condensed listing of courses, consulting topics, program names, etc. Voilà! Attached to this email you will find a one-page .pdf file called “What We Do” that should fill the bill nicely.

7. Contact us:

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8. Unsubscribe

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