

FROM THE PRESIDENT OF NAEP

Bruce Hasbrouck

This issue of *Environmental Practice* represents the essence of NAEP: multi-discipline scientists. Furthermore, the information contained herein is applicable to each and every one of us. It is our responsibility as professionals to learn how changing technology, new discoveries, and applied experience relate to our background and training to further increase the understanding of our work.

The articles, reviews, and perspectives in all issues of *Environmental Practice* are applicable to any environmental professional. The key is to look at the articles objectively and identify links to your daily work. If you "are only involved in local issues," consider NEPA another method of looking at a project. While NEPA may be prominent within NAEP, recognize also that it is widely used in all 50 states and several US territories. It encompasses what NAEP represents: professionals with experience and technical expertise in land use, air, noise, wildlife, soils, environmental justice, archaeology, water quality, and other areas of practice.

Every single project we work on, whether planning, design, construction, production, or maintenance, the public can and will be involved. Projects that were environmental restoration projects have been stopped as a result of ineffective public involvement. While each area has its local

nuances, the most basic aspect of public involvement entails dealing with human nature and how people will react to the information presented to them.

I've heard people say the NAEP should be more oriented to industry. Numerous aspects of NAEP are included in industrial settings. For example, almost all industries have some kind of industrial discharge. Now we're talking about water quality. Whether the issue is in Malaysia or Maryland, articles that discuss real life solutions provide examples of applied science. And, of course, now we're talking about international issues. A book review discussing biodiversity in Brazil provides a service to professionals whose work includes international issues as well as sustainability, land management, plant and animals, regulation, and probably a myriad of other areas of practice.

Environmental Practice represents just one of the member benefits offered by NAEP. In order to offer better service to our members, we have relocated our National Office to the Washington, DC area. Sandi Worthman is the Executive Administrator and will be taking care of membership services as well as running the office. The new address and direct dial phone numbers are listed in this issue. The toll-free number and e-mail address remains the same. Brian Moyer, with the US Army Research Lab in Maryland, is near the National Office. He is the Membership Committee Chair and has several excellent programs started to increase communications and involvement with members.

Helene Merkel with Horne Engineering is NAEP's Vice President who lives and works in the DC area and Norm Arnold, NAEP Treasurer resides nearby in McLean, Virginia. Craig Stanley of Rummel Klepper & Kahl, NAEP Secretary, frequently works in the Baltimore area. Other active NAEP members who live around our nation's capital include Mike Herbaugh, NAEP Board Member, Gary Kelman, Committee Coordinator, and Jack Mulrooney, National Involvement Initiative Chair. All of these people provide efforts that will be enhanced as a result of having our National Office in the Washington, DC area.

The 2001 NAEP Conference will be held in Pentagon City, VA this June. We anticipate having active participation by representatives of the Department of Defense, USEPA, Transportation Research Board, Federal Highway Administration, and others. While many agencies have their headquarters in the DC area, they all deal with issues associated with the entire US. Many state and local governments utilize federal standards for rule making. Most projects have some type of federal oversight, especially if it includes federal funding. We anticipate that through active involvement in federal programs and national issues, relocation of the National Office will increase the value of membership in NAEP.

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