



ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE

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Journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals

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Mission Statement for *Environmental Practice*

Aims and Scope

Environmental Practice is the official journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP). The central purpose of *Environmental Practice* is to provide an open forum to NAEP members and other concerned individuals for the discussion and analysis of significant environmental issues. Research Articles and Environmental Reviews and Case Studies appearing in *Environmental Practice* are peer reviewed and aim for the highest standards of professional quality.

Environmental Practice is a source for continuing professional renewal and development. It aims to serve men and women at all stages of their careers, from initial training through mid- and senior-levels. Environmental work is an exciting, dynamic field, and *Environmental Practice* strives to match that pace with lively and timely commentary on the critical issues of the day. *Environmental Practice* aims to provide authoritative discussion on issues of wide interest to the international community of environmental professionals.

Professionals from many different disciplinary backgrounds, working in many different arenas, are faced with

developing imaginative approaches for the practical resolution of a wide variety of environmental problems. *Environmental Practice* provides a comprehensive outlet for the publication of such interdisciplinary findings. This publication actively seeks breadth of viewpoint and method because it holds that solutions to environmental problems are often to be found in understanding the linkages among issues previously considered separate. Periodically, *Environmental Practice* will devote its pages to selected topics of special concern to a significant segment of the readership.

Priority for publication is given to articles that offer insightful views on the importance and interpretation of results from an interdisciplinary perspective. Reports of findings should go beyond a laboratory analysis, a field experiment, a philosophical discussion, or a theoretical modeling, for example, and discuss the implications of the findings for public policy or professional practice. *Environmental Practice* seeks especially to publish studies that link data and findings in science and technology with issues of public policy, health, environmental quality, law, political economy, management, and the appropriate standards for expertise. Many publications achieve excellence through tightly focused specialization, but in contrast *Environmental Practice* seeks its accomplishments through the promotion of excellent research and writing on the common interests among different kinds of specialists.

Join the Dialog

The central purpose of *Environmental Practice* is to provide a forum for the discussion and analysis of significant environmental topics. An important part of this discussion is the "Letters to the Editor" section that appears in occasional issues of *Environmental Practice*.

The editors welcome your comments and insights on articles appearing in this or other issues of the journal.

Call for papers for publication in the scholarly journal:
ENVIRONMENTAL PRACTICE

The journal of the National Association of Environmental Professionals

PRACTICAL IMPROVEMENTS FOR BETTER IMPLEMENTATION OF NEPA
vol. 16 no. 4 (December 2014)

The National Environmental Policy Act is criticized for costing too much, taking too long, and accomplishing too little. We are seeking proposals for articles to take on these criticisms.

The December 2014 issue of Environmental Practice is devoted to practical – not theoretical or academic – improvements for implementation of NEPA. Please consider the fundamental purposes of NEPA when preparing your proposal: to inform public officials and citizens before decisions are made and before actions are taken, and to facilitate public involvement in decisions that affect the quality of the human environment. We are less interested in papers on better documents and more interested in papers on better decisions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment.

Deadline for submittals is
May 15, 2014 to
dcarro17@depaul.edu

Sample issues of the journal
can be found at:

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We invite manuscripts that touch on any of these criticisms but we are especially interested in those that deal with:

- (i) Problems arising from vague, erroneous, or missing provisions in NEPA-implementing regulations
- (ii) Official guidance. Are our questions being answered authoritatively and in time?
- (iii) Support and active involvement of decision-makers. Budgets, schedules, and—finally—using these documents to make decisions that protect, restore, and enhance the human environment
- (iv) Variations in NEPA implementation created by agencies (e.g., actions excluded for one agency but not for another)
- (v) Inflation of the EA into the “mini-EIS” we see commonly today, as opposed to an analysis of significant adverse impacts
- (vi) Inflation of the categorical exclusion into a non-trivial paperwork exercise involving multiple levels of review and approval
- (vii) Cumulative impacts to the global environment, such as individually small increments of greenhouse gas emissions in the context of an EA/FONSI
- (viii) The skill of the workforce. Do NEPA practitioners have the necessary training and access to training to make the findings necessary to populate an adequate NEPA document?
- (ix) Consultants. Do government contracts to prepare NEPA documents increase their bulk, time to prepare, and cost?
- (x) NEPA mythology. How many things do we believe to be true about NEPA that are not true? Are these getting in our way?

