

NAEP Working Group News

Compiled by Gary F. Kelman

Regulators' Working Group Organizes

You would think that regulators could easily interpret most regulations. After all, they are written in regulatese, a language fluently spoken by regulators. As a matter of fact, I understand that courses in regulatese will be given at the next NAEP conference in Portland, Maine. These courses are forecasted to be a boon to the regulated community due to the fact that now, both the regulators and the regulatees will finally speak the same language. Unfortunately, that will not be the case, since most regulations are written by lawyers and not the regulators who actually are in charge of implementation of these regulations. And nobody can decipher an attorney's unique ability to confuse and obfuscate the English language. Believe me, I know, I *am* a regulator.

So many times I've wondered how to implement a particular regulation or what that regulation actually requires. My own contacts or even those at EPA leave me with more questions than solutions. I even speak with the people who took part in the drafting of the regulation, only to be left with my existing confusion mixed with a little of their confusion. Heaven forbid, if the regulation that I would like to understand is in the language of a law other than the Clean Water Act (in which theoretically I am an expert), such as the Clean Air Act, RCRA, the Safe Drinking Water Act, etc. There is no Rosetta stone when it comes to regulations! The only time that I can discuss things with knowledgeable people who do what I do is the one time a year that I have the opportunity to attend a "national roundtable" or other national meeting. What do I do in the meantime on an ongoing basis?

The National Association of Environmental Professionals (NAEP) is seeking individuals and groups to participate in an exciting new means to improve communication

and coordination among environmental regulators. NAEP's Regulators Working Group is anticipated to encourage the sharing of experiences, methodologies, case studies, mistakes, and improvement on existing operating procedures and other advances occurring throughout the country in the field of regulation.

Similar to its Utilities Working Group, Transportation Working Group and NEPA Working Group, NAEP will bring together the individuals interested in advancing the business of regulating. Like any other business, regulators are constantly confronted with challenges to our authority, questions relating to the intention behind our actions and the inexactness of the laws that we are bound to uphold. The Regulators Working Group will attempt to provide a forum by which discussions can occur on these and other wide-ranging subjects.

Supported by NAEP, the Regulators Working Group will take advantage of NAEP's highly acclaimed home page and website (NAEP.org) as well as its capacity to manage listservers in order to discuss issues and network with fellow regulators. Aside from regulatory issues, career opportunities will be advertised, new products will be promoted and new books will be reviewed. Links to sites of interest to regulators will be included. Who knows? We might even develop a course in regulatese.

Currently, we are at a point where we are looking for a few individuals who are willing to participate in a leadership role in the Regulators' Working Group. Anybody interested?

Please contact me, Gary Kelman, at the address below.

ISO 14000 Working Group Presents Short Course at NAEP Conference

Scott White, from Allied Signal in Kansas City, taught an informative and excellent ISO 14000 Short Course at the 1999 Annual Conference.

Scott was involved with the effort, which led to the Allied Signal facility becoming the first federal facility to achieve ISO 14001

certification! Scott focused on the process used there to determine significant environmental aspects. This is a key element of the standard, and one of the most elusively difficult to implement. Shining some light in this area was a great service to the NAEP membership.

Please contact Jack McVaugh, chairman of the ISO 14000 Working Group for more information at <jbkm.etm@worldnet.att.net>.

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