

## NAEP Scores a First: Integrating NEPA and ISO 14000

Charles H. Eccleston

In 1997, the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) sponsored a workshop, chaired by Bob Cunningham, then with the US Department of Agriculture Forest Service and currently serving in a liaison role with the NAEP Board. The focus of the workshop was to develop recommendations for implementing the CEQ's NEPA Effectiveness Initiative. Many of the workshop participants were members of the NAEP.

Numerous ideas were identified, discussed, and prioritized for implementing the NEPA Effectiveness Initiative. One of the proposed ideas involved the concept of integrating NEPA with an International Organization for Standardization (ISO) 14000 Environmental Management System (EMS). The ideas were consolidated and prioritized. The concept of integrating NEPA with ISO 14000 received the highest ranking on the prioritized list. Charles Eccleston, chairman of NAEP's Tools and Techniques (TNT) Practice Committee was assigned responsibility for developing the integrated strategy for the CEQ.

An integrated NEPA/ISO 14000 EMS strategy was prepared and issued for review to NEPA and ISO 14000 experts across the country. This final integrated strategy was recently published in the text, *Environmental Impact Statements: A Comprehensive Guide to Project and Strategic Planning*.<sup>1</sup> Under this integrated strategy, NEPA provides the mechanism for formulating policies and plans, while the ISO 14000 EMS provides the framework for implementing and monitoring agency plans and mitigation measures. The EMS also provides a framework for continually improving environmental quality. The integrated NEPA/ISO 14000 EMS is specifically designed to provide a general purpose strategy that can be adapted to a wide array of federal agencies, involving diverse activities and missions.

John Irving (NAEP's conference symposium chairman) and Charles Eccleston recently presented the integrated NEPA and ISO 14000 strategy at a special workshop given at NAEP's 25th annual conference in Portland, Maine.

Earlier this year, former NAEP President, Andrew McCusker brought the integrated NEPA/ISO 14000 strategy before NAEP's Board of Directors for consideration of its endorsement as an NAEP recommended environmental approach. Recognizing the opportunity to endorse an approach that could result in national benefits, the Board voted to forward the integrated strategy to CEQ as a concept to be considered for adoption by federal agencies. Ron Deverman, chairman of the NEPA Working Group, was an early advocate of this strategy and was instrumental in promoting the concept to NAEP's Board of Directors.

Recently, the integrated strategy was sent to George T. Frampton, Acting Chairman of the CEQ, recommending that the Council offer this integrated strategy to federal agencies as an effective means for implementing their diverse missions and for protecting environmental quality. This marks a first for the NAEP. It is the first time that NAEP as a professional organization has officially voted to endorse and promote an environmental strategy. In conjunction with this endorsement, an NAEP Policy Committee has been created and directed to establish formal policy and guidelines governing NAEP's endorsement and promotion of future environmental approaches and strategies.

### Note

1. C. H. Eccleston, 2000, "Implementing the Agency's Decision," Section 4.4 in Chapter 4 in *Environmental Impact Statements: A Comprehensive Guide to Project and Strategic Planning*, N. Levine, ed., 1st edition, John Wiley & Sons, New York, 213-223.

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## Report from the NAEP Training and Higher Education Working Group

Cynthia Fridgen

The Training and Higher Education Working Group (THE Working Group) realized major goals at the 2000 NAEP Conference in Portland, Maine. The effort to bring the working group's agenda to the larger membership was facilitated by two technical tracks at the conference. The first was a track titled, "Applied Environmental Education at a Distance," and was well attended. The second, "Environmental Science and Higher Education," drew a broad cross section of professionals, including many not in academia. Some comments made by attendees were as follows:

- "These sessions are the reason I am here."
- "Should continue to be offered as new developments arise, especially with use of the Internet."
- "More of such [sessions] needed next time."
- "Never before informed on matter of web-based classes by those who teach them."
- "Need live experiment on screen for next year."

Eighty-percent of the session ratings were *excellent* and the rest were *good*.

In addition to the technical track sessions, THE Working Group offered a Hot Topics luncheon that was well attended, with Rosemary Maconochie, Director of the New England Environmental Internship Program, as the discussion leader. She talked about how the internship program was set up and funded, and how far-reaching it is with students doing internships as far away as Texas. Dr. William Fenstermacher, Director of Planning and Program Development for the same organization, joined her to answer questions related to their organizational structure and to stress how important it is to work with the private sector. The group agreed that a strong component of a quality environ-

mental training and education program is the practicum for students.

THE Working Group also held an intense committee meeting attended by sixteen NAEP members. The discussion was lively, and commitments to work on specific issues were made. Some attendees have been associated with THE Working Group for some time. Some, like Ravi Srinivas, when it was called ACE, continue to offer their enthusiastic support. Student assistantship help and list serve help were offered. The discussion explored such issues as core competencies for graduates, the necessity of internships, relevant curriculum, distance learning opportunities, and the issue of sanctioning curricular programs short of accreditation. The meeting went overtime and all left with much to think about.

The student awards were very exciting this year. All the student papers were well received and the top award went to Amy Larkin, who presented in the Natural Resources track. This year the Muskie Institute for Public Service, based in Maine, funded that award. Second and third place awards were funded by the NAEP, and went to Kanan Coleman, presenting in the International track, and Frank Turina, presenting in the Public Participation track. Unfortunately, two of the three students receiving awards had to leave prior to the awards ceremony. It is problematic to evaluate the presentations, meet to discuss the merits of each presentation, and make the awards, all within the time frame of the conference. We will attempt to come up with a better plan for the 2001 student awards.

The web page for THE Working Group is up and running and can be accessed through the NAEP web site: [www.naep.org](http://www.naep.org). We will try to keep everyone updated on progress of THE Working Group as we proceed.

### How Should We Proceed?

We could tackle the evaluation of the "standards" issue in regard to academic programs. Many environmental curriculums are floundering for want of a reality check with the field.

We could act as the advisory organization for environmental academic programs. Many do not realize academic respect in their own institutions, in part because they do not have a professional group to guide them and to speak on their behalf.

We could act as a review panel for curriculum.

We could help craft a national research agenda for environmental programs.

We could scan current environmental programs for format (i.e., 2-year, 4-year, short course, certificates, distance education, etc.) and recommend the best fit for professional needs.

We could identify academic programs that have ongoing ties with practitioners.

According to data found in the NAEP archives, there are approximately 750 academic programs focused on various aspects of environmental education. We need to identify these programs and try to get a sense of how they are valued and how we can increase their value, to both industry and academic administration.

One of the goals for THE Working Group in 2000 was to increase communication. We have made a start at the 2000 conference with the technical tracks, Hot Topic lunch, committee meeting, and student awards, and we have initiated our web site. It would be great to hear from anyone in the organization regarding relationships with institutions of higher education and how we might best have a positive influence on them.

We need to take advantage of the momentum created at the Portland conference and keep moving. We hope to do a survey of those NAEP members who are affiliated with academic institutions—please keep an eye out for the survey and please respond.

This has been a banner year for the Training and Higher Education Working Group, and we are looking forward to the future. Remember, the best way to build a pool of highly qualified environmental profession-

als is to become involved with the education process.

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## PAEP Members Attend Transportation Research Board Conference

Robert H. Hosking Jr.

More than 40 members of the Pennsylvania Association of Environmental Professionals (PAEP) attended the Transportation Research Board's (TRB) National Conference on Transportation and Environment for the 21st Century, held at the Hilton Pittsburgh Hotel and Towers, July 22–26, 2000. Two longstanding PAEP members, Wayne Kober and Joe Shalkowski, were part of the planning committee for the event. More than 580 transportation and environmental professionals attended the 5-day event which attracted participants from as far away as Japan and Venezuela.

The first day of the conference included early evening registration and attendance at a Pittsburgh Pirates vs. Philadelphia Phillies baseball game at Three Rivers Stadium (within walking distance!). The second day of the conference (Sunday) offered registration, open invitation TRB Committee Meetings (including lunch), and poster sessions in the morning. The afternoon proceedings featured plenary sessions starting with a Welcome and Charge to the Conference by Conference Steering Committee Chairman Wayne Kober, and included addresses by dignitaries Robert E. Skinner, Jr., Executive Director of the TRB; August R. Carlino, President and CEO of the Steel Industry Heritage Corp.; Pennsylvania Department of Transportation Secretary Brad Mallory; Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection Secretary Jim Seif; Bill Matuszeski, Director of