

## 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-