

NEPA Next 50: Reflections on the National Environmental Policy Act

Intergovernmental Relations in NEPA Processes: Tools, Resources, and Considerations for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Working with Federal Agencies

September 8, 2022

9:00am-11am Pacific/12:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern

This forum will be held virtually via Zoom

[Click to Register](#)

Overview and Agenda

Event Overview

NEPA was signed into law on January 1, 1970, establishing a national policy for environmental protection and becoming a cornerstone of environmental legislation in the United States. More than 50 years later, NEPA remains one of the most consequential environmental laws in the Nation's history and a standard for assessing impacts and engaging Federal partners, Tribal Nations, Indigenous Peoples, other stakeholders, and the public in major Federal actions.

While NEPA remains fundamentally similar today compared to when it was signed into law, its application has evolved over time. Shifting national priorities brought on by changing societal and environmental dynamics have led to an evolution of NEPA approaches and strategies, including a greater focus at this time on equitable and just processes and improved collaboration. While NEPA facilitates collaboration and engagement of affected partners, it also provides an opportunity for Federal agencies to strengthen relations with Tribal Nations and engender meaningful dialogue with Indigenous Peoples. Collaboration with Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples may help ensure that their concerns are integrated into the NEPA process while simultaneously supporting shared stewardship of critical resources and informed decision-making. A refined approach to NEPA could help overcome historic and procedural barriers to robust and meaningful collaboration with Tribal Nations, their citizens, and other Indigenous Peoples and to realize increasingly just project outcomes and decision-making processes that address critical Tribal and Indigenous Peoples' needs and interests.

To support improved collaboration in NEPA processes, the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Foundation's (Udall Foundation) John S. McCain III National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution (National Center), in partnership with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (U.S. EPA) Office of Environmental Justice, is convening a virtual dialogue to explore collaboration between Federal agencies, Tribal Nations, and Indigenous Peoples, including tools and approaches that may enhance partnerships between Tribal Nations and the Federal Government in the context of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) implementation.

This is the third event in the National Center's [NEPA Next 50: Reflections on the National Environmental Policy Act series](#). [This third installment of the National Center's NEPA Next 50 series](#) complements the "Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Engagement in NEPA: Challenges and Best Practices" webinar, which was held on June 29, 2022, and is part of the [U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#).

Intergovernmental Relations in NEPA Processes: Tools, Resources, and Considerations for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples Working with Federal Agencies

September 8, 2022, 12:00pm – 2:00pm Eastern

Workshop Objectives and Agenda

Overview: A panel presentation and facilitated dialogue between NEPA practitioners and policy experts from Tribal Nations, Native American and Alaska Native nonprofit organizations, Federal agencies, and other relevant entities to articulate the challenges related to intergovernmental relations in the NEPA process and to identify opportunities to enhance collaboration and engender shared stewardship for Tribal Nations and Indigenous Peoples.

Objectives:

- Explore the role of Tribal Governments, Tribal citizens, and indigenous peoples in Federal NEPA review processes;
- Explore collaboration tools and approaches, along with intergovernmental processes such as Government-to-Government Consultation, that support meaningful dialogue and strengthen partnerships between Tribal Nations, Tribal citizens, and the Federal Government in the management of natural and cultural resources;
- Discuss how Tribal Nations and their Federal partners are adapting to challenges, obstacles, and changing trends with respect to supporting meaningful co-management and shared stewardship of natural and cultural resources in the NEPA review process;
- Identify opportunities for improved collaboration practices, and to engender meaningful and robust engagement for Tribal Nations and indigenous peoples in the NEPA process.

<i>Time (ET)</i>	<i>Topic</i>
12:00	<p>Welcome and Dialogue Overview</p> <p><i>Objective: Welcome participants and review the event objective and agenda</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Welcome and event overview – <i>Brian Manwaring, Director, National Center for Environmental Conflict Resolution</i>
12:20	<p>Panel Discussion: Overcoming Barriers to Successful Collaboration and Intergovernmental Relations in the NEPA Process</p> <p><i>Objective: Explore challenges that Tribal Nations and their citizens encounter while working with Federal partners in the NEPA process and discuss collaborative tools, approaches, and opportunities to strengthen partnerships and engender meaningful engagement in NEPA decision making.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Panelists<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ Cody Desautel, <i>Executive Director, Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Kelly Fanizzo, <i>Deputy General Counsel, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation</i> ○ Hillary Hoffmann, <i>Managing Director of Public Land Management and Intergovernmental Relations, Bears Ears Inter-Tribal Coalition</i> ○ Kim Merryman, <i>Environmental Assessment Officer, Environmental Protection Service, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moderator – <i>Stephanie Lucero, Udall Foundation</i> ● Q&A/Discussion
1:10	<p>Observer Reflections and Additional Discussion</p> <p><i>Objective: Observers will reflect on the key themes and findings, ask questions, and engage in further dialogue with the panelists.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Moderator – <i>Stephanie Lucero, Udall Foundation</i>
1:55	<p>Wrap up and Next Steps</p> <p><i>Objective: Adjourn and discuss next steps.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Discuss outputs from event
2:00	<p>Adjourn</p>