

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

An Overview and Applications in Wyoming

May 30, 2008

8:00 a.m. Registration - Lobby

FORUM – Pine Room

- 9:00 – 10:00 Overview of NEPA - Harriet Hageman
What is NEPA? Ms. Hageman will examine the history of the law. She will look at what the law demands and how NEPA is incorporated into federal land management statutes and agency rules and regulations.
- 10:00-10:15 Break – *Brownies, Lemon Bars, Whipped Cream, Coffee, Hot Chocolate, Assorted Soft Drinks*
- 10:15-11:00 NEPA and the BLM - Jim Cagney
Mr. Cagney's presentation focuses on the sections of NEPA that people argue about. These include: Purpose and Need, Range of Alternatives and Cumulative Impacts. He will discuss the process for issuing grazing permits and the advantages and disadvantages to agriculture arising from the process.
- 11:00-11:45 NEPA's impact on energy development – Jane Seiler
Mr. Smith will discuss the NEPA process as it applies to energy development with a short background of the process. Case studies of specific projects will be presented.
- 11:45 – 1:00 Lunch on your own
- 1:00 – 2:00 Public participation in the NEPA process - Harriet Hageman and Kara Brighton
Ms. Hageman and Ms. Brighton will discuss the various ways to become involved in the NEPA process locally, and the impacts that individuals, citizen groups and local governments can effect on federal land management in their county and state.
- 2:00 – 2:45 NEPA's impact on electrical generation and transmission – Karl Myers
The siting and construction of electric power facilities can trigger the NEPA process. NEPA requires alternative analysis and public participation to ensure the best decisions are made. Issues common to the siting and routing of electric power facilities will be addressed.
- 2:45 – 3:00 Break – *Candy Bars, Popcorn, Cracker Jacks, Soft Pretzels, Salted Peanuts, Soft Drinks*
- 3:00 – 3:45 NEPA's impact on water development - Jeff Fassett
Mr. Fassett's presentation will look at NEPA's influence on the permitting and construction of water development structures.
- 3:45 – 4:00 Wrap up

OUR FORUM PRESENTERS

Harriet Hageman

Harriet Hageman grew up on a ranch near Fort Laramie, Wyoming, and currently practices law at Hageman & Brighton, P.C. in Cheyenne. Harriet and her law partner Kara Brighton have handled numerous water and natural resource matters, including *Nebraska v. Wyoming*; the “roadless litigation”; challenges to the Fish & Wildlife Service’s management and recovery of the Canadian gray wolf and other species; protection of private property from contaminated discharges; defense of Wyoming’s “open range” law; protection of grazing rights on BLM and private lands; and protection of water rights. Ms. Hageman practices law in Wyoming and Nebraska. Ms. Hageman and Ms. Brighton are the Administrative Consultants for the Wyoming Water Association and the Executive Directors of the Wyoming Conservation Alliance. She is a member of the Advisory Board of the Rocky Mountain Land Use Institute, and on the Steering Committee for the Wyoming Business Alliance.

James A. Cagney

Jim is currently the rangeland program lead for the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming. This is his third job with the BLM in Wyoming, having worked in the Rock Springs Range program for 1978 to 1988 and the Worland Range program from 1988 to 1995. Jim has lived in Wyoming for almost 21 years. From 1995 to 2004 Cagney was the Associate Field Manager for the BLM in Meeker Colorado, handling a wide variety of work with emphasis on oil and gas permitting. That was his second stint in Colorado; his degree is in Range-Forest Management from Colorado State University. Born in Chicago, he spent his summers in northern Wisconsin, developing the love of the outdoors that eventually landed him in Wyoming. He and his wife Kim have been married for 26 years and have two daughters. Laura lives in Flagstaff Arizona, and Becky is a junior at the University of Wyoming.

Jane Seiler

Jane Seiler was formerly Manager of Regulatory Affairs for Questar Exploration and Production Company, a natural gas-focused energy company with core operations in Wyoming, Utah, Colorado and the Mid-Continent. Jane retired from that position after 26 years with Questar and is currently consulting and providing regulatory support for the energy industry. Jane received her BS in Business Management from the University of Phoenix and JD from the University of Denver.

Kara Brighton

Kara is a Wyoming native, born in Wheatland, where her parents worked on her grandparent's family ranch. As a young child, her family moved to western Nebraska when they purchased the John Deere dealership in Kimball. After graduating from Kimball High School, Kara received her Bachelor's Degree in Small Business Management from the University of Wyoming in 1993. In 1996, she received her Juris Doctorate from University of Nebraska College of Law. Following graduation, she returned to Wyoming to work at the Wyoming Attorney General's Office on the *Nebraska v. Wyoming* litigation. As part of the Wyoming team, she participated in the trial preparation, settlement negotiations and settlement implementation phases of the dispute between the states of Nebraska and Wyoming related to the North Platte River. When the case settled in 2000, she started Hageman & Brighton with Wyoming lawyer, Harriet Hageman with the goal of providing specialized water and natural resource law services to ranchers and other Wyoming water users. She currently serves as general counsel to the Wheatland Irrigation District, the largest private irrigation district in the United States, and many other water users throughout Wyoming.

Karl Myers

Karl works in the electric power industry for Tri-State Generation & Transmission in Westminster, Colorado. He is the Transmission Environmental Manager and is responsible for the siting and permitting of electrical facilities. He has worked in NEPA compliance for 28 years with agencies ranging from the Rural Utilities Service to the Forest Service and the Bureau of Land Management. He will be discussing NEPA's impact on the generation and transmission of electric power.

Gordon W. "Jeff" Fassett, P.E.

Jeff joined HDR, an employee-owned architectural, engineering and consulting firm that excels at managing complex projects and solving challenges for clients in early 2007 as the national director for water resources. HDR has more than 5,700 professionals, including architects, engineers, consultants, scientists, planners and construction managers, in more than 140 locations worldwide, who pool their strengths to provide solutions beyond the scope of traditional firms. He is based in the firm's Cheyenne, Wyoming office and his responsibilities include leveraging his 30-plus years of experience in water policy and water rights to provide strategic planning to HDR clients. Prior to joining HDR, Fassett managed his own consulting engineering firm. Jeff was Wyoming's State Engineer from 1987 to 2000, where he was involved with all water rights and resources matters for the state, as well as water resource management issues in the river basins west of the Mississippi River. In September 2002, Fassett was appointed by President George W. Bush to be the Federal Representative and Chairman of the Red River Compact Commission involving water resources of Oklahoma, Texas, Arkansas and Louisiana. A registered professional engineer, Fassett is active in many organizations, including the Western States Water Council, American Water Resources Association and Interstate Council for Water Policy.

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