

NEPA-SEPA 101: Understanding the Basics

North Carolina

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E.L. Robinson Engineering Co. (ELR), in partnership with ICF Incorporated, LLC (ICF), worked with the North Carolina Department of Transportation's (NCDOT) Environmental Policy Unit (EPU) to develop a course to provide NCDOT staff basic training on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The course was titled "NEPA-SEPA 101: Understanding the Basics". The course provided introductory information on decision-making, scoping, purpose and need, red flag issues, classes of action, alternatives and mitigation, human and natural environmental impacts, indirect and cumulative effects, and streamlining initiatives. The course included class participation exercises on purpose and need, classes of action, and identification of the preferred alternative. During 2019, a total of six sessions of the course were taught to 136 students. At the completion of each course, the students were asked to fill out course evaluation forms. Of the 126 evaluations received, 115 evaluations clearly stated the course was consistent with or exceed expectations. The course workbook has become a valued and highly coveted resource for NCDOT Divisions.



Student Quotes:

- *"The course was beyond my expectations. Extremely informative and necessary for my job performance and effectiveness."*
- *"The training was made better by inviting seasoned NEPA users to help guide discussion and answer any questions."*
- *"The information was presented in a clear concise way. It was easy to follow and very educational."*