



NEPA Navigator™

Navigate the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Process with Clarity and Confidence

September 15-17, 2026 | Annapolis, MD

NEPA Navigator™ is an intensive, three-day course that prepares professionals to effectively support, manage, and lead the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process.

Instruction is informed by firsthand experience preparing NEPA documents for the U.S. Army, Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and the National Park Service, as well as managing Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Since 2010, this course has equipped federal employees, consultants, project proponents, and private-sector managers with the knowledge and practical tools required to develop defensible NEPA documentation and guide projects through federal review.

Business Case for Attendance

NEPA process errors are costly in both time and money. Inadequate or poorly prepared NEPA documentation frequently results in project delays measured in months or years, litigation costs that can reach hundreds of thousands of dollars, and court-ordered injunctions that halt projects entirely. Federal courts have remanded or vacated agency decisions in numerous cases where Environmental Assessments or Environmental Impact Statements were found to contain inadequate alternatives analysis, insufficient cumulative impact evaluation, or failure to take a “hard look” at environmental consequences. For major infrastructure, energy, and development projects, delays caused by NEPA challenges routinely cost organizations millions in lost revenue, additional financing costs, and resource reallocation. Personnel who understand the NEPA process can help avoid the documentation weaknesses that lead to successful legal challenges.

This course reduces reliance on outside consultants. After completing the NEPA Navigator™ course, your employee returns prepared to support or lead the NEPA process, develop defensible Purpose and Need statements, evaluate alternatives, assess cumulative impacts, coordinate with stakeholders, and manage NEPA documentation timelines. Each of these tasks would otherwise require consultant support at rates that typically exceed the cost of this course in a matter of days.

The investment is immediate and practical. Course content is applied, not academic. Participants return with actionable knowledge, reference materials, and direct access to the course presenter for follow-up questions as NEPA challenges arise.

Estimated Investment

Course Fee	\$1,625
Discounts*	-\$162.00 (if registered early)
Travel (airfare or mileage)	Varies by location. Rental vehicle is not required.
Lodging	~\$510 (For discounted rates see https://aarcherinstitute.com/location/annapolis-md/)
Meals (lunch provided; breakfast items provided in-person)	2026 federal per diem is \$80/day (\$60 on travel days)

* Group discount of 15% off is available for three or more registrants from the same organization. Government employee, student, and veteran discounts (15% off) are also available. Corporate partnership discounts are also available.

What You'll Learn

This course develops a structured understanding of NEPA's legal foundation and its practical application across federal agencies. Participants develop clarity around:

- The intent, structure, and implementing regulations of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969
- The three levels of NEPA documentation: Categorical Exclusions (CXs), Environmental Assessments (EAs), and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs)
- Determining the appropriate NEPA pathway for proposed actions, including borderline and complex situations
- Developing a clear and defensible Purpose & Need statement
- Defining the Proposed Action and evaluating reasonable alternatives
- Scoping processes and stakeholder engagement
- Characterizing the affected environment and conducting environmental consequences analyses
- Evaluating cumulative impacts and mitigation measures
- Preparing Records of Decision (RODs) and Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSI)s
- Interrelationships between NEPA and other federal laws, including the Endangered Species Act, Clean Water Act, and National Historic Preservation Act
- Agency-specific implementation considerations and documentation expectations
- Practical tips for document review, coordination with contractors, and managing schedules and timelines

What You'll Take Back

Participants receive a certificate of completion approved for CEUs by EHS, legal, and engineering bodies, as well as:

- A comprehensive course binder and reference toolkit
- Practical guidance documents and useful references on a flash drive
- Access to presenters for follow-up questions
- Ability to support or lead the NEPA process with greater clarity and confidence

You will also return with new skills:

- Determine the appropriate NEPA pathway and level of documentation for proposed actions
- Develop defensible Purpose and Need statements and evaluate reasonable alternatives
- Conduct affected environment characterization and environmental consequences analyses
- Evaluate cumulative impacts and develop effective mitigation measures
- Coordinate with agencies, stakeholders, and contractors to manage NEPA timelines
- Contact the course presenter directly as future NEPA questions arise

Who Should Attend

This course is built for both new and seasoned professionals involved at any stage of the NEPA process, including:

- Federal agency personnel responsible for NEPA compliance
- State and local government employees participating in federally funded or authorized projects
- Environmental consultants drafting or reviewing NEPA documents
- Project proponents operating within a federal nexus
- Private-sector managers overseeing projects subject to NEPA review

Course Format

NEPA Navigator™ is a structured, presenter-led, three-day program that combines formal modules, applied exercises, and guided discussion. It includes:

- In-depth review of NEPA regulations and agency-specific processes
- Hands-on exercises developing Purpose & Need statements and alternatives analyses
- Practical development of affected environment and environmental consequences sections
- Cumulative impact evaluation exercises
- Discussion of documentation strategies, stakeholder coordination, and project timing

Why Archer Institute

Archer Institute is a professional training organization that has hosted more than 9,500 professionals for more than 20 years. Presenters are selected for regulatory expertise, real-world experience, and demonstrated training ability.

Unlike simple compliance overview courses, our exclusive course content was developed and continually refined by experienced compliance professionals. This is not a self-paced slide deck or scripted presentation delivered by full-time instructors or guest speakers. Practicing EHS professionals provide live instruction and foster open discussion to enhance understanding.

Preparing to Attend

The course is presented in a comfortable and professional meeting room with refreshments and frequent breaks. Course logistics and planning information is presented in the following table.

Course Logistics & Planning

Time Commitment	September 15-17, 2026 (Additional travel days might be required) → 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM (Day 1) → 8:15 AM – 4:15 PM (Day 2) → 8:15 AM – 3:00 PM (Day 3)
Course Location	Aarcher Institute training facility 111 Cathedral Street, Suite 300, Annapolis, MD
Flights	Most students fly into Baltimore BWI
Hotel Accommodations	Graduate by Hilton (Discounts: https://aarcherinstitute.com/location/annapolis-md/) Walking distance to course location
Dress Code	Casual to business casual (professional meeting attire)
Meals & Refreshments	Light continental breakfast items, snacks, coffee, and beverages are provided each day for in-person sessions
Transportation	Rental car not required Rideshare services or taxis are generally sufficient Parking: https://aarcherinstitute.com/location/annapolis-md/
Certification/Credits	This is not a certification course Participants receive a certificate of completion and approved continuing education credits