

So, Megan, I would say it's a good time to talk about the organization of the handbook. It's real different from the 1988 version. How did you come up with that organization?

>> M. Conry: First of all, Jolie Pollet, one of our team members, was fundamental in laying the groundwork for the organization, thanks to JOLIE for taking on that task. Chapter 1 is traditional, starts with an overview of NEPA, talks a little about the law, the regs, the Departmental policy and then stepped it down to BLM policy. Chapters 2 and 3 referred to our NEPA screening process with chapter 2 addressing those actions that are exempt from NEPA and chapter 3 talking about those actions that do require NEPA. Now, if you find yourself needing to comply with NEPA, there are a variety of ways you can achieve that, categorical exclusions, determines of NEPA lead adequacy. Chapter 4, which Ted is going to talk about later, discusses categorical exclusions. Chapter 5 provides guidance on using existing NEPA lead, in whole, through a DNA or in part through concepts like tiering or reference. Chapter 8 leads you through the preparation of an EA while chapter 9 takes you through all the steps of preparing a full-fledged EIS. These four chapters actually address the specific mechanisms of each step in that process. However, the largest and most important topic is the NEPA lead analysis itself. We deal with that in a pretty large handbook which is chapter 6. Chapter 6 takes you through the whole NEPA analysis process from thinking about your purpose and need to identifying issues, analyzing alternatives, describing effects, and the principles of this analysis and the critical thought processes are applicable whether you're doing an EA or an EIA and some of those tools may be useful as well in a CX or DNA. Chapter 7 sort of wraps up some of that work in determining significance and providing guidance on that. The other chapters of the handbook, the last

few chapters, chapters 10 on, address components that are related to NEPA but are not actually part of the NEPA analysis process. These include things like monitoring, joint and cooperating agencies, joint lead agencies, that relationship, which is very important at some steps of the NEPA process, reviewing EISs and requesting review of your EIS, and administrative procedures, how to compile that administrative record. That's the overall organization of the handbook. It was difficult to select an actual layout and I hope this is easy for the field to use.

>> C. Humphrey: It makes sense to me. It was a little hard to get used to at first but it seems to make logical order. One of the questions we got from the field was somebody wanted us to talk about how to prepare an EIS on this broadcast, and as we said, that's not really what the broadcast is about. So would you suggest they go to chapter 9, then, for that?

>> M. Conry: Absolutely. I would refer them to chapter 9. Chapter 9 is about the mechanisms and will highlight each of the products or steps through the process while chapter 6, which should be used as a companion, really gets into the analytical concepts, how to achieve a NEPA effects analysis.

>> C. Humphrey: All right. Thank you. That was very helpful.