

Question 1:

>> Participant: This is Bob Wick from the Arcata Field Office. I called earlier and was -- well, got cut off somehow, but the question I had was with E-planning we haven't been using that yet in our Field Office but I understand that Bureau-wide we're going to be using it for all NEPA documents starting sometime next year, and I was wondering how much of the new NEPA web guide and manual and handbook are going to be incorporated into the E-planning process. Is there going to be some assistance in the E-planning program as far as decision trees to guide us through formats for various documents, like CXs, EAs, EISs or is it purely templates? I wanted to know if there's any meshing.

>> C. Humphrey: I'll start that one and I understand we have Leah Baker from the NOC to tag team. I want to let everybody know we're planning to have another broadcast about how E-planning and NEPA are going to relate to each other. That's tentatively scheduled for October 2nd. That might change a little bit. But, Bob, you're right, we're doing like a phased approach to -- soon all BLM offices will have to use E-planning for all your NEPA documents. So we'll start it out in a slower approach, start out with a few offices and move out to other offices. I understand the E-planning folks have worked with the web guide and the formats are the same.

So is LEAH baker -- LEAH baker is on the phone to answer more of question?

>> Participant: Yes. Can you hear me okay?

>> C. Humphrey: Yes.

>> Participant: Okay. So right now the E-planning system that is getting ready for

deployment for all of NEPA documents is focused more specifically on templates as far as decision support that that part is part of the broader E-planning goal. But we don't have a time line for bringing those pieces into NEPA support at this moment.

Question 2:

>> Participant: This is Joe again. Could I ask another question?

>> C. Humphrey: Sure, Joe. Go ahead.

>> Participant: Did the team consider in the preparation of the manual preparing an index at the end?

>> T. Milesnick: We did consider that. In fact, we had gone through and identified some terms, but we ended up not including the index, and primarily the reason we didn't is because we felt the table of contents was pretty specific, and then in the actual text of the document we have numerous references to the CEQ sections or other guidance that stems -- that our handbook analysis stems through. So those are the two primary reasons we didn't. I know some people are used to having an index but I guess from our team standpoint we didn't think that that would be that much more helpful and didn't warrant the time to do it at the time because we were going through numerous changes in the handbook and getting it through CEQ and the Department. So it doesn't have one. That's kind of why it doesn't.

>> Participant: Thank you.

>> C. Humphrey: There's also a lot of cross referencing among the different sections of the handbook, and I think -- I thought it was very well done that way. All the referencing.

Question 3:

>> Participant: This is Edie in Barstow and just a clarification, it seems like people are using public and affected interests interchangeably and affected interests is a very specifically defined, depending upon the type of project, and is not the broader public, and so I think that clarification is important, and a second thing is, I notice that the handbook didn't really go into much detail in terms of programmatic environmental assessments and I know this has been a topic of conversation, but programmatic environmental assessments are incredibly useful for activities that are -- occur on a regular basis in the future but we don't know exactly, you know, when, and I was wondering if there's going to be some sort of a follow-up to discuss appropriate thresholds and when programmatic would be appropriate.

>> C. Humphrey: Anybody want to take that one?

>> M. Conry: Well, I can say, Edie, I definitely recognize that programmatic EAs can be of huge benefit and I think that that would be material that would really be ripe for placement on the web guide as a supplement to the NEPA Handbook.

>> R. Hardt: But I think it would be something hard to provide national guidance on how to do it. How you structure a programmatic EA, how you build that analysis, how you prepare a programmatic EA so you can get to a FONSI, I think it's going to depend a lot on what kind of action you're preparing it for and what the resources are you're managing. I'm not sure we can provide very useful national guidance on it. I think the web guide is a better place to handle that.

>> T. Milesnick: I think you would still need

to look at the analysis process we laid out
and the handbook used the same for EA as you
would for kind of a site specific EA.

>> C. Humphrey:
Absol utel y.