

Agenda – NAEP NEPA Practice
Wednesday, July 14, 2:30 PM Eastern/11:30 AM Pacific

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84702463364?pwd=WjA0cGxydVZLM1YvTEtBcHVMV3RVUT09>

By phone:

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Meeting ID: 847 0246 3364

Passcode: 464782

NEPA / Permitting Reform

E&E News is reporting that permitting talks will resume as Congress returns (article attached). However, Congress has several must-pass appropriations and policy bills, including the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA), and not much time to take on additional NEPA legislation.

NAEP webinar on amendments to NEPA in the [Fiscal Responsibility Act of 2023](#) signed into law on June 3, 2023. The NAEP webinar was held on Thursday, June 22. The materials and webinar recording are available on the NAEP website (login required). The amendments to NEPA went into effect immediately. ***Is anyone aware of new agency procedures or policies addressing the FRA NEPA amendments?*** We've learned that the Department of Energy is holding an internal training session on the FRA and NEPA. Hopefully more to come on that.

Not new and maybe overshadowed by the FRA:

Administration Priorities for Infrastructure Permitting Reform – fact sheet issued on 5/10/2023

<https://www.whitehouse.gov/briefing-room/statements-releases/2023/05/10/fact-sheet-biden-harris-administration-outlines-priorities-for-building-americas-energy-infrastructure-faster-safer-and-cleaner/>

Notices of Intent / Notices of Availability

6/21/2023. The National Park Service (NPS) announced the availability of a programmatic environmental assessment (PEA) that evaluates, on a nationwide scale, use of electric bicycles (e-bikes) within the National Park System. The PEA was prepared following a D.C. District Court opinion finding that the NPS had improperly relied upon a categorical exclusion to comply with NEPA. Public comments are being accepted through July 21, 2023.

The PEA is available online at: <https://parkplanning.nps.gov/e-bikes>

<https://www.federalregister.gov/d/2023-13141>

Other Items?

- Potential for Artificial Intelligence (AI) to help develop EAs/EISs? For example, the University of Arizona's NEPAccess (<https://www.nepaccess.org/>) uses AI to access past EA and EIS analysis. Anyone with experience using this or other AI tools? If there is interest we could invite a NEPAccess representative to attend a future call.

Next Meeting – Wednesday, August 9