

THE INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR INDIGENOUS RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

444 South Emerson Street

Denver, Colorado 80209-2216

Phone: (303) 733-0481; FAX: (303) 744-9808

E-Mail: iiirm@iiirm.org

Website: www.iiirm.org

**A WORKSHOP ON THE NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT (NEPA) IN INDIAN
COUNTRY**

Designed for Tribal Council Members, Attorneys, Natural and Cultural Resource Specialists and Environmental Protection Professionals and Federal Agency Personnel and Contractors Working in Indian Country

May 28-29, 2003

Red Lion Hotel/Denver Central

4040 Quebec Street

Denver, Colorado 80216

(303) 321-6666

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) can be an important part of federal agency consultation with Indian tribes. However, effective tribal participation in the NEPA process requires an awareness of the workings and procedural requirements of NEPA, technical expertise, knowledge of the broad range of tribal environmental, social, cultural, health and safety interests that may be affected by federal programs and activities and a strategy that links NEPA responses to other legal and statutory requirements such as the federal-Indian trust doctrine, treaty rights, AIRFA, NAGPRA, etc. This Workshop will provide practical instruction and assistance to inform tribal decision-makers on the: requirements and latest developments in NEPA compliance and litigation; the role of tribal, federal and state regulators in the NEPA process; and strategies to identify and protect tribal interests that may be affected by proposed federal actions.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

MAY 28, 2003

0800- **Registration opens**

0830 **Continental Breakfast**

0900 **Developing a Tribal Strategy for NEPA Responses**

Mervyn L. Tano, International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management

0945 **A Framework for Identifying Affected Tribal Interests Under NEPA**

Kacey Denham, International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management

1030 **Break**

1045 **History and Overview of NEPA**

James "Skip" Spensley, Spensley & Associates

1145 **The Environmental Impact Statement: The Process**

James "Skip" Spensley, Spensley & Associates

1230 **Lunch** (on your own)

1330 **Content of the EIS: Making Sure it's Adequate**
James "Skip" Spensley, Spensley & Associates

1430 **The Montana Air National Guard Training Range: A Case Study of Tribal Consultation**
To be determined

1530 **Adjourn**
MAY 29, 2003

0830 **Continental Breakfast**

0900 **EIS: Troublesome Issues**
James "Skip" Spensley, Spensley & Associates

1000 **Planning for NEPA: What Tribes Need to Know About Federal Agencies, What Federal Agencies Need to Know About Tribes**
Mervyn L. Tano, International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management

1100 **Break**

1115 **Strategic Approaches to NEPA Requirements**
James "Skip" Spensley, Spensley & Associates

1215 **Adjourn**

FACULTY

- James "Skip" Spensley is an environmental attorney and a nationally-known expert on NEPA. Skip has conducted NEPA workshops for federal and tribal environmental managers and managed the NEPA process for the Denver International Airport.
- Mervyn L. Tano is an attorney and the president of the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management. He has written extensively on tribal strategies for NEPA responses.
- Kacey Denham is a researcher with the International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management. She has been developing a detailed research protocol for identifying and describing tribal environmental, cultural and other interests that may be affected by federal actions.