

Special NEPA Training Meeting  
**October 7, 2015**  
**MEETING SUMMARY**

**Meeting Attendees**

*Community Working Group members present:*

Fred Gaudet – Arizona Trail Association  
Pam Bennett – Queen Valley Community Liaison  
Bruce Wittig – Queen Valley Water Board  
Cecil Fendley – Queen Valley Water Board  
JoAnn Besich – Superior Optimist Club  
Pamela Rabago – Superior Chamber of Commerce  
Hank Gutierrez - Superior Copper Alliance  
Arlynn Godinez – Superior Unified School District  
Valerie Garcia-Denogean – Superior Unified School District  
Jeff Bunkelmann – Central Arizona College

*Community Working Group members not present:*

Matt Nelson /  
Michael Lira – Central Arizona College  
Evelyn Vargas – Cobre Valley Regional Medical Center  
Nancy Vogler – LOST Trail  
Bill Vogler – Superior Copper Alliance  
Mark Nipp – Town of Superior  
Roy Chavez - Concerned Citizens and Retired Miners  
Anthony Huerta – Town of Superior  
George Martin – JF Ranch  
Lynn Martin – JF Ranch  
Mark Siegwarth – Boyce Thompson Arboretum

*Resolution Copper Company:*

Vicky Peacey - Senior Manager of Approvals, Communities & Environment  
Jim Schenk – Manager for Communities & Social Performance  
Kami Ballard – Environmental & Permitting Specialist

*Guest Speakers:*

Rhey Solomon – Shipley Group ([mrrbey@aol.com](mailto:mrrbey@aol.com))

*Facilitators – Godec, Randall & Associates (GRA)*

John Godec  
Debra Duerr

Resolution Copper Company provided this training for the CWG on the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) at the request of several group members. The 4-hour training was conducted by Mr. Rhey Solomon of Shipley Group, who has extensive experience in this area including as a former senior Forest Service employee at the local and national levels.

The training provided an overview of four main topics related to NEPA:

- Overview of NEPA and CEQ (Council on Environmental Quality) regulations
- Records management
- Types of documents
- Scoping issues

Solomon asked the group what their expectations were for this session, and they outlined a desire to learn more about the law, its implementation, its terminology, and the Forest Service process; how to get the CWG, the public and elected officials more involved in the process; and how NEPA works to protect the environment.

The presentation included many details of the legal requirements, policy interpretations, and litigation history and rulings related to NEPA and agency implementation. Solomon explained the differences between the various types of studies conducted under NEPA such as Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements, and detailed the factors considered in deciding which level of analysis to conduct. He highlighted the importance of public comments during NEPA processes and gave the group advice on how to prepare the most useful and legally-defensible comments on documents. He also described how 'third-party' contracting works, which is how the Tonto National Forest will conduct the EIS for the Resolution Copper Project.

Attendees were given a book entitled *Overview of the NEPA Process*, prepared by Shipley Group. All agreed that the session was informative, worthwhile, and helpful. They thanked Mr. Solomon for speaking with the CWG.

The next **Regular CWG Meeting** will be:

*5:30 PM*

*Wednesday, October 14, 2015*