

National Environmental Policy Act Thought Leaders



Jeff Frantz

Global Solutions Director for Environmental Planning
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Jeff serves as Jacobs' Director of Environmental Planning, leading a group of 1200 practitioners globally, with a focus on collaborating and sharing best practices that enhance environmentally sustainable decision-making for clients. He has been responsible for overseeing or preparing environmental studies and approvals for complex, controversial projects, with a focus on transportation. Jeff's experience includes project development for traditional design, bid, build projects as well as alternative delivery, such as construction manager/general contractor. His recent projects include leading NEPA and environmental permitting for a new rail crossing of the Mississippi River and managing the environmental permitting and compliance effort for the 285-mile Chicago to St. Louis High Speed Rail project, which resulted in savings of more than \$1 million in mitigation costs to the client.



Gabrielle Borin

Global Practice Director, Site Planning & Permitting for Oil, Gas, & Mining
Global Technology Leader, Environmental Impact Assessment
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Gabrielle has nearly 30 years of experience in environmental consulting and regulatory agency compliance for oil and gas, electric transmission, renewables, pipelines, and mining projects spanning project inception and permitting through construction, reclamation and operations. She specializes in environmental impact assessments for large-scale projects and is a recognized industry leader in NEPA compliance, endangered species, migratory birds, and Federal Energy Regulatory Commission-regulated pipelines. Gabrielle has experience working across the U.S., including Alaska, for both private capital project clients, as well as federal agencies. As the Global Technology Leader for the Environmental Impact Assessment, she leads technical knowledge transfer through Jacobs' Communities of Practice, fosters digital solutions and other innovations to meet project needs, disseminates market news and regulatory updates to clients, and promotes delivery excellence and safety on all projects.



Michelle Rau, PMP, NAEP Board of Directors (Secretary)

U.S. National Environmental Policy Act Practice Leader
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Michelle has more than 20 years of experience as an environmental planner and over 15 years of experience as an environmental project manager. She currently serves as the NEPA Practice Leader for nearly 200 environmental practitioners. Michelle works as a project manager and technical lead on Federal environmental compliance projects, including large scale and controversial Environmental Impact Statements. She has managed nearly all aspects of the environmental compliance process, including NEPA, Executive Order (EO) 12114 (international NEPA), Clean Water Act 404 permits, ESA Section 7 consultations, NHPA Section 106 consultations and state, county and regional permits. Michelle's portfolio of clients includes the U.S. Department of Defense (U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency and the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency), NASA, Bureau of Land Management, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Federal Highway Administration and the National Science Foundation.



Kira Zender, AICP

Federal Solutions & Technology Lead, NEPA/Planning
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Kira is a professional planner with more than 20 years of experience conducting and managing increasingly complex NEPA and environmental planning projects. Her experience includes NEPA environmental documents and technical studies for federal, state, county and private sector clients, as well as siting and permitting studies for utility and linear infrastructure projects. Kira has led NEPA compliance documents for the U.S. Air Force, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), National Geo-Spatial Intelligence Agency (NSA), National Science Foundation and Customs and Border Protection. She is cross trained as a military master planner and has completed military master plans for the Air Force in the U.S. and abroad. Kira serves as a Jacobs Solutions & Technology Lead for integrated installation planning and environmental permitting for federal clients. She is also the Program Manager for HQ Air Force Reserve Command and USACE Mobile District NEPA and Planning contracts.



Stephen Petron, PhD

Client Solutions Leader, Environmental Planning
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Stephen is a certified wildlife biologist with 35 years of technical experience conducting private, state and federal environmental management, biology, ecosystem restoration and natural resources permitting. He currently supports projects across a wide spectrum of clients, including private chemical, petroleum, and power clients, state and municipal agencies and authorities, and federal civilian and military agencies. Stephen provides senior expertise for projects involving NEPA, biology, endangered species, Clean Water Act permitting, Executive Order compliance and ecosystem restoration. He is currently serving as Program Manager for our National Science Foundation Environmental Compliance Single Award Basic Purchasing Agreement and for the multiple award U.S. Forest Service NEPA Support Basic Purchasing Agreement. Previously he was program manager for NEPA, Environmental Compliance and Natural Resources Contracts for the U.S. Navy, U.S. Army Environmental Center and the U.S. Department of Transportation Volpe National Transportation Systems Center.



Joseph Thacker

Client Solutions Leader and Senior Scientist Technologist
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Joseph has more than 28 years of professional experience in a wide range of environmental fields including NEPA studies, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Resource Reports, U.S. Coast Guard Topic Reports, property assessments, permitting, threatened and endangered species assessments and consultation, geological and mineral resources reports, land use reports, soils reports and feasibility studies. He is the Head of Jacobs' Regulatory Council and the Leader of Jacob's Environmental Permitting for Energy Infrastructure Community of Practice. Joseph has field experience in 25+ states and has obtained Section 404 Permits in 19 different U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Districts. His projects have required consultation with the Bureau of Land Management, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Farm Service Agency, and various state environmental and game and fish agencies.