

**INDIANA ASSOCIATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS  
CODE OF ETHICS AND STANDARDS OF PRACTICE**

**WHEREAS**, the goal of the Environmental Professional is to provide a full disclosure document in which decision makers and the public can place complete confidence.

**THEREFORE**, this code of Ethical Practice shall govern the professional activities of INAEP members.

- We will examine all relationships or actions which could be legitimately interpreted as representing conflicts of interest by clients, officials, the public or our peers; and we will fully disclose in environmental documents or other writings available to the public or to clients any financial or personal interest in the project and each alternative, including the null or no action alternative.
- We will encourage, by every reasonable means, environmental planning to begin at the earliest stages of project conceptualization.
- We will refuse to create environmental documents to justify, protect or to provide platforms for opposition or advocacy.
- We will abstain from attempts to improperly delay the outcome of an action or project through the environmental documentation process.
- We will produce objective environmental documents, not allowing relationships with clients, employers or others to interfere with the obligation to provide a full disclosure document.

**IN PREPARING A DOCUMENT** pursuant to the environmental document process, we will:

- define a level of investigation appropriate to the nature and scope of the proposed project or action and its probable impacts;
- select and use qualified persons of pertinent disciplines in the conduct of the study;
- incorporate the best principles of design and environmental planning arts in recommending measures for mitigation of environmental harm and enhancement of environmental quality;
- rely upon the independent judgment of an interdisciplinary team to determine impacts, define and evaluate all reasonable alternatives to the proposed action, and assess short-term versus long-term productivity with and without the project or action;
- encourage public participation from the beginning, in an open, frank and productive atmosphere to stimulate democratic consensus;

- write in a clear and accurate manner, to achieve objectivity and remove all possible bias;
- list all study participants, their qualification and affiliates;
- cite all sources, written and oral;
- strive to create a complete, scientifically accurate, objective environmental document that can be defended professionally.

**IN REVIEWING** environmental documents, we will:

- insist on access to original technical reports or findings on which conclusions or recommendations in the documents are based, to ensure that they are in conformity with applicable laws and regulations;
- assure that the review reflects our own best judgment in areas where we are qualified and that of independent experts in areas where we are not fully qualified to judge effects as “significant”;
- determine that the document is consistent with all pertinent laws, ordinances, guidelines and policies, to the best of our knowledge and abilities;
- certify the acceptability of such a document only if satisfied that it has been prepared and reviewed in conformance with the above principles.