

Michele Lefebvre PhD

Environmental Scientist/Project Manager
18 years of experience · Hilo, Hawaii

Dr. Lefebvre has managed, organized, conducted analysis, and prepared NEPA documents including Environmental Assessments (EAs) and Environmental Impact Statements (EISs) for projects in Hawai'i, California, Nevada, Oregon, Wyoming, and Idaho, for a variety of industries and government-funded projects. The preparation of these documents included: coordinating with the lead agency and the project proponent; coordinating and managing baseline data collection; identifying viable project alternatives for environmental analysis; attending agency project meetings; coordinating with agency resource specialists for impact analysis; preparing the documents; coordinating map and figure creation; responding to agency and public comments; ensuring electronic documents complied with the Americans with Disabilities Act requirements; and finalizing documents.

Her experience includes the management, organization, analysis, and writing required for the preparation of National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents, and documents pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-200.1, Hawai'i Administrative Rules, permits, as well as technical biological documents (e.g., Biological Assessments [BAs], Biological Evaluations [BEs], survey reports, and specialist reports) for a variety of projects on both federal, Hawai'i State, and private lands.

EDUCATION

PhD, Biology, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah

BA, Biology, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts

CERTIFICATIONS & TRAINING

Overview of the NEPA Process/Managing NEPA Projects & Teams, Reno, Nevada, 2012

NEPA Cumulative Effects Analysis & Documentation, San Francisco, California, 2008

NEPA Writing the perfect EA/FONSI or EIS, Reno, Nevada, 2008

NEPA and 24 CFR Part 58 Environmental Review Procedures for Entities Assuming HUD Environmental Responsibilities, Hilo, HI, United States, 2018

Vegetation of the Hawaiian Islands (audited course ENSC 457), University of Hawai'i, Hilo, HI, United States, 2018

MEMBERSHIPS

Member, National Association of Environmental Professionals

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Lecturer, University of Hawai'i - Hilo (UHH), Hilo, Hawaii, United States Spring 2019, Spring 2020

RECENT PROJECT EXPERIENCE

ASSESSMENTS, PERMITTING, AND COMPLIANCE

Royal Vistas Development Project - EA | Stantec Consulting Inc. | Kailua-Kona, Hawaii | USD 56.6K | 2019-present | Project Manager

For this project, Michele is preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules. Michele is coordinating with the applicant (Kona Three LLC) and the approving agency (County of Hawaii, Planning Department) to prepare the EA including assessing current conditions at the project site, and identifying potential impacts from project.

Remediation Project EA and Development Project EA for Confidential Client | Confidential | Sunnyvale, California, United States | USD 3.1M | 2020-Present | NEPA Project Manager

Michele served as the NEPA Project Manager for two EAs starting in 2020. One EA is being prepared to remediate a structural hazard and the other EA is for new developments for a confidential client on land managed by a federal agency in Sunnyvale, California. Responsibilities include managing the preparation of technical studies for both projects (with internal technical resource specialists and a local biological sub-consultant), coordinating preparation of the EAs, authoring several sections of the EAs, ensuring quality and timeliness of deliverables, and coordinating with the federal agency and the client. Both EAs are large scale projects with detailed impact analysis and mitigation.

Wind Energy Project | Confidential Client | Waikoloa, Hawaii | USD 10K | 2019 | Project Manager, Lead Author

Helped to prepare a preliminary Environmental Assessment for a proposed wind energy project as part of our client's response to the local power company's Request for Proposals.

Battery Storage Project | Confidential Client | Honolulu, Hawaii | USD 9K | 2019 | Author

Helped to prepare a preliminary Environmental Assessment for a proposed battery storage project as part of our client's response to the local power company's Request for Proposals.

Kaloko Affordable Housing Project HRS 343 and HUD NEPA, Environmental Assessments | Hawaii Island Community Development | Kaloko, Hawaii | 2018-2019 | Project Manager

Michele coordinated with the applicant (Hawaii Island Community Development Corporation) and a local sub-consultant (Geometrician Associates) to prepare the HUD EA and HEPA EA. With support from a local subconsultant, Michele prepared both EAs, helped to collect the traffic data, and coordinated the preparation and completion of the Traffic Impact Assessment Report (TIAR) for the project with a Stantec traffic engineer. Michele also coordinated the water impact assessments with two local hydrologist sub-consultants and the assessment of cultural impacts with a local cultural resource firm.

Matsuyama Commercial Center on NELHA Land - HEPA EA | Mats4 LLC | Kailua-Kona, Hawaii | USD 44.2K | 2018 | Project Manager

For this project, Michele prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) pursuant to Chapter 343, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, and Chapter 11-200, Hawai'i Administrative Rules. As part of this project, Stantec coordinated with the applicant (Mats4 LLC), a local sub-consultant (Geometrician Associates), and the approving agency (Natural Energy Laboratory of Hawai'i Authority) to prepare the EA which including assessing current conditions at the project site, and predicted potential impacts from project. Stantec also prepared the Traffic Impact Assessment Report for the project, coordinated the biological survey with a local biological sub-consultant, and coordinated the assessment of cultural impacts from the project with a local cultural resource firm.

Keakealani Campus Development Project - HEPA EA | Volcano School of Arts and Sciences | Volcano, Hawai'i, United States | USD 37K | 2016-2017 | Project Manager

Michele was the project manager for this project consisting of the construction of pre-kindergarten through eighth grade campus on the site of a historic Keakealani School property in Volcano Village. She coordinated with the approving agency (Volcano Schools of Arts and Sciences) and local sub-consultant (Geometrician Associates) to prepare the EA. Her responsibilities included working with the agency to identify issues, conduct public comments analysis, and write the Draft and Final EA. Michele also coordinated the biological survey and archaeological inventory with local sub-consultants.

Greater Phoenix Mine Project - EIS | Newmont Mining Corporation | Lander County, Nevada | AED 1.1M | 2016-2018 | Lead Author

Michele was the lead author and assistant project manager for this project consisting of the operation and revised closure of an existing gold mine. The project was an amendment to the Phoenix Mine located 12 miles southwest of Battle Mountain, Nevada. Her responsibilities included administrative activities, preparation of materials for public meetings, public comment analysis, resource author coordination, coordination with the client and agency, writing sections of the EIS, as well as preparation and review of technical resource sections.

American Flat Road/Lucerne Access Right-of-Way (ROW) - EA | Comstock Mining LLC | Storey County, Nevada | 2016 | Assistant Project Manager

For this controversial ROW project, Michele attended the kick-off meeting, coordinated with the BLM, and prepared the Draft EA, Revised Draft EA, and Final EA. As issues were identified during the NEPA process, she worked with the BLM and the client to revise the scope and details of the proposed action in the Plan of Development (POD) and EA, as well as revise impact analysis in the Revised Draft EA and Final EA based on public input.

Bull Valley Exploration Project - EA | Pilot Goldstrike Inc. | St. George, Utah | USD 185.7K | 2016-2017 | Project Manager

For this 77-acre mineral exploration project on a mix of BLM, private, and State-owned lands, Michele prepared the EA, including the affected environment resource sections, environmental consequences, and cumulative impacts. She also coordinated with the BLM and the client through project approval.

Gold Bar Mine Project - EIS | McEwen Mining Inc. |
Eureka County, Nevada | 2016 | Assistant Project
Manager

Michele is the assistant project manager for this project consisting of the construction and operation of a gold mine. The project is proposed in the Roberts Mountains in Eureka County, Nevada. Her responsibilities include administrative activities, preparation of materials for public meetings, public comments analysis, resource author coordination, coordination with the client and agency, writing sections of the EIS, as well as preparing and reviewing technical resource sections.

NATURAL RESOURCE SERVICES

HELCO Saddle Road Transmission Line Re-Build Project | Hawaii Electric Light Company, Inc. | Hilo, Hawaii, United States | USD 269K | 2018-2019 | Project Manager

Michele coordinated with stakeholders (private land owners, local agencies, and Pohakuloa Training Area) to obtain permission for local subconsultants to conduct a biological survey and archaeological inventory for this cross-island transmission line. For this survey, Stantec also assisted HELCO with identifying alternative line alignments for the inventory to ensure baseline data would be available for the project's future NEPA and/or HRS 343 analysis.

Rapid 'Ohi'a Death (ROD) Science Symposium | Department of Land and Natural Resources | Hilo, Hawai'i | USD 1.8K | 2019 | Facilitator

Michele served as the facilitator for the wrap-up session of the ROD Science Symposium on May 30, 2019. The symposium was organized to bring together the ROD-related research and science community to collectively discuss and map out actions necessary to propel and realize management-driven science. The first two days of the symposium included presentations on the on-going science and research, and the wrap-up session on the third day. Michele worked with key members of the organizing committee to develop a format for the session and implemented the approach with an emphasis on collaboration. The session identified where the gaps are in current ROD knowledge, science and research subjects and questions that require further investigation, and development of strategies for conducting these investigations and getting answers to help drive active management.

PRESENTATIONS

Secretarial Order 3355 for Streamlining NEPA: Application to Mining and Exploration Projects. *American Exploration & Mining Association Annual Conference, 2017.*

Consider NEPA to Improve Efficiency of Baseline Data Collection for EAs and EISs. *American Exploration & Mining Association Annual Conference, 2016.*

Evolution of NEPA: How has S.O. 3355 Impacted NEPA in 2018?. *American Exploration & Mining Association Annual Conference, 2018.*