

Rick Nelson

SENIOR TECHNICAL EDITOR

CONTACT INFORMATION

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PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Mr. Nelson is a Senior Technical Editor with ToxStrategies' Client Services group. He has been editing and writing professionally for four decades, and his experience in editing scientific material spans a variety of disciplines. He has developed a specialty in recasting highly technical writing and information for consumption by specifically targeted audiences, including scientific peers, regulators, attorneys and jurors, and the general public. Through a long career editing scientific materials in a consulting environment, Mr. Nelson worked with increasingly technical material, assimilating enough of the science along the way to ensure that the firm's work products are clear and concise, retain their scientific integrity, conform to the rules of English grammar and corporate styles and conventions, and are intellectually accessible to the intended audience.

Mr. Nelson has worked with a wide variety of publication types, including corporate reports to clients and regulators, litigation support materials, technical manuscripts for books and peer-reviewed journal submittals, posters and presentations for scientific conferences, proposals and marketing materials for technical consulting services, and post-graduate theses and dissertations. He has also generated original material—for example, he reviewed a decade's worth of research conducted by a national agricultural association and summarized the work in a publication issued by the association to its members/investors. Mr. Nelson also writes copy as needed for technical proposals and marketing collateral, as well as literature reviews, technical reports, and research articles.

Mr. Nelson's editorial scope encompasses (but is not limited to) the following subject areas:

- Environmental and ecological science
- Human health evaluation, risk assessment, and hazard communication
- Toxicology and epidemiology
- Food science
- Pharmaceutical assessment and registration

- Product development and stewardship
- Chemical registration
- Structures evaluations and engineering studies
- Patent application and infringement
- Human factors
- Social, economic, and environmental impact assessments, including in developing countries.

Mr. Nelson regularly mentors technical staff to develop their writing skills, often in one-on-one settings, but also in the forum of seminars developed and presented to groups of scientists. He has also managed and mentored various technical support personnel, including editors, graphic artists, data analysts, researchers, marketing specialists, and administrative support providers. Training provided to support staff has included professional grammar and writing styles, use of corporate style guides and templates, the basic scientific principles of the subject matter, and fostering a team approach with authors to ensure the highest quality in written communications.

EDUCATION AND DEGREES EARNED

1980 B.A., English, Iowa State University

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

A national livestock producers' association needed to summarize a decade's worth of research efforts in a publication to circulate to their members—largely composed of farmers and ranchers who contributed funds via a per-head-sold check-off system. To that end, collaborated with association staff to compile the wide-ranging research projects. Proceeded to assess the need for each project and the results realized, within the context of national economics, controversial topics, and consumer attitudes of the time, and wrote a compendium of that research that would be both comprehensible and interesting to the target audience. The association turned the work product into a glossy, bound publication for distribution to their membership.

Worked with a large technical team spread among multiple offices to report a three-year evaluation of a proposed open-pit mine that would eventually fill with water and form a deep lake. Project incorporated hydrogeological sampling, long-term laboratory testing, and extensive predictive modeling. Thus, the report needed to present methods, results, and conclusions from the various components, and summarize those elements into a meaningful prediction of the eventual pit-lake chemistry. Worked with the various teams to glean the key results produced by each, and helped them compile their key findings into the capstone report. The final work product consisted of a focused, overarching report of results (approx. 80 pages), supported by a set of technical appendices (approx. 1500 pages).

Worked on the team that developed a comprehensive corporate Guide to Styles and Conventions. This volume covered topics from a condensed set of grammar/punctuation standards ("English 101"), to use of the company's templates, macros, and autotext entries, to standard acronyms and abbreviations, to a short course on effective writing. Helped revise the Guide as the company's needs evolved over the next two decades.

Working with an outside consultant, developed a 12-hour writing seminar geared toward scientists, especially less experienced consulting staff. Based on feedback, recast the seminar (without the consultant) into a two- to four-hour, single-session format, with more emphasis on individual follow up and coaching as writing assignments arose out of their project work.

Served as a primary writer/editor of a corporate set of standards and procedures to guide the consulting firm's certification to the international quality assurance standard known as ISO 9001. Because the ISO standard, and the corresponding system of audits and re-certification, are geared primarily to the manufacturing/industrial segment, a significant challenge was to write the quality system document in a manner applicable to a professional consulting environment. The auditing firm eventually accepted the system as written, and ongoing updates kept the firm adaptable to changing conditions and requirements.

PUBLICATIONS

Salatas JH, Lowney YW, Pastorok RA, **Nelson RR**, Ruby MV. 2004. Metals that drive health-based remedial decisions for soils at U.S. Department of Defense sites. *Hum Ecol Risk Asses* 10(6):1117–1128.

Lowney Y, Ruby MV, Hook GC, **Nelson RR**. 1998. Biological interactions: Human health considerations. In: *Metals-Contaminated Soils: In Situ Inactivation and Phytoremediation*. Vangronsveld J, Cunningham SD, eds. Landes Bioscience, Austin, TX.