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The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

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L E T T E R

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues> Vol. 17, No. 12 — December 2008

◁ CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ▷

January 2009

20-23 Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP) Trainings,
"Source Reduction Strategies for Tribal Solid Waste Programs" in San Diego, California
For information, go to: www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/tsweap_course_SrcStraSWP.asp

25-27 Harvesting Clean Energy Conference, Billings, Montana – Crowne Plaza Hotel,
To register or view the agenda: www.harvestcleanenergy.org/conference/index.html

February 2009

**2-6 The Alaska Forum on the Environment, Anchorage, Alaska - the Egan/Dena'ina
Convention Center.** Please submit Poster Projects to Sherry Kimmons,
EPA Tribal Coordinator. For questions: 907-271-6322.

Clean Water Act Section 404 Mitigation Rule Trainings

On April 10, 2008, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) and the EPA published a new rule to clarify how to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the nation's wetlands and streams. The rule promotes greater consistency, predictability and ecological success of mitigation projects under the Clean Water Act. The new rule also establishes performance standards, sets timeframes for decision making, and to the extent possible, establishes equivalent requirements and standards for the three sources of compensatory mitigation:

- Permittee-responsible mitigation;
- Mitigation banks; and
- In-lieu-fee programs.

Training on the new rule is open to staff from EPA, Corps, and other federal, state, tribal and local government agencies and will be provided in three cities across the country. Each 1.5 day training will begin at 8am on the first day and end by noon on the second. The dates and locations are:

- Emeryville, CA: December 9-10, 2008 - Hilton Garden Inn at the San Francisco/Oakland Bay Bridge
- Dallas, TX: January 27-28, 2009 - Hotel Indigo

To register, receive detailed hotel information (block of rooms at government rate available) and find an agenda go to www.horsleywitten.com/epawetland/

Environmental Education Grant

The program solicits grant proposals to support environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop knowledgeable and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. This grant program provides financial support for innovative projects that design, demonstrate, or disseminate environmental education practices, methods, or techniques as described in this notice.

EPA issues Environmental Education Grants from headquarters and from 10 EPA regional offices. The same educational priorities are used for regional and headquarters grants and the EPA funding amount for each grant is used to determine if the grant is awarded from headquarters or from a regional office. Grants for \$50,000 or less are funded by the 10 EPA Regional Offices and grants greater than \$50,000, but not to exceed \$200,000 are funded by Headquarters. The Headquarters grants should be broader in scope and support the field of environmental education.

The solicitation information: www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html

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Sustainable Skylines Initiative

EPA requests proposals for the Sustainable Skylines Initiative (SSI). SSI supports community efforts to develop locally-led activities to help reduce emissions and promote sustainability with the goal of cleaner and healthier air. \$250K is expected to be available and up to 5 awards anticipated. Proposals are due **December 17, 2008**. For more information, contact Yvonne Johnson at Johnson.yvonne@epa.gov or go to: www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html

Clean Water Act (CWA)

The FY2009 CWA Section 319 - Tribal Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Control Program Request for Proposals (RFP) was posted from October 30, 2008 to December 15, 2008. For more information, go to the EPA Tribal NPS website at www.epa.gov/owow/nps/tribal/

The purpose of the NPS Control Program is to assist Federally-recognized Indian Tribes develop and implement polluted runoff control programs and watershed-based plans that address critical water quality concerns and achieve positive environmental results.

To access the FY2009 CWA 319 - NPS application information, click on "*Information Related to FY2009 Section 319 Funding*" on the NPS website which will take you to another webpage with information on applying for base and competitive funding.

Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA)

EPA will begin to accept requests, from **December 1, 2008 to January 31, 2009** for grants to supplement State and Tribal Response Programs. This notice provides guidance on eligibility for funding, use of funding, grant mechanisms and process for awarding funding, the allocation of system for distribution of funding, and terms and reports under these grants. EPA has consulted with state and tribal officials in developing this guidance. EPA will consider funding requests up to a maximum of \$1.5 million per state or tribe. Subject to the availability of funds, EPA regional personnel will be available to provide technical assistance to states and tribes as they apply for and carry out these grants. For more information, go to: www.epa.gov/brownfields

Water and Wastewater

USDA requests proposals for the Technical Assistance and Training Grant Program. This program supports projects that identify and evaluate solutions to water and waste disposal problems in rural areas, assist applicants in preparing applications for water and waste grants made at the State level offices, and improve operation and maintenance of existing water and waste disposal facilities in rural areas. \$17 million is expected to be available and up to 12 awards are anticipated. Responses are due on **December 31, 2008**. For more information, contact Anita O'Brien at anita.obrien@wdc.usda.gov or go to: www.usda.gov/rus/water/tatg.htm

Solid Waste Management

USDA requests proposals for the Solid Waste Management Grant Program. This program supports projects that reduce or eliminate pollution of water resources in rural areas, and improve planning and management of solid waste sites in rural areas. \$3.4 million is expected to be available and up to 35 awards are anticipated. Responses are due **December 31, 2008**. For more information, contact LaVonda Pernell at lavonda.pernell@wdc.usda.gov or go to: www.usda.gov/rus/water/SWMG.htm

General Assistance Program (GAP) Grant Notification

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 10, is requesting Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP) grant proposals from federally recognized tribal governments and intertribal consortia for FY2010 work plan program development activities. The goal of the GAP is to assist tribes in developing the capability to plan and establish environmental protection programs and to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with their individual needs.

Region 10 invites your Tribe or Tribal consortium to submit a grant proposal for the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (IGAP) for Fiscal Year 2009 (for proposals beginning in Fiscal Year 2010 and later). All proposals must be postmarked no later than Thursday, **January 15, 2009**.

For more information on the application process and requirements, see

yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Grants/IGAP-FY09/

or contact your Tribal administrator.

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Help Mitigate Climate Change

EPA proposed a rule that supports promising technologies to prevent industrial emissions of carbon dioxide. Secure, long-term underground storage of the greenhouse gas is one way scientific innovation could lessen the effects of climate change.

"This proposal paves the way for technologies that would protect public health and help reduce the effects of climate change," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "With proper site selection and management, geologic sequestration could play a major role in reducing emissions of carbon dioxide into the atmosphere."

EPA's proposed regulation creates a consistent, national framework for the injection of carbon dioxide underground and protection of underground drinking water resources. The rule would create a new class of injection wells under the authority of the Safe Drinking Water Act's Underground Injection Control (UIC) program. The proposed rule builds on the existing UIC program, including extensive requirements to ensure wells are appropriately located, constructed, tested, monitored, and ultimately, closed with proper funding. It would apply to owners and operators of wells that will be used to inject carbon dioxide into the subsurface for the purpose of long-term storage.

Carbon capture and storage is part of a portfolio of technologies available to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. EPA is coordinating with the Department of Energy on carbon sequestration research and development. EPA is requesting public comments on the proposed rule for 120 days.

Proposal and information about geologic sequestration activities and the UIC program:
www.epa.gov/safewater/uic/wells_sequestration.html

Wetlands Helpline

The EPA's Wetlands Helpline is a contractor-operated, toll-free telephone service and e-mail correspondent, which answers requests for information about wetlands regulation, legislation and policy pursuant to Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, wetlands values and functions, and wetlands agricultural issues. The hotline acts as a first point of contact for EPA's Wetlands Division, which is part of the Office of Wetlands, Oceans and Watersheds (OWOW). For more information, call 800-832-7828, e-mail wetlands.helpline@epa.gov or visit EPA's Wetlands Helpline web site:
www.epa.gov/OWOW/wetlands/wetline.html

New WaterSense Factoid

If every home in the United States installed WaterSense labeled faucets or faucet aerators in the bathrooms, it would save 60 billion gallons of water annually-saving households more than \$350 million in water bills and about \$600 million in energy costs to heat their water. Additionally, water and waste water utilities would save 200 million kilowatt-hours of electricity normally used for supplying and treating that water. The WaterSense website has a complete list of WaterSense labeled products at:

www.epa.gov/watersense/pp/index.htm

The Green Power Partnership

The Green Power Partnership is a voluntary program that supports the organizational procurement of green power by offering expert advice, technical support, tools and resources. Partnering with EPA can help your organization lower the transaction costs of buying green power, reduce its carbon footprint, and communicate its leadership to key stakeholders. Green power is electricity produced from a subset of renewable resources, such as solar, wind, geothermal, low-impact biomass, and low-impact hydro. Buying green power is one of the easiest and most effective ways to improve your organization's environmental performance. For more information:
www.epa.gov/greenpower

Wave Energy Trust Grants for Wave Energy Projects

The Oregon Wave Energy Trust has awarded two grants to help accelerate development of wave energy projects at Coos Bay and Reedsport. The grants went to Ocean Power Technologies, one of the companies with wave energy projects on the Oregon coast. The trust is reviewing a third grant request. For more information:

www.theworldlink.com/articles/2008/10/23/news/doc48ff6492a9233445688102.txt

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New Guidance on Drinking Water Contamination

EPA's Water Security Initiative has released two interim guidance documents on drinking water contamination warning systems. The Interim Guidance on Developing an Operational Strategy for Contamination Warning Systems will assist utilities with developing standard operating procedures for the monitoring and surveillance components of a contamination warning system.

The Interim Guidance on Developing Consequence Management Plans for Drinking Water Utilities will aid utilities with developing plans for validating, responding to, and recovering from a contamination incident in the drinking water distribution system. These guidance documents reflect lessons learned from EPA's implementation of a comprehensive drinking water contamination warning system pilot in Cincinnati.

Further, EPA is releasing a detailed report, Cincinnati Pilot Post-Implementation System Status, which describes enhancements associated with the pilot in the areas of online water quality monitoring, consumer complaint surveillance, public health surveillance, contaminant sampling and analysis, physical security, and consequence management. These documents, along with additional information about the Water Security Initiative, are available at: cfpub.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/initiative.cfm.

Outdoor Wood Heaters that Reduce Air Emissions

Key manufacturers of outdoor wood-fired heaters pledged to make units that will emit 90 percent less air pollution, under the second phase of a voluntary partnership with EPA. EPA launched the voluntary program in January 2007, beginning with units 70 percent cleaner than unqualified models. Sales of EPA-qualified units to date will prevent nearly 1,200 tons of fine particle emissions annually, providing more than \$600 million in estimated annual health benefits.

The manufacturers agreeing to make cleaner outdoor wood heaters are: Alternative Fuel Boilers (Econoburn), Central Boiler, Greenwood Technologies, Hardy Manufacturing, HeatSource1, Northwest Manufacturing (WoodMaster), and Silverwinds Metals, Inc. (Wood Doctor)

Annual Report Captures Efforts to Protect Children

A new publication outlines national efforts to protect children from environmental risks over the last year. EPA's Children's Environmental Health: 2008 Highlights is the eighth in an annual series on work done in its programs, labs and regions.

EPA has funded research on how the environment affects children's health, promoted the education of health care providers, published information about how climate change affects children's health, and assembled data to quantify the extent of children's health issues. EPA is addressing environmental health disparities, issues during pregnancy, the rebuilding of communities with children's needs in mind and the health of children in our nation's schools.

Issues in the report include childhood asthma, lead poisoning, exposure to the sun, children and chemicals, integrated pest management, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units and research findings.

This year marks the 11th year of explicit attention to the health of children following the Executive Order of 1997, Protection of Children from Environmental Health Risks and Safety Risks.

More information: [yosemite.epa.gov/ochnpweb.nsf/content/2008_highlights.htm/\\$file/OCHP_2008_Highlights_508.pdf](http://yosemite.epa.gov/ochnpweb.nsf/content/2008_highlights.htm/$file/OCHP_2008_Highlights_508.pdf)

Geothermal Energy Boom

The Interior Department plans to make available 190 million acres of federal land in a dozen Western states for development of geothermal energy projects — a move that could produce enough clean electricity for 5 million homes.

Interior Secretary Dirk Kempthorne said Wednesday that under a leasing program, as many as 270 communities could benefit from direct use of geothermal energy, generated from intense heat deep beneath the Earth.

The 12 states and number of new leasing areas in each state are: Alaska (3), Arizona (8), California (14), Colorado (10), Idaho (20), Montana (8), Nevada (8), New Mexico (9), Oregon (10), Utah (18), Washington (1), and Wyoming (13).

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Energy Saver

Energy savers is a site designed to offer both low-cost and no-cost ways to lower energy costs, and includes easy energy saving tips. Energy Savers will be a year-round resource for Americans' energy needs, revised as the seasons change, with a weekly energy saving tip for consumers. It will offer both low-cost and no-cost ways to lower energy costs, and includes easy energy saving tips, financial assistance links, long-term energy saving solutions, and a blog covering energy saving topics. Visitors to the site can also download an energy saving to-do list and other materials to help save money on energy costs while staying warm this winter.

For more information, go to www.energysavers.gov

Web Site for Tribes in Search of Clean Water Act Training

EPA has launched a new web site--

www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining/

--that contains all of the EPA-sponsored Clean Water Act (CWA) training courses available to Indian tribes. The new web site is the culmination of a larger EPA effort to provide more structured, consolidated training to assist Tribes in implementing programs under the CWA.

The web site contains listings of face-to-face training courses offered by EPA's Office of Water, links to self-paced training for CWA programs, links to relevant training courses offered by other EPA program offices (both face-to-face and self-paced), as well as links to other important resources and tools. EPA is working with Indian tribes to identify future training needs for CWA programs.

Contact Frances A. Desselle at 202-566-0375 for more information.

Solid Waste

The EPA is working with municipalities to encourage smaller communities to consider developing projects to harness landfill gas for energy use. There are tax incentives available to communities that voluntarily choose to begin a landfill gas program. New financing options and incentives make smaller landfill gas energy projects more cost-effective.

Landfills are one of the primary contributors of methane released into the atmosphere, and methane as a greenhouse gas is more than 20 times more potent by weight than carbon dioxide.

If municipalities can harness that gas they can achieve the dual benefit of destroying the methane and offsetting the use of fossil fuels. Right now there are about 455 landfill gas operations projects in 43 states generating 11 billion kilowatt hours of electricity.

Some Projects Have Paid for Themselves. Many communities have been able to make their landfill gas projects pay for themselves through the sale of electricity resulting from the gas harnessing as well as a series of federal incentives.

More information on funding for landfill gas projects is available at www.epa.gov/lmop/res/guide/index.htm

Concentrated Animal Feeding Operations (CAFO's)

EPA has finalized a rule helping to protect the nation's water quality by requiring concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFO's) to safely manage manure. EPA estimates CAFO regulations will prevent 56 million pounds of phosphorus, 110 million pounds of nitrogen, and 2 billion pounds of sediment from entering streams, lakes, and other waters annually.

EPA worked closely with the U.S. Department of Agriculture during the development of the rule and will work closely with states during implementation. The rule deadline for newly defined facilities to apply for permits is **February 27, 2009**.

Information: www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule



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Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to Ernest Young at young.ernest@epa.gov

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8802
Oregon	800-452-0311		

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
 Alaska Operations Office**

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