

## NEWS

*The Tribal Newsletter*  
is published free monthly.

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## LETTER

# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 17, No. — October 2008

### <> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

#### October

- 8-10 **Western Brownfields Workshop 2008 in San Diego, CA**  
This year's workshop will be a green event by providing workshop materials electronically at:  
<ftp.epa.gov/r8/brownfields/WBW2008>
- 17-19 **Híitem' Waq' iswit Pow-Wow, Clearwater River Casino & Resort, Lewiston ID.**  
For additional information: call 877-678-7423 or go to [www.crcasino.com/events.htm](http://www.crcasino.com/events.htm)
- 27-29 **AK Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM), Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK** For information, see [www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/sustops/atcem.cfm](http://www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/sustops/atcem.cfm)
- 30-31 **EPA IGAP training, Sheraton Anchorage Hotel, Anchorage, AK**

#### November

- 16-19 **2008 National Low Impact Development Conference, Westin Seattle, Seattle WA**  
For information: [content.asce.org/conferences/lid08/](http://content.asce.org/conferences/lid08/)
- 17-20 **Tribal Energy Program Review, Renaissance Denver Hotel, Denver, CO**  
For information: [apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming\\_events.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/upcoming_events.cfm)  
For hotel information: [www.marriott.com/densa](http://www.marriott.com/densa) (the group rate deadline is **October 16, 2008.**)

### Conferences, Workshops and Meetings

EPA has issued a Broad Agency Announcement (BAA) for conferences, workshops, and/or meetings. Through this BAA, EPA seeks proposals for planning, arranging, administering and/or conducting conferences, workshops, and/or meetings that focus on research to protect human health and safeguard the environment. Subject areas include, but are not limited to: Economics and sustainability; and air and global climate change. \$500,000 is expected to be available and up to 15 awards are anticipated. Responses are due **December 9, 2008**. For more information, contact Bernice Smith at [smith.bernicel@epa.gov](mailto:smith.bernicel@epa.gov) or go to [es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008\\_baa.html](http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2008/2008_baa.html)

### Government Grants

Funding from the Tribal Energy Program is through a competitive process. Each funding opportunity will include instructions on how to apply, application content, and the criteria by which applications will be selected for funding. Only applications submitted through Grants.gov can be considered for award. To submit an application, you must complete the one-time registration process. As the registration process in Grants.gov may take 21 days or more to complete and must take place prior to submitting an application, applicants are encouraged to begin the process at least three weeks before the application due date. See [www.grants.gov/GetStarted](http://www.grants.gov/GetStarted) Questions regarding Grants.gov should be directed to the Grants.gov Customer Support Center between 7am and 9pm EDT at 800-518-4726.

### Tribal Pollution Prevention Workgroup

A collaborative effort between various partners, this web site ( [www.tribalp2.org](http://www.tribalp2.org) ) is targeted to tribal leaders and environmental managers looking to learn more about pollution prevention (P2), including resource conservation and best management practices. P2 can assist tribes with achieving environmental sustainability, and will help improve tribal communities and the lives of tribal members.

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**Coastal Watersheds Grants**

Region 10’s coastal watersheds stretch from Alaska to Oregon’s southern border. They include watersheds draining to directly to coastal and tidally influenced waters. In September 2008 EPA Region 10 opened a solicitation for project proposals to receive funding through the Region 10’s West Coast Estuaries Initiative (WEI) Program. Region 10’s WEI supports the protection and restoration of high value, coastal aquatic resources and the enhancement of local programs in areas threatened by growth pressures. Tribal and local governments and special purpose districts are uniquely positioned to address and minimize the impacts of population growth and land development through their land use management authorities. EPA is looking for opportunities to assist these entities in integrating land use programs with watershed management to protect and restore coastal watersheds.

Proposals should range from \$400,000 to \$600,000 for work over a 2-4 year period. With approximately \$2.8 million in funding, Region 10 anticipates funding 5-7 grants.

For additional information, see the fact sheet posted on EPA Region 10 website at [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth) In September, look for the request for proposals on-line at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov) and on EPA Region 10 website at [www.epa.gov/r10earth](http://www.epa.gov/r10earth) Anticipated closing date will be **December 1.**

**EPA Releases Final Effluent Guidelines Plan**

The Environmental Protection Agency announced Sept. 16 the release of its final 2008 effluent guidelines program plan (73 Fed. Reg., 53,218). The plan identifies no new industries for Clean Water Act regulations, but a senior agency official has said EPA will continue to study coal-fired power plants, coalbed methane extraction, and pharmaceutical disposal in the health care industry for possible regulation in the future.

**Webinar Sustainable Financing for State and Tribal Wetland Programs**

EPA’s Wetlands Program and the University of North Carolina Environmental Finance Center will be presenting a webinar on October 15, 2008 to introduce state/tribal wetland program staff and managers to the concept of sustainable financing for their programs. An announcement with details about how to sign up for the webinar will be released closer to the October 15 date. This webinar will be followed up by a series of regional financing workshops across the country over the next few years (dates and locations of these workshops will be announced in the future).

The purpose of the webinar is to introduce attendees to what sustainable financing really means. During the webinar, they will present information on a variety of potential funding mechanisms for state and tribal wetland programs. They will also give an overview of different strategies that states and tribes are currently using to finance their wetland programs, and identify what has been working and why. Furthermore, the presenters will provide information on funding sources from federal agencies, and identify how best to access these sources. Finally, the webinar will provide pointers on how to market a wetlands program to state legislators and to stakeholders.

The workshops will go into much more detail on these topics, and more. Details about workshop content will be presented during the webinar.

If you have any questions or comments on this webinar or the ensuing workshops, please feel free to contact: Romell Nandi at 202-566-1203

**EPA Seeks State And Tribal Comments On Area Designations for 2006 24-Hour Fine Particle (PM2.5) Standards**

The public comment period for PM2.5 Designations for the 2006 PM2.5 standards ended on the 2nd of October for individuals. However, States and Tribes can make comments and provide information to EPA until **October 20, 2008.**

To read more about these designations please visit the 24-Hr PM2.5 Designations Website at [www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/index.htm)

For more information, contact Krishna Viswanathan at 206-553-2684 or [viswanathan.krishna@epa.gov](mailto:viswanathan.krishna@epa.gov)

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### Free CD-ROM Toolkit: Balancing Water Quality and Smart Growth

The "Balancing Water Quality and Smart Growth Goals Toolkit" CD-ROM is a compilation of valuable resources and ideas, including a new webcast called "*Protecting Water Quality While Meeting Smart Growth Goals*." The International City/County Management Association (ICMA) has brought these resources together to help local government managers and planning and environmental professionals determine how they can connect their efforts to reach important community goals.

The CD-ROM toolkit includes more than 50 resources, including webcasts, presentations, fact sheets, publications, case studies, and Web links to online resource collections and news articles and sources.

[icma.org/main/](http://icma.org/main/)

[Id.asp?from=search&ldid=20380&hsid=1&t=0](http://icma.org/main/Id.asp?from=search&ldid=20380&hsid=1&t=0)

To order your free copy of the CD-ROM, send a request by email to [lgear@icma.org](mailto:lgear@icma.org). Be sure to include your name, mailing address, and phone number. Please reference the "*Balancing Water Quality and Smart Growth Toolkit*" in your subject line.

### Imperiled Fish

Almost 40 percent of North American species of fish are imperiled, primarily due to threatened habitats, the U.S. Geological Survey said Sept. 9 in reporting results of a study it led.

The study, *Conservation Status of Imperiled North American Freshwater and Diadromous Fishes*, which appeared in the August issue of the journal *Fisheries*, lists 700 species or subspecies, almost twice the number included on the original list compiled in 1989. Of those added, 58 are newly described species. The list includes 230 considered vulnerable, 190 considered threatened, and 280 considered endangered, though the authors note that the classification is meant only as guidance for governmental regulation. An additional 62 species or subspecies are considered extinct or entirely removed from their natural habitats.

The U.S. Geological Survey conducted the study with assistance from a team of scientists from the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

### Water Pollution

#### EPA Touts Improvements in 2007 In Beach Pollution Monitoring, Prevention

Beaches were open for use 95 percent of beach days in 2007, and state and territorial beach water quality managers are improving pollution monitoring and prevention, according to the EPA's 2007 Swimming Season Update released May 29. However, a representative from Environmental Defense Fund said overall progress in monitoring and preventing beach pollution is "inadequate" and that many beaches remain unsafe for public use.

#### Environmental Group Seeks Essays and Photos For Online Global Warming Book

Indian tribes interested in telling their stories about climate change to a larger audience may be interested in a project based on a partnership between Penguin Books and the Union of Concerned Scientists. Specifically, the two groups are inviting writers and photographers to submit their personal stories and images about global warming for a new online book, *Thoreau's Legacy: American Stories about Global Warming*, to be published in 2009.

To participate, contributors must write a 200-500 word first-person account of global warming that relates to their life or the world around them: a special place that they want to protect; people, animals or activities they love that are threatened by a warmer climate; or the steps they are taking to stem the tide of global warming. Contributors may also send a photograph related to these topics. The best submissions will be included in the online book and in a limited-edition hardcover version.

The deadline for making essay or photograph submissions is **November 15, 2008**.

Submissions may be made by going to [www.ucsusa.org/americanstories](http://www.ucsusa.org/americanstories)

#### Tribal Water Evaluation

The Final OIG report on the tribal drinking water program is available online at: [www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2008/20080916-08-P-0266.pdf](http://www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2008/20080916-08-P-0266.pdf)

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### 2007 Toxic Release Inventory Data Release (e-FDR)

To better inform communities about releases of toxic chemicals from industrial facilities in their area, EPA announced the availability of the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) facility-level data for 2007. This is the 5th annual Electronic Facility Data Release (e-FDR) and displays the TRI data exactly as received by EPA from the facilities - one form for each chemical at a facility. Many stakeholders have requested that EPA share TRI data sooner and in the format received, without waiting for further analysis. The "raw" data released are not grouped in any way or are as easily searchable as the traditional Public Data Release (PDR), which also includes more quality checks, national trends and analysis. EPA will still publish the complete 2007 PDR in early 2009.

TRI provides American communities with vital information on chemical releases including disposal of chemicals. In addition, TRI tracks releases of chemicals and industrial sectors specified by the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act of 1986. The Pollution Prevention Act of 1990 also mandates that facilities report data on other waste management activities such as treatment, recycling, and energy recovery. The e-FDR is now available at: [www.epa.gov/tri-efdr](http://www.epa.gov/tri-efdr)

### Technology Troubling You?

Operating a water or wastewater utility has never been easy. And with new technologies and increasing regulations, the job just keeps getting more difficult.

If you have questions about a particular technology or about other aspects of running your system, The National Environmental Services Center's technical staff may have the answers you need. Their engineers, certified operators, and support staff have decades of experience working with small water and wastewater systems.

Call them at 800-624-8301 and select option 3 to speak with one of their technical assistance specialists. Even though many of their customers find their experience and information invaluable, they don't charge for the call or the advice. It's free!

### About Energy Star

Energy Star was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through superior energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label is on more than 50 different kinds of products, on new homes, and on commercial and industrial buildings. In 2007 alone, Americans, with the help of Energy Star, saved more than \$16 billion on their utility bills while reducing greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 27 million vehicles.

To take a tour of Energy Star @ Work, go to: [www.energystar.gov/work](http://www.energystar.gov/work)

### EPA Research Applications

EPA's Global Change Research Program is seeking applications proposing research to better understand the interactions of climate change, air pollution regulatory programs, greenhouse gas mitigation policies, and efforts to adapt to a changing climate, and how these interactions affect air quality. The solicitation can be found at: Energy Star @ Work. It is estimated that approximately 7 regular grants and 3 early career grants will be awarded. Approximately \$5,000,000 is available for all awards. The solicitation is being managed by the Science to Achieve Results (STAR) grants program. Applications will be accepted until **October 21, 2008**.

### On-line Environmental Management Systems (EMS) Tutorial for Wastewater Utilities

Based on the Public Entity EMS Resource (PEER) Center EMS Handbook for Wastewater Utilities (2004), the EMS Tutorial for Wastewater Utilities was developed with the support of the EPA Office of Water and in consultation with utility managers that have an EMS in place at their facilities. The tutorial is designed for wastewater utilities and guides the user through EMS implementation based on the Plan-Do-Check-Act model. It provides instructions, lessons, exercises, and learning objectives for each step of an EMS. To download a printable copy of the EMS Handbook for Wastewater Utilities, go to [www.peercenter.net/ewebeditpro/items/JO11F10698.pdf](http://www.peercenter.net/ewebeditpro/items/JO11F10698.pdf)

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**EPA Tool Helps Communities Tap into Energy Savings**

America's drinking water and wastewater facilities can now save energy and reduce their carbon footprint with expanded tools available from EPA's Energy Star Program. Enhancements to Portfolio Manager, the agency's popular energy tracking tool for commercial facilities, allow water utilities to track energy use and associated carbon emissions, set targets for investment priorities, and verify efficiency improvements. Water and wastewater facilities are energy intensive, accounting for more than one-third of municipal energy use. Improving the energy efficiency of America's drinking water and wastewater systems by 10 percent would save more than 5 billion kilowatt-hours each year representing a cost savings of about \$400 million annually.

"Wasting energy is sending good resources down the drain," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, assistant administrator for Water. "Energy efficiency is good for the planet as well as the plant managers who make water clean and healthy."

Drinking water and wastewater systems spend about \$4 billion a year on energy to pump, treat, deliver, collect, and clean water at the 52,000 community drinking water and 16,500 wastewater facilities in the United States. Through Energy Star, EPA provides a proven energy management strategy and no-cost tools for public and private organizations to save energy and money, as well as demonstrate environmental leadership.

Energy Star was introduced by EPA in 1992 as a voluntary, market-based partnership to reduce greenhouse gas emissions through energy efficiency. Today, the Energy Star label can be found on more than 50 different kinds of products, new homes and commercial and industrial buildings. Products and buildings that have earned the Energy Star designation prevent greenhouse gas emissions by meeting strict energy-efficiency specifications set by the government. Last year alone, Americans, with the help of Energy Star, saved about \$14 billion on their energy bills while reducing the greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those of 25 million vehicles.

Learn more about Energy Star and Portfolio Manager for drinking water systems and wastewater plants at:  
[www.energystar.gov/waterwastewater](http://www.energystar.gov/waterwastewater)

**EPA Launches Treatment Database**

Water treatment professionals and researchers now have an online tool for assessing the effectiveness of dozens of treatment processes. Launched by EPA's Office of Research and Development and the agency's National Risk Management Research Laboratory, the publicly available Drinking Water Treatability Database (TDB) generates data that can be used for identifying effective processes, conducting literature reviews, and assessing relevant regulatory issues for specific contaminants, EPA announced.

The TDB currently covers 30 treatment processes and 10 contaminants, including arsenic, Cryptosporidium, perchlorate and radium. Information in the TDB, which will be expanded annually as resources allow, is gathered by environmental consultants from a variety of peer-reviewed publications, research reports, conferences and other literature sources.

Expected to eventually cover more than 200 regulated and unregulated contaminants, the TDB allows users to access information on each contaminant and identify how effective each process is at removing the contaminant. Users will also be able to find data such as percent removal, log removal, contaminant influent concentration, pH, temperature, source water type, GAC type, loading rate, coagulant type and dose, oxidant type and dose, CT, membrane type, and UV intensity.

[iaspub.epa.gov/tdb/pages/general/home.do](http://iaspub.epa.gov/tdb/pages/general/home.do)

**Native Non-Profit to Focus on Green Collar Careers**

This Web site provides a wealth of information on green technology, training resources, and projects in Indian Country. Additional resources include: nationwide listings of Native Chambers of Commerce, Urban Indian Centers, and Tribal Colleges as well as green Native businesses, green grants for tribes, green tribal news and links to other Native environmental organizations. For more information, go to [NativeWorkplace.com/](http://NativeWorkplace.com/)

For more information contact Cristala Mussato-Allen, Executive Director, Native Workplace 4415 Garnett Ave. Suite #A, Austin, TX 78745, 512-462-9056 or [info@nativeworkplace.com](mailto:info@nativeworkplace.com)



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Alaska Operations Office

**ALASKA NEWS**

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**Regional Applied Research Effort  
award to Region 10! A RARE  
Opportunity!**

We are very pleased to announce that Region 10 EPA has been selected to receive a RARE award. What is a RARE award? It is a Regional Applied Research Effort grant. The goal is to bring together staff from within a region of EPA to work with representatives of the EPA, Office of Research and Development (ORD). The Alaska Regional representatives (Michelle Davis, Joe Sarcone and Ted Jacobson) will be working with a great team, including Christopher Impelletari, Principle Investigator, ORD, Thabet Tolymat, PhD.ORD and Bart Faulkner, NMRL. The project will receive additional technical support and guidance from Fran Stefan and her group in Region 10 EPA's Office of Air, Waste and Toxics in Seattle.

The RARE project is an Alaska statewide effort to look at potential pathogens and toxics from five open dumps and the possible impact of these contaminants on local drinking water sources. As we all know, Alaska's open dumps contain a mix of solid and hazardous wastes. But, the way dump site contaminants move through the environment, especially permafrost, is mostly unknown. This study is to look at what is in the leachate from five different dump sites and whether local water quality is impacted. Tribes who are interested in possibly participating in this study are asked to contact either Joe Sarcone by e-mail, [sarcone.joseph@epa.gov](mailto:sarcone.joseph@epa.gov) or Michelle Davis at [davis.michelle@epa.gov](mailto:davis.michelle@epa.gov)

We will e-mail a worksheet to everyone who contacts us. It will help us to determine if your dump site meets the site characteristics that are needed. Among the things that we will be looking at are:

1. landfill location and access;
2. site information including if there is permafrost, standing water, seasonal flooding, depth to groundwater, age of

3. ability of the Tribal staff to participate in this research effort for the next year (we expect that there may be some training opportunities and look forward to developing strong partnerships with the Tribal governments who are selected).

A site selection committee will evaluate the worksheets and we hope to begin training over the fall and winter, and start sampling next summer. We hope to use the information from this research to suggest improvements to landfill management practices as well as to help to refine a waste management index tool that might be of use to all Alaskan Tribes. Thank you for your interest.

**14th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference  
on Environmental Management  
“Environmental Sustainability in  
Changing Times and Climate”**

The 14th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM) will be held October 27-29, 2008 at the Sheraton Hotel in downtown Anchorage along with EPA IGAP training, Oct 30-31, 2008..

The main purpose of this conference is to provide an opportunity for tribal organizations to build capacity so that they can formulate solutions to the environmental challenges faced in rural Alaskan communities. A secondary goal of ATCEM is for tribal members to meet and build relationships with state and federal environmental agencies and with one another. Most importantly, the conference serves as a way to provide an atmosphere of appreciation to all.

For more information and to register, visit the website at [events.signup4.com/atcem](http://events.signup4.com/atcem)

EPA/IGAP Training will be held October 30 and 31. For more information about the training, please contact Santina Gay at 271-3413 or at [gay.santina@epamail.epa.gov](mailto:gay.santina@epamail.epa.gov)

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### Honey bucket use in your village?

There are a number of reasons why households in your village may continue to use honey buckets. Maybe your village does not have a water and sewer system or maybe you have water and sewer but not all of the houses are hooked up to the system. It could be that the connection to the water and sewer system or the plumbing in the house is damaged or that people cannot afford the water and sewer utility fee and have gone back to honey buckets. Whatever the reason for using honey buckets we know their use can impact our health and environment, and we also know they will continue to be used by a good number of households for some time to come.

Why is there little assistance for villages between the use of honey buckets and the eventual construction of a piped water and sewer system, and what can be done to better protect our health and the environment in the meantime? These are the questions EPA, Rural Sanitation Coordinator, Joe Sarcone is trying to answer and he would like your help in taking on this project. The project with your village will have four steps:

1. a sanitation practice questionnaire to determine current honey bucket practices in your village;
2. the use of a sanitation index to measure the impact of the current practices on health;
3. the identification of honey bucket practices that would improve health beyond the current practices; and
4. the identification of village and outside resources to implement the sanitation practice improvements that will make real time health improvements (while your village is waiting for piped water and sewer).

If your village is interested in participating in this project please contact Joe Sarcone, EPA, at (907) 271-1316 or [sarcone.joseph@epa.gov](mailto:sarcone.joseph@epa.gov)

### RurAL CAP is now Recruiting!

RurAL CAP is now recruiting members for the 2009-2010 BIRCH and RAVEN AmeriCorps and VISTA ENERGY Program teams. AmeriCorps members are recruited locally and work to address your community needs!

Raven AmeriCorps ( Environment and Energy )  
The Rural Alaska Environment Network AmeriCorps

(RAVEN) Program focuses on finding solutions to local environmental and energy issues. RAVEN Members work with tribal environmental (IGAP) programs, community councils, schools, youth groups, and other local entities.

#### Birch AmeriCorps (Health)

The Building Initiatives in Rural Community Health (BIRCH) Program focuses on health and wellness issues. Each year BIRCH Members work with schools, clinics, councils, Head Start Centers, and wellness communities to provide health education and wellness activities within the community.

#### VISTA Energy (Energy)

The goal of the VISTA Energy program is to help rural Alaskan communities reduce the burden of energy costs.

Request information by calling 800-478-7227 or e-mail: [comedev@ruralcap.com](mailto:comedev@ruralcap.com) or download the forms at: [www.ruralcap.com](http://www.ruralcap.com)

### Help EPA Save Paper: Sign Up For Electronic Receipt of the Region 10 Tribal Newsletter Today

Since at least 1991, The U.S. EPA Region 10 Alaska Tribal Newsletter has been mailed to all of its readers in a paper format. However, the desire to reduce the use of paper products to preserve the environment has prompted us to send this important request as part of the October Newsletter.

We would like to be respectful to rural communities who do not have reliable access to the Internet. With that thought in mind, we will continue to send out paper mailings to our readers only if you would like us to.

For those of you who wish to help us in our quest to preserve the environment, and can reliably receive our Tribal Newsletter electronically, please send your email address to [gay.santina@epa.gov](mailto:gay.santina@epa.gov) and say:

“Take me off the paper mailing list. I would like to only receive the Tribal Newsletter electronically.”

EPA and our partners are always striving to look for efficient and environmentally-friendly ways of doing things. We appreciate all your efforts and assistance, be they contributions great or small.



**Got E-mail?**

**Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically.** Send your e-mail address to Santina Gay at [gay.santina@epa.gov](mailto:gay.santina@epa.gov)

**To Report Spills and Accidents**

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

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

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 Alaska Operations Office**

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