

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. 16, No. 11— November 2007

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

November

5-8 HazMat Explo, Las Vegas, NV

For information: Angie Proboszcz at 415-972-3077 or proboszcz.angie@epa.gov

11-16 National Congress of American Indians 64th Annual Convention, Denver, CO.

For information: see <http://ncai.org/Agendas.271.0.html> or call 202-466-7767.

April 2008

21-24 EPA Region Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA

June 2008

National Tribal Conference for Environmental Management 2008, Billings, MT

For information: Karen Rudek at 202-564-0472

National American Indian Heritage Month

In 1990 President George H. W. Bush approved a joint resolution designating November 1990 "National American Indian Heritage Month." Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994.

The following website <http://www.pbs.org/indiancountry/history/> contains a great deal of information that may be helpful to understanding both the history and the present day issues of American Indians in our country. Some of the information is purely factual and some is personal experience which may or may not reflect the broader population of American Indian people.

Tribal Nations Children's Environmental Health Summit

Over 140 people from across the country gathered in August for the first Tribal Nations Children's Environmental Health Summit. EPA Region 10 helped sponsor the summit, along with EPA Regions 6 and 8, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units, and the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry. The summit highlighted unique environmental health issues faced by children living in Indian Country. The goals of the summit were to help professionals identify, prevent, and reduce environmental health threats to children on tribal lands; share information and resources; and provide health professionals with an opportunity to identify and implement children's health strategies. The summit focused on air quality and asthma, indoor environmental quality, drinking water, methamphetamine, tribal schools, and other environmental health issues. Participants included over 40 members of individual tribes, including about 20 representatives from Region 10.

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Web-Based Compliance Tool Available for Tribes

EPA has launched a new web-based Tribal Compliance Assistance Center that provides comprehensive compliance assistance and pollution prevention information for regulated activities in Indian Country. The center can help tribal environmental professionals and facility owners comply with environmental regulations and get information on topics including waste management, air and water resources, drinking water, and public safety. Viewers can report a complaint to EPA, find out the compliance status of facilities in Indian Country, learn how to apply for federal grants, and locate specific personnel at EPA and other federal agencies.

EPA has 15 web-based compliance assistance centers on agriculture, auto repair, automotive recycling, chemicals, construction, federal facilities, health care, local government, metal finishing, paints and coatings, printed wiring board, printing, transportation, tribal and U. S. borders.

The Tribal Compliance Assistance Center can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/tribal/index.html> For more information: Roxanne Smith at 202/564-4355, smith.roxanne@epa.gov

Exchange Network

On August 17, 2007, the Samish Indian Nation became the seventh Tribal Nation to establish a node on the Exchange Network.

The Exchange Network is an internet-based system used by state, tribal, and territorial partners to securely share environmental and health information with one another and EPA. The Exchange Network improves the timelines and accuracy of environmental data, reduces the burden and costs associated with reporting data, enhances data access for environmental professionals, and supports better decisions on environmental health issues.

Since 2004 49 states and 6 tribes have joined the Exchange Network by establishing nodes and flowing environmental data to one another and to the EPA. Information on the Exchange Network can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/neengprg/index.html>

Nez Perce Tribe: First Tribe in the Nation to Receive Air Inspector Credentials

As part of OECA's National Tribal Priority, Region 10's Office of Compliance and Enforcement issued federal credentials to two tribal employees of the Nez Perce Tribe. The credentials allow those employees to conduct inspection and complaint response work on behalf of EPA within the Nez Perce Reservation in Idaho. The Nez Perce Tribe is the first tribe in the country to receive credentials to inspect air pollutant sources under the federal Clean Air Act. The tribal employees will conduct inspections and respond to complaints in support of the Federal Air Rules for Reservations, including the burn permit rules. The Tribe will send the inspection reports to EPA, which will take any necessary enforcement action.

Tribes that get EPA authorization to receive federal inspector credentials usually have an environmental management program and have been working closely with EPA. It is appropriate for EPA to issue these credentials to tribes located a distance from EPA's offices when there are enough regulated facilities located on the reservation subject to the particular federal statute to warrant having a tribal inspector conducting inspections there on EPA's behalf. This authorization builds the tribe's environmental management program capacity and helps EPA through direct implementation of federal laws.

Source Water Guidance Manual

The objective of the Source Water Monitoring Guidance Manual is to provide states, tribes, and other primacy agencies with a brief review of the source water monitoring provisions. Since the primacy agencies may select one of three fecal indicators (e.g., *E. coli*, enterococci, coliphage) that the system would be required to test for in the ground water source sample, the source water monitoring guidance manual provides criteria that will assist primacy agencies determine which fecal indicator is most appropriate to test for in the geographic region of that agency.

For manual: <http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/disinfection/gwr/compliancehelp.html>

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Flexible Air Permits Proposed to Prevent Pollution and Paperwork

EPA is proposing changes to air quality permitting rules to encourage pollution prevention; provide increased flexibility, enable industrial facilities to make rapid changes to respond to market demands; save resources for state permitting authorities, and improve public information.

The proposed changes would affect both EPA's operating permits and New Source Review (NSR) programs. Under the proposed changes to the operating permits program, a facility with a flexible permit would explain its operational plans and possible changes to those plans for the duration of the permit term – typically 5 years. The state, local or tribal air quality permitting authority would include permit conditions to ensure protection of public health and the environment for all of those operating conditions. These flexible permits do not provide approval for operational changes not within the scope of conditions considered at the time of the permit application, and facilities would still be

required to meet their requirements under the Clean Air Act.

The proposed revisions to the NSR program would govern when advance approvals of certain changes would be appropriate.

EPA and states have been testing many of the flexible permitting approaches for more than a decade. Based on the agency's evaluation of pilot projects, EPA expects that these proposed changes will promote significant environmental and economic benefits, while reducing administrative workload for both permitting authorities and facilities.

EPA will accept comment on this proposed rule for 60 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

More about the proposal: <http://epa.gov/nsr/actions.html#aug07>

For more information about EPA's New Source Review program: <http://epa.gov/nsr/> or contact: John Millett at 202/564-4355 or millett.john@epa.gov

Complying With the Ground Water Rule: Small Entry Compliance Guide

This guidance document is intended to be an official compliance guide to the ground water rule (GWR) for small public water systems, as required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act of 1996. This guide contains a general introduction and background for the GWR, describes the specific requirements of the GWR and provides information on how to comply with those requirements.

If you are implementing the GWR and are interested in trainings please visit the EPA's microbial and disinfection byproducts training site (<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/training.html>) for a list of trainings, webcasts, and other training opportunities available.

Oregon Fish and Shellfish Consumption Rate Project

The Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (ODEQ) is partnering with the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and EPA to review the fish consumption rate used to calculate the human health criteria for Oregon's Water Quality Standards. As part of this review, DEQ and its partners are hosting a series of facilitated public workshops to explore options for revising the fish consumption rate.

The goals for the workshops are: 1 - To provide a forum for participants to identify critical issues, discuss implementation chal-

lenges, and propose alternative actions; 2 - Develop recommendations and supporting documentation to provide to the Oregon Environmental Quality Commission with a range of options to increase the fish consumption rate, and options for pollution control strategies that can help reduce the risks associated with consuming contaminated fish and decrease the toxic levels present in fish.

A tentative schedule for the meeting dates and themes for each of the remaining workshops in the FCR project may be found at:

<http://www.deq.state.or.us/wq/standards/docs/toxics/fishworkshop.pdf>

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10 Tips for a Healthier Home

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1-Use a high-efficiency furnace filter and replace it every two to three months. A high-efficiency filter can capture up to 30 times more pet dander, smoke, pollen and other pollutants than a standard fiberglass filter.

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2-Fix leaks and drips in your home to discourage mold growth. Also, avoid causing mold by making sure humidity levels stay low throughout the year, even if it means getting a dehumidifier.

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3-Use exhaust fans in bathroom and kitchens to remove moisture, smoke from cooking and fumes from household chemicals.

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4-Good ventilation reduces indoor pollution. Leave doors open between rooms and open windows whenever possible.

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5-If you or your family members have dust allergies or asthma, consider replacing carpet with area rugs that can be washed often.

6-Install carbon monoxide detectors near your sleeping areas to protect your family from this potentially deadly, odorless gas. 7-Some cleaning products contain strong and potentially toxic ingredients. Keep doors or windows open when using them, or consider switching to less toxic cleaners that are free of ammonia and other strong chemicals.

8-Test your home for radon – a radioactive gas that can cause lung cancer – with an inexpensive kit you can buy in hardware stores. Make sure the label says “Meets EPA requirements.” If the radon in your home exceeds acceptable levels, you may want to hire a contractor to install a vent pipe system and fan. The average cost is about \$1,200.

9-Ask smokers not to smoke inside. Secondhand smoke can cause health problems, especially in children.

10-Never leave a car or gas lawn mower running in a garage that is attached to your house.

Sources: American Lung Association, EPA

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Benefits from Green Computers

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Numerous environmental benefits of buying high-performance, environmentally friendly computer equipment are highlighted in the first annual report issued by the Green Electronics Council this week. The report, called “*The Environmental Benefits of the Purchase or Sale of EPEAT Registered Products in 2006*,” states that the purchase of more than 36 million EPA approved computer desktops, laptops and monitors has led to a significant reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.

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Some highlights from the report show that the computer equipment has helped to:

- Save 13.7 billion kWh of electricity, enough to power 1.2 million U.S. homes for a year
- Save 24.4 million metric tons of primary materials, equivalent to the weight of 189 million refrigerators
- Prevent 56.5 million metric tons of air emissions (including greenhouse gas emissions)
- Prevent 1.07 million metric tons of carbon equivalent greenhouse gas emissions, equivalent to removing 852,000 cars from the road for a year
- Prevent 118,000 metric tons of

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water pollutant emissions

- Reduce the amount of toxic materials used by 1,070 metric tons, equivalent to the weight of 534,000 bricks, including enough mercury to fill 157,000 household fever thermometers; and

- Avoid the disposal of 41,100 metric tons of hazardous waste, equivalent to the weight of 20.5 million bricks.

EPEAT (Electronic Products Environmental Assessment Tool) -registered computer products have reduced levels of cadmium, lead, and mercury to better protect human health. They are also easier to upgrade and recycle and meet the government’s Energy Star guidelines for energy efficiency. By buying EPEAT registered products purchasers are significantly contributing to reducing the environmental impacts of their computers.

For more information about EPEAT and the annual report visit: <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/epp/pubs/products/epeat.htm>

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Science Daily

Science Daily has been the winner of Popular Science magazine’s “Top 50 Websites” for the last three years. This free, advertising-supported service brings you breaking news about the latest discoveries and hottest research projects in everything from astrophysics to zoology. The Earth and Climate section is of particular interest for people dealing with water and wastewater issues.

The site’s articles are selected from news releases submitted by leading universities and other research organizations around the world. Each news release is posted in its original form, with a link to the organization’s homepage, to help those interested in finding up-to-date relevant background information about a topic. The Science Daily website can be found at:
<http://www.sciencedaily.com>

New Fuel Economy Stickers

To more clearly and fully convey fuel economy information to consumers, all new cars, light trucks, and SUVs produced after Sept. 1, 2007 feature a newly re-designed window sticker. The new label will allow consumers to make more informed decisions by including the estimated annual cost for fueling the vehicle, how the vehicle’s fuel economy compares to others within its class, and a website to go to for more information.

The changes coincide with the adoption of new methods to determine the miles per gallon (MPG) estimates that appear on the stickers. The new methods, which took effect for model year 2008 vehicles, will bring MPG estimates closer to a vehicle’s actual fuel use by including factors such as driving at high speeds, accelerating aggressively, air conditioning use and driving in cold temperatures.

“EPA’s updated fuel economy estimates will help Americans avoid sticker shock when filling up at the pump,” said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson.

Taking EPA’s fuel economy information into account when shopping for a vehicle can help consumers save money, as well as cut down on air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions.

For more information on the new label:
<http://www.epa.gov/fueleconomy/label.htm>

Consecutive System Guidance

The Consecutive System Guidance describes the regulatory requirements of the Ground Water Rule as it applies to wholesale ground water systems and to the consecutive ground water systems that receive and distribute that ground water supply.

Target Audience: States, tribes, other primacy agencies and ground water systems

For manual:
<http://www.epa.gov/ogwdw/disinfection/gwr/compliancehelp.html>

Caregivers and Older Adults

The EPA Aging Initiative has developed fact sheets on environmental hazards that can worsen common chronic conditions. These brief fact sheets are available at no cost and can be downloaded at EPA’s website:

<http://epa.gov/aging/resources/factsheets/index.htm#fs>.

Farewell to Mary Beth Clark

Over the past two years Mary Beth Clark has served Region 10 and its 270 Tribes as the Senior Advisor for Tribal Programs. In this capacity, Mary Beth met with Tribes in the region to listen to their opinions and concerns regarding EPA’s shared interest in protecting the environment. She has been a strong advocate for Tribes within EPA and has also helped Tribes understand and appreciate EPA’s perspective and plans. Mary Beth has returned to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation.

Thanks to Mary Beth for all her hard work and good luck in her future endeavors.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office

ALASKA NEWS

**8th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management
Call for Presentations**

The Montana and Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council (TLC) is now accepting abstracts for agenda items during the 8th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (NTCEM). The theme for the conference is *"Nurturing Mother Earth: Our People's Destiny"*. The proposal deadline is **January 8, 2008**. Additional information and applications can be found at <http://www.ntcem8.org/> (Click on the "Tribes of the Montana – Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council" box at the bottom of the web page).

The conference will be held June 23-27, 2008, at the Holiday Inn and Convention Center in Billings, Montana. Depending on the number of submissions received, presentation lengths may be limited. The Conference Planning Team will make the final decision on presentation selections, and will notify the originator of each submission regarding its status. The Planning Team will work closely with presenters to bring together as many relevant topics as possible and to assure the success of this conference.

Questions and presentations from tribes and other non-federal entities should be directed to Allyson Kelley, NTCEM Executive Director at the following address:

NTCEM at MTWY Tribal Leaders Council

Attn: Allyson Kelley

222 North 32nd Street, Suite 401

Billings, MT 59101

Telephone: 406-252-2550

Email: ntcemdirector@yahoo.com

EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES)

This is an update on the EPA's National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES). The US EPA, Region 10 received an application from the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC) for the transfer of NPDES permitting authority from EPA to ADEC.

DEC revised the application based on the EPA comments and submitted a revised application on October 15, 2007 for EPA review. EPA is scheduled to provide comments on the draft application in January 2008. DEC is scheduled to submit a final NPDES application in May 2008. The revised application is posted on the ADEC website at <http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/application.htm> EPA foresees the potential for regional meetings with Tribes in locations where public hearings will be held. The EPA also proposes that information sessions, as well as consultation meetings, could be held in conjunction with major Tribal gatherings.

If Tribes wish to speak with EPA separately, meetings or conference calls can be planned. Due to budget limits, it is unlikely that EPA will travel to meet with individual Tribes, though consultation requested by Tribes may be scheduled in some hub communities. The consultation plan is still developing, and suggestions are welcome. Please send them to: davis.michelle@epa.gov On the ADEC site, there is also a link to a draft Memorandum of Agreement that describes how the NPDES program may be implemented upon program approval http://www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/pdfs/MOA_06-29-06.pdf For example, Page 15 of the MOA has the Public Participation outline. Page 16 has Applicant Review, Federal, State and Tribal Notice.

For additional information, there are PowerPoint presentations that have information you may wish to present to your Tribal council or Environmental Committees: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/aoo.nsf/60b16ceeacd447c38825650f0071652d/20342812a0bef67b882564b9006fcb12?OpenDocument>



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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
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