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L E T T E R

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. XI No. IV
April 1, 2002

Work Shops and Conferences

May 15-17, Pesticide Conference, San Diego, CA. For information see below **

June 3-7, The Sixth National Tribal Environmental Conference, Sparks, NV. See first article.

June 4-5-7, Water Quality Workshops for Tribal Environmental Managers, Worley, ID. For information contact Lillian Wilmore at 617/232-5742 or NAEcology@aol.com.

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Tribal Environmental Management Conference

The Sixth National Tribal Environmental Management Conference will be co-sponsored by the Pyramid Lake Paiute tribe, June 3-7, 2002, at the Nugget Casino and Hotel, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada 89431. The Environmental Protection Agency is pleased to co-sponsor this important event. Since 1992, this bi-annual conference has provided a forum for tribes to develop environmental capacity, share and discuss environmental issues affecting their communities, and find solutions to environmental problems in Indian

Country. To broaden and strengthen the multi-media focus for the conference, other Federal agencies and Tribal organizations are invited and encouraged to hold their own independently-sponsored meetings around this conference. Primary EPA contacts are Felicia Wright, 202/260-4410 and Tonya Hawkins 703/308-8278; Caren Rothstein-Robinson, 202/260-0065; Claudia Walters, 202/564-6762; and Clara Mickles, 202/260-7519.



Earth Day

In a response commensurate with the many environmental problems, an estimated 20 million Americans gathered together on

April 22, 1970, to participate in a spectacularly well-publicized environmental demonstration known as "Earth Day."

Earth Day, **April 22**, is a day to show how much we care about protecting public health and the environment. Do something for those that will follow us, our children and their children.

Environmental Conference

National Tribal Environmental Council, Ninth National Conference, hosted by the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe of Nevada, will be held June 2- 4, 2002 at the John Ascuaga's Nugget, Reno, NV.

Contact: www.ntec.org, or call 505/242-2175.



R10 Tribal Staff

The Office of Tribal Operations selected Judi

Lefferson to join their staff on March 11. Judi is a member of the Blackfeet Tribe and has many years administrative experience with federal agencies, private industry and tribal organizations. Welcome Judi!

Tribal Enforcement

National Tribal Environmental Enforcement & Compliance Conference, Reno/Sparks, Nevada, April 30-May 2, 2002. Web site: <http://www.tribalconference.info>, or for more information contact: Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona at 602/258-4822.

Air Quality Education

The environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP) is developing an air quality curriculum for use with Native American K-12 students nationwide.

The goal of EEOP is to make this curriculum tribally focused, culturally sensitive and teacher-friendly.

The project includes evaluating the needs of tribal educators and environmental professionals on air quality issues, developing a draft document, field testing a sampling of these curriculum materials, and revising the curriculum based on comments made during the field test. The curriculum will be posted on the EEOP web site <http://www.nau.edu/eeop>.

The curriculum will be constructed in two sections. The first section will feature a guiding framework for teachers to use as their students investigate a local air quality issue or problem. Sample case studies will be provided to serve as examples that teachers can use to create their own local "problems" for their students to solve.

The second section of the curriculum will provide resource information, supplemental student activities, and lists of internet and tribal resources that are currently available. Teachers and students can use these resources to gain a greater understanding of the issues from both cultural and scientific perspectives.

Wastewater Discussion Group

Do you want to talk about

wastewater issues? The NSFC maintains an online discussion group for wastewater professionals and other individuals with an interest in small community wastewater issues.

Anyone wishing to post questions or to stimulate a wastewater-related dialogue is encouraged to participate. Users may read messages that others have posted, reply to them, and ask questions or make statements of their own.

Visit the NSFC Wastewater Discussion Group at: <http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/nsfc/forum/index.html>.

If you have specific questions that require the expertise of an engineer, we encourage you to call the NSFC at 800/624-8301 or 304/293-4191 and ask to speak with a wastewater technical assistant.

Scholarships

The Oregon Native American Chamber of Commerce offers a \$1,000 scholarship. Students must be enrolled and attending an Oregon University or college. For information contact:



Kelly Millican,
Scholarship Board, P.O.
Box 502, Clackamas,
OR 97015. Deadline is

May 12, 2002.

Poison Control

A new national toll-free hotline number to reach a poison control center from anywhere in the United States has been established at **800/222-1222**.

Chemicals in Water

A government analysis shows traces of chemicals used in beauty aids, medications, cleaners, and foods are turning up in low levels in waterways across the country.

Among the substances: caffeine, contraceptives, painkillers, insect repellent, perfumes and nicotine.

Scientists say the problem is that these substances largely escape regulation and defy municipal sewage treatment. The long-term effects of exposure are unclear they say.

The compounds are sold on supermarket shelves and found in virtually every medicine cabinet and broom closet, as well as farms and factories. They are flushed or rinsed down the drain every day. But they don't disappear, researchers warn.

Hydrologists with the U.S. Geological Survey tested water samples in 30 states for 95 common compounds, an emerging class of contaminants known as pharmaceutical and personal care pollutants, or PPCPS. The results of the three-year analysis appear in the March 15 issue of the journal *Environmental Science and Technology*.

Many scientists suspect the widespread use of anti-bacterial agents in human medicines, household cleaners and veterinary medicines has encouraged the development of germs that are resistant to antibiotics.

(3/13/02 Oregonian)

Cool Water

EPA Administrator Whitman recently signed a proposed regulation that would reduce the

number of fish, shellfish, and other aquatic life harmed or killed by the effects of the withdrawal of cooling water from rivers, streams, lakes, reservoirs, estuaries, and oceans. It would apply to certain existing power-producing facilities that use large amounts of water to cool power producing-machinery. The proposed regulation would establish requirements based on the best available technology.

Facilities Conference

The Website is up and running! Come join us for an exciting three days. Please share this with others who may want to attend or need to attend. Lots of information for everyone! This conference is open to all feds, tribes, states and locals.

U.S. EPA Western Regions (6,8,9,& 10) Federal Facilities Conference, May 14-16, 2002
John Ascuaga's Nugget, 1100 Nugget Avenue, Sparks, Nevada 89432

Theme: Successes of the Past and Challenges of the Future.
Tuesday May 14 six all day workshops Wednesday and Thursday May 15 and 16 - 54 breakout sessions, Conference Registration and agenda: www.exhibitarts.net/epaconference
877/222-8494, \$50.00 registration fee.

Hotel Room Reservation: John Ascuaga's Nugget, 800/648-1177, Rooms reserved under - "EPA Federal Facilities Conference". Free hotel shuttle from airport.

AMSA

The Association of Metropolitan Sewerage Agencies (AMSA) has developed the "Asset Based Vulnerability Checklist for

Wastewater Utilities" to help utility managers and their staffs identify and evaluate a wide range of vulnerabilities that could place their assets of physical plant, people, knowledge base, information technology, and customers in jeopardy. The Checklist is meant to stimulate thought and discussion, covering issues related to general security such as computer hacking, vandalism and more severe events like natural disasters and terrorist activity. For more information:

<http://www.amsa-cleanwater.org/pubs/publist.cfm>

Solar Energy

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) is soliciting applications from local and state partnerships interested in participating in their Million Solar Roofs program. The initiative is enabling businesses and communities to install solar energy systems on one million buildings in the United States by 2010. In FY 2002, DOE anticipates funding approximately 20 to 30 grants in the amount of \$10,000 to \$50,000 each. For more information: James McDermott 303/275-4732 or <http://www.eren.doe.gov/millionroofs>

Climate Change Initiatives

On February 14, 2002, the Bush Administration announced its initiatives for air pollution and greenhouse gas emission reduction. The Clear Skies Initiative is aimed at reducing power plant emissions of nitrogen oxides, sulfur dioxides, and mercury by 70 percent. The Global Climate Change Initiative's goal is to reduce greenhouse gas

intensity by 18 percent over the next 10 years, relying on market-based solutions to encourage research and green technology development while still sustaining economic growth. For more information:

http://www.epa.gov/epahome/headline2_021402.htm

USTs Manual

EPA's description of the manual reads, "This 50-page manual contains brief summaries of the federal UST requirements for operation and maintenance (O&M), as well as practical help that goes beyond the requirements. Checklists prompt the user to look closely at what kinds of equipment are in use and how to keep equipment working properly over the lifetime of the UST system. The manual provides record keeping forms that also help the UST owner and operator keep equipment operating properly.

The full manual is online at: www.epa.gov/swerust1/pubs/omm_anual.htm

Web Sites

The internet contains a wealth of homeowner education information. Try the site at: <http://www5.bae.ncsu.edu/programs/extension/publacat/wqwm/septic.html> and you can find the following publications: Septic systems and their Maintenance, Management of Single Family and Small Community Wastewater Treatment and Disposal Systems, Investigate before You Invest, and About Septic systems: What you need to know.

The University of Arizona Cooperative Extension offers the

following short publications on its Web site: Inspecting Your Household Septic System, Maintaining Your Septic Tank, Managing Your Household Septic system, Operation and Maintenance Tips for Your Septic system, and Understanding Your Household Septic System. Try: <http://ag.arizona.edu/pubs/quarterly.html>

Innovative Brownfields

The Phoenix Awards recognize innovative yet practical remediation projects, which bring blighted, old commercial and industrial sites back to productive use. One winner will be selected from each of EPA's ten regions and special winners will also be selected. All applications must be received by June 7, 2002. For more information, click on the following: <http://www.dep.state.pa.us/hosting/phoenixawards>

Brownfields 2002 Conference

On November 13-15, the Brownfields 2002: Investing in the Future Conference will take place in Charlotte, North Carolina. Those seeking to present their work at the conference must reply to the Call for Presentations by May 15, 2002. Full and partial travel scholarships are also available for individuals interested in attending the conference. For more information: 412/261-0710 ext.32 or <http://www.icma.org/brownfields2002.org>

Mobile Source Emissions

A new Web site developed by the EPA provides information on air pollution from motor vehicles, engines and equipment. EPA's

Web site provides information on the pollutants that come from mobile sources and how they contribute to overall air pollution levels. The site also explores steps EPA and others are taking to reduce mobile source emissions and presents tips on what you can do to help. For more information, click on the following: <http://www.epa.gov/otaq/invntory/overview/index.htm>

Environmental Consultant

Local officials seeking to hire consultants for environmental services are encouraged to visit LGEAN's directory of environmental consultants. The directory, located on the LGEAN Web site, enables local government officials and other users to identify and contact consultants who perform work in the environmental and geographical area in which they are interested. For more information, click on the following: <http://lgean.org/html/consult>

Planning in Indian Country

The 2nd Interagency Conference on Strategic Planning in Indian Country will be held May 7-9, 2002 at Orlando Expo Center, Orlando, Florida.

Training sessions, prepared in collaboration with tribes, are designed to give attendees the practical skills and knowledge they need to immediately take action in their communities.

For more information call: 703/902-1236. Or: <http://www.codetalk.fed.us>

Odor Control

The city of Albuquerque, NM, is set to host "Odors and Toxic Air Emissions 2002" a specialty conference designed to provide an in-depth examination of the latest technological advancements and efforts to control odors and toxic air emissions. The bi-annual conference will be held April 28-May 1, 2002 at the Albuquerque Convention Center.

Held in cooperation with the Rocky Mountain Water environmental association and cosponsored by the International Water Association, and the Air & Waste Management Association, the conference will cover current issues, regulatory requirements, analysis methods and solutions.

For more details and registration: www.wef.org or call 800/666-0206 or 703/684-2452.

TMDL Model

EPA has released a new water quality model designed to aid the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDLs) for impaired waters.

Allocations for a specific TMDL, or watershed are likely to be based on competing priorities such as cost effectiveness and equality of load reductions.

Final allocation determinations are policy decisions and should reflect public perceptions about acceptable tradeoffs. It described watershed-modeling frameworks as "tools that can be used to help evaluate the tradeoffs associated with different allocations."

Those frameworks can identify cost-minimizing allocations and compare cost distributions under different allocation scenarios.

The new model is available at:
www.epa.gov/waterscience/models/allocations

Marine Pollution

EPA recently published a technical guidance and reference manual that focuses on reducing pollution from marinas and recreational boating. The manual "National Management Measures to Control Nonpoint Source Pollution from Marinas and Recreational Boating," is intended primarily for managers of state, local, and tribal nonpoint source pollution control programs. Separate sections are devoted to such topics as marina flushing, stormwater runoff, construction and maintenance of wastewater treatment facilities, boat cleaning, and determining pollutant loads.

The manual may be downloaded in sections or as a complete file from: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/mmmsp>

Water Quality Baselines

EPA's Office of Water recently published a *primer* on the organizational structure and current activities of the Office of Science and Technology (OST). The document contains brief descriptions of OST's efforts to establish national environmental baselines for water quality. It also describes the office's role in developing regulations, guidelines, methods, standards, and criteria for water quality and pollution control. Links to Web-based sources of more information on various OST activities are included. For info:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/primer.pdf>

Office of Water

EPA's web site offers a good source of information for public water systems. It discusses drinking water and health basics, drinking water standards, source water protection, public drinking water systems, and underground injection control. The site contains a list of possible drinking water contaminants, their maximum contaminant levels, their potential health effects, and the sources of these contaminants. EPA offers information about keeping the nation's drinking water supplies safe.

EPA intends to ensure that U. S. drinking water utilities have
① emergency planning guidance
② improved security
③ access to the best scientific information and technical expertise, and
④ ability to conduct a vulnerability assessment.

EPA discusses how an emergency response system shares information with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the U.S. Department of Defense, and the U.S. Department of Energy. Information about technical assistance and training offered by EPA is included.

The Web address:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater>

Job Announcements

Positions: ① Riparian Ecologist or Watershed Hydrologist. ② Water Quality Policy Analyst. Both positions are full time and include benefits. Positions are with the Confederated Tribes of Umatilla. For additional information contact Julia E. Withers-Lyons 541/276-3570.

Indirect Cost Course

The course "Indirect Cost Strategies for Tribal Organization in The 21st Century" will be held in Anchorage, Alaska May 8-9, 2002. The cost of the session is \$595. To Register call Falmouth Institute at 800/992-4489 or FAX to 703-352-2323. Registration can also be done online at <http://www.falmouthinstitute.com>.

Participate in this hands-on course and find the answers to these questions and more...How do tribes define indirect cost? What is the best format for your indirect cost proposal? Why does your organization need a space allocation plan? Which legal decisions impact your organization's strategy? Are there common pitfalls you should take into consideration? How will your strategy allow for successful program management?

If your tribal organization receives federal grants and contracts, you need to have an approved Indirect Cost Rate (IDCR). However, preparing an indirect cost proposal can be a daunting task: Selecting a base? Unallowable costs? Multiple basis? Have you had enough of the double-talk about indirect costs? Indirect costs can be a frustrating, intimidating, and confusing proposition. It's time to decode it with plain talk.

During this comprehensive two-day seminar, you will explore: The components of an effective indirect cost proposal Various types of agreements Considerations when selecting a base Guidelines for indirect cost rates Implementation issues and how to rectify them. The impact of

current OMB and IHS regulations

ALASKA

■ **Introduction to Groundwater Investigation** (3 days) An introductory course to provide participants with information concerning hydrogeological process and the necessary elements of a sound groundwater site investigation. April 16-18, 2002 - Anchorage, AK. JRETC, Fort Richardson. Cost: No charge to Tribes, Federal or State. Travel, hotel & food are registrants' responsibility. Information: Diane Ruthruff 206/553-5139.

■ **Advanced Groundwater Investigation** (1 day) Advanced groundwater course is designed to provide participants an opportunity to apply their geologic and hydrogeologic skills to solve a challenging site investigation problem. April 19, 2002 - Other information same as above.

OREGON

■ **Groundbreaking Ceremony** for Portland State University's American Indian Center is set for April 5, 2002. Native blessing ceremony 10 a.m. Grand entry and groundbreaking 11 a.m.

Portland State University campus, SW Broadway at Jackson Street.
■ The Oregon EPA Operations Office (OOO) is about to start a remodeling process, which will affect phone and computer (e-mail) service. Construction started March 25th and will not be completed until after the end of April. You can leave voice mail and e-mail messages, but responses may be slow due to the limited number of working phones and computers during the construction period. Thanks, in advance, for your patience.

Youth Practicum

Dates: July 20-30, 2002. Description: The Practicum is designed to provide Native American students an opportunity to gain hands-on experience in the management of natural resources. One of the goals of the Society is to encourage Native American youth to see the importance of professional natural resource management, to continue their education in order to seek degrees in natural resource management, and, ultimately, to pursue careers in the natural resource fields.

During the program, students will spend their time at the Mt. Evans Outdoor Education Lab, Evergreen Colorado, School of the Jefferson County School District participating in classroom sessions, field education, recreational activities, field trips, traditional methods, and, most important, interaction with professional, cultural and spiritual people. The Youth Practicum is open to incoming 10-12th grade Native students who are interested in preservation, protection, and physical activities.

For more information and/or an application, please write or call: Sally Carufel-Williams, Youth Practicum Coordinator Native American Fish & Wildlife Society, 750 Burbank Street, Broomfield, CO 80020. Phone: 303/466-1725. Applications must be postmarked and mailed by May 10, 2002

Tribal Funding

EPA Region 10 is soliciting project proposals from Tribes to support Drinking Water Protection/Capacity Development activities. A total of \$167,000 is available from EPA Region 10 this fiscal year to fund three or four Tribal projects. Pre-application proposals must be received by April 30, 2002. For more information: Jennifer Parker, EPA Region 10, 1200 6th Avenue (OW-137), Seattle, WA 98101. Call 206/553-1900, or e-mail parker.jennifer@epa.gov