

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



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Work Shops and Conferences

February 8-13 2003, ATNI Winter Conference, Portland, OR. Info 503/249-5779 or www.atntribes.org

February 22-26 2003, National Congress of American Indians, Washington, DC. 202/466-7767

April 21-25, Northwest Indian Youth Conference, Doubletree Hotel, SeaTac, WA. Sherry Pardilla

May 22, Region 10 Operator Certification Training, Lucky Eagle Casino, WA. 541/928-5211

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monthly at no charge

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Performance Track Program

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) Performance Track is a voluntary public/private partnership that recognizes and rewards businesses and public facilities that demonstrate strong environmental performance beyond current requirements. The program encourages continuous environmental improvement through the use of environmental management systems, the involvement of local communities, and a focus on measurable results. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/performance-track/index.html>

8-Hour Ozone Attainment

EPA has issued guidance, which outlines requirements for states and tribes for designating nonattainment areas under the 8-hour ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS). These new designations will most likely move many communities into nonattainment, and will therefore require states to develop new state implementation standards (SIPs) for improving air quality in those areas. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/airlinks/airlinks4.html>

Environmental Education Grants

The Grant Program sponsored by EPA's Office of Environmental Education supports environmental education projects that enhance the public's awareness, knowledge, and skills to make informed decisions that affect environmental quality. Since 1992, EPA has received between \$2 and \$3 million in grant funding per year and has awarded about 2,500 grants. Grants of \$25,000 or less are awarded in EPA's ten regional offices, and grants of more than \$25,000 are awarded at EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C.
Each year EPA's Office of

Environmental Education releases a Solicitation Notice in the Federal Register that provides instructions for obtaining a grant. Apply as soon as possible to assure meeting the deadline.

The EPA's FY 2003 Solicitation Notice, FY 2003 Grant Application, and tips for developing successful grant applications are located at the following web site. <http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants.html>

Livestock Pollutants

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman signed a new rule covering large livestock operations, also known as concentrated animal feeding operations (CAFOs). The new rule will help reduce animal waste generated by CAFOs, which poses an increasing threat to the health of America's waters. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/npdes/caforule>

Underground Fluids

EPA's Program To Regulate the Placement of Waste Water

and Other Fluids Underground (NSFC Item No. GN-FSRG67), a two page EPA fact sheet describes the five classes of injection wells identified in federal regulations and explains the role of EPA's Underground Injection Control program in protecting groundwater supplies.

The EPA fact sheet is free but there is a \$1 shipping charge. To order call NSFC at 800/624-8301.

Water Quality Analysis

The U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) marked the 30th anniversary of the clean water Act by launching a searchable online database of environmental methods for water quality analyses.

The database is called the National Environmental Methods Index. It will enable users to compare data collection methods and quickly locate the best analytic method for their needs. It will also enable agencies and organizations that use different methods at different times to share monitoring data. The database contains summaries of laboratory and field protocols for chemical, microbiological, and radio-chemical methods used in regulatory and non-regulatory water quality analyses. USGS plans to add biological methods, as well as additional monitoring related field and laboratory methods, to the database.

USGS developed the database in cooperation with EPA and several federal agencies and organizations. The database is located at: <http://www.nemi.gov>.

Xenobiotics

Hair spray, coffee, household cleaners, and commercial cold remedies, and others household products found in waste water are called "body toxic" pollutants, also known as xenobiotics. These

pollutants were discussed by the water and wastewater professionals attending a workshop sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA).

For more information about the workshop - titled "Xenobiotics: The newest Threat to Water Quality?" send e-mail to Dawn Hummel at dawnh@acwanet.com or Ellie Meek at elliem@acwanet.com, or call ACWA at 888/666-2292.

ACWA is the largest association of public water and wastewater utilities in the United States, and its 450 member agencies collectively are responsible for 90% of water delivered to cities, farms and businesses in California.

Kid's Contest

All children and youth in kindergarten through 12th grade are encourage to participate in a chance to imagine, create, and design their version of a one page, KID'S PAGE" for EPA's OPPTS Tribal News. The top three Kid's Page designs will be featured in upcoming issues of the OPPTS Tribal News and/or the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) outreach materials. Each of the top three winners also can expect to receive several special gift items from NTEC.

The Kids's Page is a regular feature in the OPPTS Tribal News and is geared for children in grades K-12. This page seeks to incorporate fun and education, allowing kids to learn about protecting and safeguarding public health through environmental and/or tribal-based themes. The contest hopes to have children use their own language (both visual and/or text-based language) to relate information about their environment to other children in a fun and education way. This can be done by using pictures, traditional stories, puzzles, mazes, and

other creations that will fit on an 8" x 11" page. There will be three top winners selected from all entries.

Entries must be submitted by April 30, 2003.

For additional information and entry form: National Tribal Environmental Council, Jerry Pardilla, Executive Director, 2501 Rio Grande Boulevard, NW., Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104.

Net Loss of Wetlands

EPA and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have released a comprehensive action plan and improved guidelines aimed at attaining the goal of "no net loss" of the nation's wetlands. The plan will focus on advancing technical capabilities for wetlands restoration and protection. It will also clarify policies for regulating wetlands, and establish better tools for monitoring and measuring the success of restoration and protection projects. Info: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands>

Brownfields Law

EPA has released guidelines explaining how Brownfields Cleanup Revolving Loan Fund (BCRLF) pilots established prior to the new brownfields law can "transition" under the new law. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/html-doc/bcrlf-0.htm>

Brownfields Job Grants

EPA expects to select approximately ten Brownfields Environmental Job Training grants by the end of April 2003. Grant applicants must be located within or near one of the EPA-funded brownfields grant

(assessment, RLF) communities. The deadline has been extended to February 14, 2003. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/html-doc/jtguid0.htm>

Network Grant Guidelines

EPA issued a federal register notice soliciting proposals for the Network Grant Program on Dec. 27, 2002. The President's fiscal year 2003 budget, which is now before Congress, includes \$25 million for this grant program. Subject to the availability of appropriations for this purpose, EPA plans to select, through a competitive process, grant proposals that can be awarded to States, the District of Columbia, Federally Recognized Indian Tribes, and Trust Territories. The grants funds will be used to advance the goals of the Network by encouraging data integration efforts.

Proposals must be postmarked and sent electronically to EPA before Feb. 18, 2003. The federal register notice can be accessed at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr>

Environmental Data Collection

A new guidance in electronic form that is a "tool-box" of statistical designs for environmental data collection is available to you now. The guidance is titled: Guidance for Choosing a Sampling Design for Environmental Data Collection (EPA QA/G-5S, and is meant to be used as a resource or reference document. The document addresses the following sampling designs: Judgmental sampling; simple random sampling; stratified sampling, systematic and grid sampling; ranked set sampling; adaptive cluster sampling; and composite sampling. This new guidance may be helpful to you and your staff/co-workers as you design

or evaluate projects involving the collection of environmental data. For more: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/OEA.NSF/34090D07B77D50BD88256B79006529E8/F3974A8B1ED416A188256CA800759EFA?OpenDocument>

Science Inventory

The Agency's Science Inventory is now available at the following site: [http://www.hq-ord.epa.gov:9876/domain/epaSciInv.nsf/\\$\\$Search?OpenForm](http://www.hq-ord.epa.gov:9876/domain/epaSciInv.nsf/$$Search?OpenForm)

TMDL Rule

EPA has announced that it is proposing to withdraw the July 2000 final rule that revised EPA's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) program under the Clean Water Act. The 2000 rule was determined to be unworkable.

In the meantime, EPA continues to work on improvements to the TMDL program in order to further enhance the quality of the nation's waters. EPA has been working steadily to identify options to improve the TMDL program, including addressing problems reported by the National Academy of Sciences.

TMDL Trading

EPA has indicated that water-quality trading procedures will be key elements of revised Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) regulations aimed at point and nonpoint pollution.

Tracy Mehan, assistant EPA administrator for water, said that trading is among the market-based approaches needed to maintain progress in battling water pollution.

Mehan said his agency was on schedule to revise the TMDL regulations within the next year and a half. "I believe it is imperative that formal provisions for trading must be developed within the 18 month time

frame to establish a clear basis for trading and to facilitate implementation of TMDLs across the nation."

Trading is an arrangement under which anti-pollution goals can be met by allowing parties that exceed requirements to trade their "surpluses" to parties that fall below the designated standards.

Mehan explained that "trading is not a right to pollute...but it allows a source to meet regulatory obligation by using allocations or pollution reduction credits created by another source.

Environmental Projects Funding

The EPA is accepting applications to fund projects that will address environmental challenges in the Pacific Northwest. The funding is part of EPA's Regional Geographic Initiative (RGI) which targets unique, geographically-based projects that fill critical gaps in the Agency's ability to protect human health and the environment. The funds are available to a wide range of organizations including local governments, tribes, nonprofit groups, hospitals and laboratories.

Proposals will be accepted for innovative projects ranging from \$10,000 to \$50,000. Total funds available are yet to be determined. In Fiscal Year 2002, EPA funded 14 projects totalling \$400,000.

"This is a terrific opportunity for the people in the Pacific Northwest and Alaska," said Dan Phalen, RGI Coordinator for EPA's Regional Office in Seattle. "In the past we have seen

advancements in environmental protection such as ground water protection planning in SE Idaho and real time air monitoring in eastern Oregon."

Applications for the next round of grants must be postmarked by March 18. More information about the grants program and application forms are available from the website at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/ECOCOMM.NSF/Programs/RGI+Solicitation> or by calling 800/424-4372, the toll-free number from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. Dan Phalen, phalen.dan@epamail.epa.gov or 206/553-8578

Online Facility Compliance

EPA has released a pilot online database that provides the public and industry with a direct link to information on compliance and enforcement history for over 800,000 regulated agencies nationwide. The EPA is welcoming comments on the Enforcement and Compliance History Online (ECHO) pilot program through January 21, 2003.

You can review the online database and submit your comments at: <http://www.epa.gov/echo> or send questions to echo@epa.gov.

Salmon Spawning

The Nisqually Tribe in Washington has removed the dikes to help restore the Nisqually Delta estuary, a key to the survival of young chinook salmon. The brackish water where the Nisqually River meets the sea is where juvenile salmon change from freshwater smolt to ocean-going fish.

This most recent step is part of restoration project that began in 1999, when the tribe bought a 400-acre farm specifically to help the salmon. The

31-acre restoration is just the beginning; the tribe ultimately hopes to take out more dikes and restore another 110 acres of estuary for salmon. Over the long term, the tribe hopes to double the natural production of chinook salmon in the delta.

"We knew when we bought it we were not going to build on it; we wanted it for the salmon," John C. Simmons, chairman of the tribe, told the Seattle Times. "The Nisqually people have lived in this delta valley for thousands of years. We moved our villages, timed to the run of the salmon. This land is important to us because it is important to the salmon."

Puget Sound chinook are listed as a threatened species under the U. S. Endangered Species Act. Habitat restoration is a cornerstone of the recovery efforts needed to bring the runs back to harvestable levels. Around the Puget Sound 70 to 80 percent of the estuarine environment has already been lost.

Research Question?

If you're a technical assistance provider in the Northwest, through PPRC's "Rapid Response" research service, staff can provide up to three hours of research on a specific question for you.

Examples of past questions include: "What examples exist of independent research on toxicity of different road dust controls?" and "What types of environmentally appropriate fire fighting foams meet class B AAAF requirements?" and "What are the functions and types of various electrical devices that contain mercury and are requiring disposal as they become obsolete?"

PPRC can't necessarily provide you with the final answer, but they can provide you with a narrowed list information resources and human contacts that get you several steps closer to an answer and save you time. To take advantage of the service contact Michelle at: mgaither@pprc.org, and be sure to mention the organization you work for, and your state.

DBE Rule

Publication of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Draft Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) Rule in the Federal Register (FR) is expected sometime in February 2003. Once the Draft Rule is published in the FR, tribes, states and other stakeholders will be able to review and comment on it. In addition, EPA will be holding public (stakeholder) hearings on the Draft DBE Rule around the country. For additional information email rice.elaine@epa.gov or call 202/564-4141.

Mining on Native Lands

This workshop will unite tribal members and representatives, and government officials to examine technical and policy issues related to historic, current and future mining impacts on Indian lands. The goal of the workshop is to educate individuals involved with mining issues affecting reservation lands in the U.S. to identify current approaches to these issues, which include mining, mine waste impacts, support mechanisms,

cleanup processes, and other key areas of mining and reclamation. The training will be held at the Alantis Hotel, 3800 South Virginia Avenue, Reno, NV on Sept. 9-11, 2003. Abstracts for oral presentations must be submitted April 11, 2003. Native American Tribes, Community-Based Grass Roots Organizations are welcome to make submissions and presentations. Abstracts should be sent to Alina Martin, SAIC, 111251 Roger Bacon Drive, Reston, Virginia 20190. For registration and further information contact Alina Martin; for technical inquiries contact Norma Lewis, U.S. EPA, NRMRL, 513/565-7665.

Tribal Air Quality

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), at Northern Arizona University, invites tribal environmental professionals and local, state and federal air quality agencies to participate in this year's professional exchange program. The program is funded by the U.S. EPA Office of Air and Radiation and is designed to help meet the training needs of tribal air quality professionals. It places tribal professionals in a one or two-week air quality placement with an appropriate tribal, federal, state, or local air quality office where the participant will train under the direction of an experienced professional in an area of interest selected by the participant. ITEP will award each participant a stipend to be used to pay for travel, lodging and subsistence costs. The participant's regular employer must pay expenses in excess of the stipend. For any information on the program, contact Alexis Bala-Spry, Program Coordinator, at 928/ 523-1266 or via

email at fondaswimmer@nau.edu

Basic RCRA Inspector

This course is designed for federal, state, tribal, and local environmental inspectors with six to eighteen months experience in the RCRA program. It provides an overview of the key RCRA regulations and the RCRA program, including an overview on the identification of solid and hazardous waste, waste minimization/pollution prevention activities, and the Land Disposal Restrictions program. It also provides an overview of inspection preparation, conducting the inspection, follow-up, and the legal issues associated with conducting inspections. It is designed to meet the specific needs of RCRA inspectors. The files are in WordPerfect and Microsoft Power Point. Internet location: http://es.epa.gov/oeca/oceft/lib_files.html

Tribal Water Quality

EPA's Office of Water recently released an outreach publication, "How Water Quality Standards Protect Tribal Waters" (EPA 823-B-02-002). Water Quality Standards are laws or regulations that Indian tribes (authorized to administer the program) adopt to enhance the quality of their waters and protect human health. Water quality standards are the cornerstone of the nation's surface water protection program and are key to implementing the water quality framework of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The outreach publication provides an introduction to the water quality standards program, discusses the benefits of a water quality standard program on reservation lands,

answers some frequently asked questions about the process to obtain authorization from EPA to conduct the water quality standards program, and provides information to help tribes develop their own water quality standards.

Two case studies are included in the publication. The first features the Fort Peck Reservation, home to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes located in Montana. That case study highlights the Tribe's efforts to use biological criteria in their water quality standards. The second case study focuses on the Seminole Tribe of Florida and the use of water quality standards to solve a severe nutrient problem on the Big Cypress Reservation. Contact Eleanor Jackson at 202/566-0052 or email jackson.eleanor@epa.gov to obtain copies of the publication. You may also contact Frances Desselle at 202/566-0375 or email desselle.frances@epa.gov for more information.

Wastewater Treatment Manual

It contains information on new types of septic systems, and reviews wastewater renovation and performance, siting, design, management, etc. The new manual updates reviews on septic systems literature, overviews new alternative and innovative types of systems, and introduces the performance-based approach. It also provides the latest information about monitoring and replacement of decentralized

wastewater systems (commonly known as septic systems). Order a free copy by sending a request to: USEPA/NSCEP, P.O. Box 42419, Cincinnati, Ohio 45242-0419 or call 800/490-9198. You may also download the manual form EPA's website:

<http://www.epa.gov/ORC/NRMRL/Pubs/625R00008/625R00008.htm>

Indoor Air Quality

Got Mold? Indoor air can be five times and sometimes even 100 times more polluted than the outdoor air. Check out the indoor environmental division webpage to learn about indoor air pollutants such as mold, radon, secondhand smoke, and asthma triggers. Approximately 17

million people in the U.S. suffer from asthma and 5 million of these are children. Read about our "Tools for Schools" program to help make our schools healthier places for teachers and students and implement the program in your own schools. One of our most popular documents has been "Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings." Learn how mold can make some people sick and what you can do about it. All of these documents and more are available from www.epa.gov/iaq.

Here's the web link for the RFIP for the tribal IAQ grant. It's on the mold page. Proposals are due March 7, 2003.

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPA/GE.NSF/webpage/Mold>

Information: Ann Wawrukiewicz, Indoor Air Program, EPA Region 10, 206/553-2589.

Wastewater Assistance

The EPA's Office of Wastewater Management provides financial and technical assistance to aid Native Americans in the construction and operation of wastewater facilities. Help can be obtained by contacting Sylvia Bell, Office of Water, HQ, Mail Code 4204, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460, or 202/564-0621.