

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Vol. XI No. 1
January 1, 2002

Work Shops and Conferences

February 1-3, CAER 2002 Conference, University of Oregon. For information see below*

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

June 4-5-7, 2002, Water Quality Workshops for Tribal Environmental Managers, Worley, ID. For information contact Lillian Wilmore at 617/232-5742 or NAEcology@aol.com. **CORRECTION**

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Grants Management

EPA is conducting desk and on-site reviews of the financial management and internal control systems of federal assistance agreement recipients to help them more effectively manage their Agency grants and cooperative agreements. These reviews are not intended to be audits, but should improve the outcome of any audits conducted in the future. To date, nationally, these reviews have identified several common areas for improvement:

1. Supporting Documentation: Recipients need to document and maintain sufficient information on assistance agreement implementation. For example, travel authorizations funded through the EPA assistance

agreement need to provide sufficient justification for the travel and must be signed by the approving official; time sheets need to reflect actual hours worked and delineate the hours worked on federal and non-federal projects.

2. Tracking of Multiple Grants and/or Sources of Funding: Recipients with multiple assistance agreements and/or sources of funding need to have accounting systems that produce financial records that delineate the various funding sources, whether federal or non-federal.

3. Written Policies and Procedures: Recipients need to have written policies and procedures for procurement, travel, training, payroll, and time and attendance funded in part or in total by the assistance agreement.

4. Internal Controls: Recipients need to have internal policies and procedures that involve checks and balances. For example, there should be a segregation of the various duties related to the assistance agreement (in effect, the approval official is not the same person as the accounts payable official, etc.).

By following these suggestions,

recipients of federal assistance agreements can help to ensure that any audit of their grant or cooperative agreement will have a good outcome. Please note: your IGAP grant not only can be used to build your environmental capacity, it can be used to also build your administrative capacity to manage your grants.

National Tribal Conference

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, near Reno, NV has been selected to co-sponsor the Sixth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (NTCEM). The EPA will co-sponsor this event in June 3-7, 2002. Primary EPA Workgroup contacts are: Felicia Wright, 202/260-4410 and Tonya Hawkins, 703/308-8278; Caren Rothsetin-Ronbinson, 202/260-0065; Claudia Walters, 202/546-6762; and Clara Mickles, 202/260-7519.

***CAER**

The Coalition Against Environmental Racism was created to provide a forum for the discussion of how racial discrimination in environmental policymaking affects Northwest communities.

Tribal Air

The Tribal Air web site (<http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal>) is designed to strengthen EPA and Tribal air quality programs in Indian Country by: ❖ providing timely and user-friendly access to key information, ❖ promoting the exchange of ideas. ❖ Making available relevant documents to all environmental professionals who live and work in Indian Country.

****Pesticide Conference**

The conference includes the following states Colorado, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, Utah, Wyoming, California, Nevada, Arizona, Hawaii, Alaska, Idaho, Washington, Oregon.

If you would like any further information please contact Lori Harder Yurok Tribe Environmental Program, P.O. Box 355, Orick, CA 95555 or ytep@juno.com. 707/834-2538

The Western Region Pesticide Meeting will be held in San Diego, California on May 15-17, 2002. If you plan on attending either of the pre-conference meetings, for Cooperative Extension Services or Tribes, please save May 14th on your calendar as well.

Your ideas are very valuable and the WRPM Planning Committee would like your input for the 2002 agenda. If you have any suggestions for topics, speakers, or meeting format, please contact any of the following: General Session Agenda: Mary Grisier 415/744-1095, grisier.mary@epa.gov. Pat O'Connor-Marer 530/752-7694 pjmarer@ucdavis.edu

Tribes' Agenda: Lori Harder 707/834-2538 ytep@juno.com. Annie Yates 415/744-1098 yates.annie@epa.gov. Cooperative Extension Services' Agenda: Charlie Nagamine 808/956-6007 charlie@hpirs.stjohn.hawaii.edu. Jenny Weber 530/752-5930 jlweber@ucdavis.edu. Mary Grisier 415/744-1095 grisier.mary@epa.gov.

Tribal Dumps

The Fiscal Year 2002 Tribal Open Dump Cleanup Project solicitation package is now available. Click on: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/new.htm> for all the details. For general information on this interagency project, please see "Interagency Project to Clean Up Open Dumps" on: <http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/finance.htm#fy2002>

ITEP Internship

The EPA and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals are currently seeking sponsor project proposals for the 2002 EPA/ITEP College Student Summer Internship. ITEP in conjunction with the EPA are supporting this internship program to provide Native American and other students with the opportunity to assist governmental facilities (primarily EPA) and Indian tribes with substantive projects.

The mission of the internship program is to promote Native American and other under represented students to pursue environmental careers, while assisting Indian tribes with their own environmental issues. Each summer, undergraduate and

graduate students studying environmental science and related fields are placed in federal environmental programs throughout the country for a 10-week internship.

In the past, NAU/EPA interns have successfully completed projects for EPA regional offices in Seattle, Alaska, Denver and EPA headquarters as well as projects with the Mni Sose Water Rights Coalition, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, San Juan Pueblo and many others. Examples of these projects include (but are not limited to) legal applications, databases, science, planning, engineering, policy and management.

The internship gives students primary exposure to tribal and federal government, policies and pressing issues that are faced by those in Indian country. By providing students that are knowledgeable in specific areas of environmental protection, the program strengthens tribal capabilities and resources.

If you are interested in becoming a host site, please visit our website at: www.nau.edu/itep for details. DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION: February 1, 2002.

Fonda Swimmer, Program Coordinator, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, PO Box 15004, Flagstaff, AZ 86011. Phone: 928/523-8785 email: Fonda.Swimmer@nau.edu

Consultation Guide

The "Guide on Consultation and Collaboration with Indian Tribal Governments and The Public Participation of Indigenous Groups and Tribal Members in Environmental Decision Making". The Guide can be obtained on line at: <http://es.epa.gov/oeca/ej> click

on “*What’s New*” the *NEJAC* then Publications, the Guide on consultation and Collaboration with Indian Tribal Governments and The Public Participation of Indigenous Groups and Tribal Members in Environmental Decision Making.

Grants for Wetlands

The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service has announced the availability of North American Wetlands Conservation Act Grants for FY 2002. This program provides matching grants to public and private organizations and individuals to carry out wetlands conservation projects in the U.S., Canada and Mexico. For more information, click on: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=277>.

Arsenic Exposures in Foods

The Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe (<http://www.pgst.nsn.us/>) has requested that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency assist them in understanding their exposures to arsenic from both drinking water and traditional seafoods. Previous measurements of Puget Sound shellfish have shown high amounts of arsenic and some areas of Puget Sound also have arsenic in drinking water. A closed and capped, but unlined landfill on Kitsap County land is upgradient of the Reservation and the Tribe’s shellfish beds. Surface water quality sampling of the creeks down gradient from the landfill have detected arsenic leachate from the landfill. Hence, there may be potential for enhanced mobilization of environmental arsenic due to acidic leachate released from the

unlined landfill. Investigators are taking advantage of the new analytical techniques to analyze arsenic and arsenical species not only in urine, blood, and drinking water, but also in dietary samples and environmental shellfish samples. Tribal staff worked closely with the EPA scientists to assure the clarity and cultural appropriateness of the questions and procedures asked of the study participants. All identifying information collected will be kept confidential to ensure the privacy of the study participants. Field samples have already been collected. In the summer of 2002, individuals and their physicians (if requested) will receive their personal blood and urine results. U.S.EPA will prepare a written report for review by the Port Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, and will conduct meetings to discuss the results. For more information contact Dr. Roseanne Lorenzana, Region 10 Office of Environmental Assessment, 206/553-8002, lorenzana.roseanne@epa.gov or Ms. Laurie Mattson, Pt. Gamble S’Klallam Tribe, 360/297-6274, mattson@pgst.nsn.us

Arsenic Standard

On November 1, 2001, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Christie Whitman announced that the arsenic standard in drinking water will be 10 parts per billion (ppb). Nearly 97 percent of the water systems affected by this rule are small systems that serve less than 10,000 people each. EPA plans to provide \$20 million over the next two years for the research and development of more cost-effective technologies. For

more information, click on: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=271>.

Professional Air Exchange

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is currently recruiting prospective tribal air quality exchange and sponsor sites for the Professional Exchange Program. The exchange program is intended to provide training, experience and exposure within an air quality area of interest. Additionally, the program encourages the development of mentoring relationships between sponsor sites and exchange participants. This is not a student program, rather a program for Tribal Air Quality Professionals already working in the air quality field. Some recent sponsors that have come available are: -Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) North Carolina- EPA Training Modules-Potential opportunities regarding air monitoring hands-on training/overview provided through the Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center-Las Vegas (TAMS) - as available.

Exchange participants are able to specifically request a particular type of air quality training in an area of interest to them. Past sponsor sites included: other tribal air quality offices, and USEPA Regional offices, potential host sites may include OAQPS-North Carolina and as available the TAMS Center- Las Vegas. Although a request for a particular office or relevant air quality agency is an option, but is not guaranteed. For information: Fonda Swimmer Program Coordinator, Institute for Tribal Environmental

Professionals, PO Box 15004,
Flagstaff, AZ 86011 or 928/523-
8785 [Fonda.Swimmer@na
u.edu](mailto:Fonda.Swimmer@na.u.edu) or
<http://www4.nau.edu/itep>

Tribal Air

The Tribal Air web site (<http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal>) is designed to strengthen EPA and Tribal air quality programs in Indian Country by: ❖providing timely and user-friendly access to key information, ❖promoting the exchange of ideas. ❖Making available relevant documents to all environmental professionals who live and work in Indian Country.

Dangerous Waste Workshops

The Hazardous Waste and Toxics Reduction Program is offering workshops for dangerous waste generators, January and February, 2002. The workshops cover proper hazardous waste management and compliance requirements with the State Dangerous Waste Regulations. Geared toward generators of all sizes the workshops incorporate presentations interwoven with small group exercises, discussions, and question-and answer sessions. Come and get all your questions answered in a casual, friendly atmosphere. Cost is \$45, register today!
<http://www.ecy.wa.gov/laws-rules/calendar.html>

Compliance Toolbox

Source Book of Environmental Resources for Indian Tribes: This document, known as the "Environmental Management resources for Indian Tribes" and an accompanying *Fact Sheet* are designed to assist EPA and tribal

environmental managers develop programs by providing information on resources and projects throughout the United States. The document will be updated periodically by EPA. For more information, contact Carolyn Young at 202/564-7062 or: young.carolyn@epa.gov

Forestry Funding

The National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council is currently accepting pre-proposals for its 2002 Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program. Through its competitive Challenge Cost-Share Grant Program, the Council works to support urban and community forestry activities that are national or widespread in their impact or application. Approximately \$1 million in grants will be awarded in 2002. For more information, click on: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=280>.

Environmental Education

EPA Region 10 is proud to announce that the Clearinghouse for Environmental Education and information is now accessible on line at: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/clearinghouse>.

The Clearinghouse is a searchable database of environmental education and information resources available to educators in the Northwest. Organizations whose resources are referenced in the database include government agencies, non-profit organizations, universities and colleges, tribal agencies and governments. Clearinghouse virtual visitors can search for resources according to subject area, intended audience and type of resource, including curricula ,

workshops, speakers, grants, web sites and equipment.

If you are a resource provider and are interested in having your resource included in the Clearinghouse database, visit the site! You'll find easy-to-follow instructions. The process is quick, easy, and free.

If you have questions about the Clearinghouse or if you do not have internet access and would like to conduct a search over the phone, call the Public Environmental Resource Center at 206/553-1200 or 800/424-4372.

25 Million Available

According to the FY 2002 budget submitted by President Bush a \$25 million grant program will allow States and Tribes to participate in the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. According to the guidance, \$2,500,000 will be set aside for federally recognized Tribes. There are Category A and Category B core capacity grants. All Tribes will be able to apply for Category A or Category B grants up to a maximum of \$100,000. All Tribes may compete for Challenge grants in the amount of \$300,000 each. Tribes may collaborate on the Challenge grant, it will still be necessary for one Lead Tribe to be identified within the proposal.

To provide comment please contact your regional Indian Tribal Program Managers or directly to EPA Headquarters to Lyn Burger: burger.lynn@epa.gov. To view the proposed guidance please follow this link:

http://www.neri.net/OEIGUIDANCE_Finaldraft.pdf. Or: <http://www.neri.net/MSMemo.pdf>

1.5 Million Water Sites

The U. S. Geological Survey (USGS) recently added a major section to its Web site that provides online access to water resources data collected at 1.5 million locations throughout the United States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico. The data are organized for access in the following categories. ① "Site Information" descriptive site information for all sites, with links to all available water data for individual sites; ② "Real-time" data transmitted from selected surface water, groundwater, and water quality sites; ③ "Surface Water" data on water flow and levels in streams, lakes and springs; ④ "Ground Water" water levels in wells; and ⑤ "Water Quality" chemical and physical data for streams, lakes, springs, and wells.

The database is accessible at: <http://water.usgs.gov/nwis> . Questions about the data or database may be addressed to USGS at: h2oteam@usgs.gov.

Water System Security

The National Drinking Water Clearinghouse (NDWC), a public service organization funded through the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Rural Utilities Services, has assembled a body of information about protecting small water systems from potential threats.

Their intent is to educate governing boards and system personnel, help them prepare emergency plans, and find source of more information. Director Gregg Grunenfelder said the best way to combat fear and risk is to improve security before an emergency occurs.

The collection of articles, checklists, phone numbers and Web sites can be accessed from their Web site at: www.ndwc.wvu.edu or if you don't have a computer call 800/624-8301 and a packet will be sent to you.

AWWA has reissued materials on terrorism and emergency preparedness to its members and has continued to provide additional security information, resources and training to all of America's water professionals. AWWA Research Foundation has developed vulnerability assessment tools and will be working with member utilities and EPA to provide this tool to utilities. Information is available at: www.awwa.org.

TMDL Deadline Set

EPA has established April 30, 2003, as the effective date of the revisions to EPA's Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) and National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Program (NPDES) regulations published in the Federal Register on July 13, 2000.

The July 2000 rule amends and clarifies existing regulations including implementing section 303(d) of the CWA, which requires state to identify waters that are not meeting state water quality standards and to establish pollutant budgets, called TMDLs, to restore the quality of those waters.

The rule also lays out specific time frames under which EPA will assure that lists of waters not meeting water quality standards and TMDLs are completed as scheduled, and that necessary point and nonpoint source controls

are implemented to meet TMDLs.

Watershed Training

EPA provides watershed training on-line, at your convenience, for free. The *Watershed Academy's Distance Learning Program* is a set of self-paced training modules that represents a basic but broad introduction to watershed management. This program's goal is to provide useful information to support efforts to improve the health of our Nation's waters by protecting and managing watersheds. The target audience includes local, state, tribal and federal officials as well as citizens and private practitioners of watershed management.

Training modules cover the most important watershed management topics, about which watershed managers, local officials, involved citizens, decision makers and others should have at least an introductory level of knowledge. Web modules resemble interactive 'guest lectures' by leaders in watershed management. The length and complexity of each module varies, but most are at the college freshman level of instruction and require ½ to 2 hours to complete. Completing a series of 15 of the modules earns the Watershed Academy Web Training Certificate.

The training is available at no cost, at anytime, worldwide. Trainees may choose the training modules most suited to their own jobs, training needs, and education. Modules cover watershed ecology, watershed change, analysis and planning, management practices, and community/social context. Or: <http://www.epa.gov/watertrain>.

OREGON

■The Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, have two new Chairs. Alvina Huesties was elected as Chair of the General Council and Gary Burke as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Congratulations

■Burns: The TAS (Treatment in the same Manner as a State) application from the Burns Paiute Tribe has been approved by the EPA. This is for Section 106 of the Clean Water Act and qualifies the Tribe to apply for grant funds under Section 106. They will receive their first 106 in the next few months. Congratulations

WASHINGTON

■Colvilles To Receive EPA Brownfields Job Training Assistance Today at the Alice

Hamilton Training Facility in Silver Springs, Maryland, EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced that the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation are 1 of 10 newly selected national Brownfields Job Training Pilots. Brownfields are sites that have actual or perceived contamination that hinder their potential for redevelopment or reuse. The Brownfields Job Training Pilot Program is a competitive grant program awarding up to \$200,000 each to communities to provide hazardous waste training for local residents impacted by brownfields. Once trained, these residents can take advantage of new jobs cleanup brownfields and other hazardous waste sites.

The Colville Job Training Pilot Program will receive \$200,000 to train a minimum of 40 students as environmental technicians. Students will be recruited from low-income residents of the Colville Reservation where the unemployment rate is 45%, and where 10 brownfields and 173 illegal dump sites have been identified. The 224-hour training program includes courses in HAZWOPER, lead and asbestos abatement, spill response, and in alternative and innovative technologies such as bioremediation, phytoremediation and vapor extraction. For more information contact Tamara Langton at 206/553-2709 or: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields>