

Tribal Air News

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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air & Radiation
Office of Air Quality Planning & Standards

Interview with Jeff Holmstead

by Darrel Harmon



Jeff Holmstead is the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Air and Radiation.

Introduction: Jeffrey R. Holmstead was sworn in as Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation in September of 2001. He is now responsible for implementing the federal Clean Air Act, for regulation of industrial and automotive air pollutants, as well as for EPA's global climate change programs. He also coordinates EPA's radiation program with other federal agencies. Having served as a White House official under former President George H.W. Bush, Holmstead is a native of Colorado and an alumnus of Brigham Young University and Yale Law School. He and his wife live in Gaithersburg, Maryland, with their four children.

What are your priorities for OAR's Tribal Program for the next few years?

It is clear that the Tribal Program has unique needs. We have a sovereign-to-sovereign relationship with the nation's tribes, as well as a trust responsibility to protect their right to manage their own natural resources. We also need to recognize that there is great diversity among tribes, and that their needs vary consider-

ably. I am most interested in supporting tribes in what they consider to be their high priority areas, and providing resources that will allow them to continue to build their capacity to address the environmental problems that are of greatest importance to them.

I also want to continue our efforts to better incorporate the tribal program into OAR's activities. We now have more than 100 tribes that have developed, or are developing, their own air programs. We need to ensure that they can participate as partners on issues that are of importance to them. To support this objective, we recently held a training session for EPA managers on working effectively with tribal governments. I want to make sure that we continue this type of training.

I am also pleased that we have completed a cooperative agreement with the National Tribal Environmental Council to support tribal initiatives to form a national air organization. With the growing number of tribes participating in the air program, this organization can be an important tool for providing coordination and communication at the national level.

What do you see as some of the key successes in making air programs effective in Indian country?

The key success of this program is really demonstrated by the tribes themselves. Since 1995, over 100 tribes have started their own air programs and are continuing to develop expertise in managing their resources. One of the real successes of this program is that we have tried to recognize the differences in tribal lands, peoples, and cultures and provide support that allows tribes to implement programs that address their unique needs and priorities.

I have also been impressed with the things I have seen going on to support monitoring efforts through the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center and the ITEP program at Northern Arizona University. I believe that these institutional support mechanisms are an effective way for EPA to help tribes to develop their own programs.

Tribal air representatives have suggested that EPA's air program has not given them enough notice of upcoming regulatory activities to allow them to participate in the development of regulations that would contribute to cleaner air in Indian country. Do you have any plans to improve that situation?

This is an issue that is raised by all our partners in the
Holmstead Interview continued on page 3

An Inside Look...

**Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center
ITEP Internship Program
Tools
Mark Your Calendar**

ITEP Intern Learns Emission Modeling and Analysis During Two-Week Internship

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University has developed the Professional Exchange Program to help meet the training needs of tribal air quality professionals. The Professional Exchange program places tribal professionals with an appropriate tribal, federal, state, or local air quality office where the participant trains under the direction of an experienced professional in an area of interest selected by the participant.

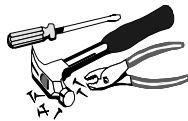
Under this program, Maureen Zeise of the Oneida Indian Nation of Wisconsin completed a two-week internship with EPA's Emissions, Modeling and Analysis Division. Maureen spent the first week with the Emission Factor and Inventory Group preparing an emission inventory for her reservation. She became familiar with the National Emission Trends data base and learned how to pull data for sources near the reservation. She also learned use references such as AP-42 and the Emission Inventory Improvement Program guidance to identify methodologies for estimating emissions and to prepare surveys to send to sources on the reservation. Maureen spent the second week with the Air Quality Modeling Group reviewing the theoretical and practical issues involved in simulating the transport, dispersion, and fate of pollutants in the atmosphere. The emphasis was on plume dispersion modeling typically employed in assessing and resolving local air pollution problems.



pictured left to right: David Misenheimer, OAQPS, Maureen Zeise of the Oneida Indian Nation, and Warren Peters, OAQPS

Tools

International Emissions Inventory Conference



The eleventh annual symposium on emission inventories, "Emission Inventories - Partnering for the Future", will be held April 15-18, 2002 in Atlanta, Georgia. This symposium is sponsored by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, Emission Factor and Inventory Group, with assistance from the EPA Region IV office. More information about this conference is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/chief/conference/ei11/index.html> .

U. S. EPA Awards Cooperative Agreement to the National Tribal Environmental Council

The agreement to the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) is to assist Indian tribes in the areas of air quality policy and with the development of tribal air quality programs.

NTEC, a private not-for-profit membership organization, helps Indian tribes protect and preserve the environment on reservation lands. This cooperative agreement complements other EPA initiatives to help Indian tribes acquire and maintain the technical, management and policy expertise to

enable them to develop and implement their own air quality programs.

Contact Jerry Pardilla, Executive Director, National Tribal Environmental Council, at ntec@ntec.org or at 505-242-2175 for additional information.

EPA Awards Contract to Native American-Owned Company

The U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, (EPA) announces the award of a 3-year contract to Portage Environmental, Inc., (PEI) to help Indian tribes develop and implement their own air quality programs. Portage Environmental Inc., is a Native American-owned firm located in Idaho Falls, Idaho.

The company will provide a wide range of technical, analytical and administrative support activities to assess, protect and improve air quality in Indian country. EPA's Regional Offices will work with individual Indian tribes and/or tribally-authorized consortia on projects that will be developed through this contract vehicle.

This contract is but one of many efforts initiated by the OAR to help Indian tribes develop their own programs under the Clean Air Act and the Tribal Authority Rule issued in 1998.

Contact Darrel Harmon, U. S. Environmental Protection Agency, 202-564-7416, harmon.darrel@epa.gov for further information.

Tribal Air Monitoring Center: Training Through Partnerships and Expertise

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center is a unique partnership between tribes, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). This partnership is designed to provide training, technical assistance, and tribal capacity building in the area of air monitoring. The TAMS Center, located in Las Vegas, Nevada, is co-managed by ITEP and EPA's Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory.

The mission of the TAMS Center is to "develop tribal capacity to assess, understand, and prevent environmental impacts that adversely affect health, cultural, and natural resources." The TAMS Center calls upon expertise from tribal environmental professionals as well as EPA representatives from Regions, Headquarters, and other programs.

In support of its mission, the TAMS Center offered five workshops this year: PM/PM2.5, Advanced PM2.5, Ambient Air Monitoring Network Design, Quality Assurance Project Plans, and Data Management and Analysis. Three new workshops are being designed for implementation in fiscal year 2002: Meteorological Stations, Continuous PM Monitoring, and an introduction to the Aerometric Information Retrieval System

(AIRS). In addition to classroom training, the TAMS Center provides one-on-one individualized training and technical assistance in areas such as air monitor verification, calibrations and audits. This type of individualized assistance has been very helpful and tribes continue to inquire and request these services. Since its inception in 1999, the TAMS Center has trained over 200 tribal air professionals.

The TAMS Center has begun developing an Information Clearinghouse where tribes can access information on equipment manufacturer's specifications, a networking list for tribal air monitoring professionals, EPA regulations and guidance documents, textbooks and other materials related to air quality monitoring. Materials are available for review at the TAMS Center, with some available for loan and/or distribution.

If you are interested in learning more about the TAMS Center, please feel free to visit the website at <http://www.cet.nau.edu/itep/TAMS/index.htm> or contact:

Gregory Budd, Technical Co-Director
(702)798-3121 email: budd.greg@epa.gov

or
Annabelle M. Allison, Interim Co-Director
(928)523-9569 email: annabelle.allison@nau.edu

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air program, including state and local governments and even our own Regional Offices. Because of our sovereign-to-sovereign relationship with the tribes and our trust responsibility, the way we should work with the tribes is perhaps somewhat different. Nevertheless, the basic question we face is how to have an effective, efficient regulatory development process while still ensuring adequate participation from our partners. I can't promise that we will always be able to strike the right balance, but I will do my best to see that everyone is included in our process.

The Agency and Office of Management and Budget have focused closely on risk reduction in recent years. Many tribes maintain a subsistence lifestyle that increases their exposure to environmental pollutants like mercury and dioxin. Tribes also have generally lower education, income and access to health care than the general population. Combining these factors with the lack of environmental data for tribal lands (due to the newness of our tribal programs), means that EPA doesn't have a good understanding of environmental risks on tribal lands. Given that lack of information, how would you reconcile the administrations' emphasis on risk reduction with sovereignty of tribes and the federal trust responsibility?

As an Agency, we have to prioritize our efforts in

order to make the most efficient use of the resources that are available to us. Of course, tribes must be free to set their own priorities. When it comes to making decisions about environmental protection, however, I assume that we all try to set our priorities by finding the greatest marginal risk reduction we can achieve with each marginal dollar we spend. Although we will probably never be able to do this analysis with exact precision, we need good data in order to do it even in an approximate way. In recent years, both federal and tribal programs have taken important steps to gather the data they need to set their priorities. We have supported tribes in this effort and will continue to do so.

We also recognize that risks for individuals on tribal lands may be different because of cultural practices. Tribes in different parts of the country have different needs. I want to make sure that we provide tribes with the flexibility they need to gather the data that they believe are important. I hope that this effort will allow all of us to focus more effectively on getting the most risk reduction we can out of the resources that are made available to us.

Any closing comments?

I know that there is a great deal of activity in the tribal program, and that many tribes are making great strides in developing their own air programs. I look forward to getting out in Indian country soon so that I can see first hand the work that they are doing.

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Mark your Calendar...

Itep's American Indian Air Quality Training Program:
Fundamentals of Air Pollution Control Technology
December 10-14, 2001, Flagstaff, Arizona

Itep's American Indian Air Quality Training Program: PM
Monitoring/PM2.5 Instrument Operation, January 28 -
February 1, 2001, Las Vegas, Nevada

Itep's American Indian Air Quality Training Program:
Media Specific: FIFRA, January 29 - February 1, 2001 Gila
River Indian Community.

Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI) Computer Based Courses

The Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI) has developed several computer based courses to support the APTI mission of providing technical air pollution training. These courses have been developed for employees of State, Tribal, and local air pollution control agencies. These courses can also be of great value to anyone with an interest in air pollution control. To access the courses go to <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/eog/ecourse>. No registration is required for these courses.

New Feature on the TribalAir Web Site: It's as Easy as 1-2-3!

EPA's TribalAir Web site now makes it easy for you to keep informed about the latest news and developments in the world of Tribal Air news. It's as easy as:

- 1.) Going to the TribalAir Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal>
- 2.) Clicking on the Tribal Air Mail notification mailbox icon at the top of the page, and
- 3.) Entering your name and e-mail address.

Once you're registered you will be sent an automated e-mail announcing news and new additions to the TribalAir Web site.

We're constantly looking for ways to improve the TribalAir Web site. Your questions and suggestions are always appreciated. If you would like more information, or if you have an announcement you would like posted on the Web site, contact Kristen Bremer, bremer.kristen@epa.gov.