

Tribal Air News

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Air Quality Management – Changes in the Air

A report titled “Air Quality Management Challenges in the United States” by the National Research Council (NRC) set in motion a process that will change the way air quality is managed in the U.S. The NRC Report acknowledged that Native American tribes should be given help to develop and implement air quality management programs.

The NRC noted several areas in which the air quality management system could be enhanced to allow progress to continue in a more effective and efficient manner. Recognizing this, the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee (CAAAC), a Federal advisory committee group to Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), reviewed the NRC's recommendations and, in January 2005, issued a report to EPA containing 38 recommendations (phase 1) for improving the current Air Quality Management (AQM) system. These recommendations are intended to begin a steady evolution of change implemented in the near-term (1 to 5 years). EPA accepted all 38 recommendations and made resource commitments to implement them. These recommendations address five areas of concern:

1. Strengthening scientific and technical capacity;
2. Expanding national and multistate control strategies;
3. Transforming the SIP process;
4. Developing an integrated program for criteria and hazardous air pollutants, and;
5. Enhancing protection of ecosystems and public welfare.

Implementation of the phase 1 recommendations is an important step in guiding EPA, states, tribal nations and others on future actions.

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TAMS Training

2006 Courses

Feb 28- Mar 2	Air Toxics Monitoring
Apr 18-21	Environmental Radiation Monitoring for Tribes (RAD)
May 1-5	Air Pollution Technology (TECH)
June 6-8	Dataloggers

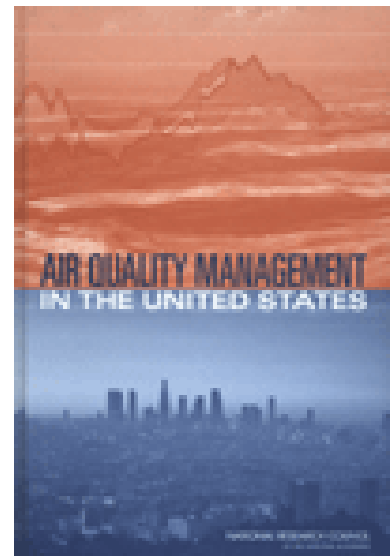
<http://www4.nau.edu/tams/training/courses.html>

Continued

EPA's implementation plan for the phase 1 recommendations is available on the CAAAC website at <http://epa.gov/air/caaac/aqm.html>. Tribal participation in implementation of these recommendations is vital in shaping new approaches.

The CAAAC also recommended to EPA that a second phase of work focus on longer-term, perhaps more sweeping changes, to the AQM system in this country. In 2005, the CAAAC formed a new Subcommittee to start this evaluation. The Subcommittee is considering a system for managing air quality that addresses the full range of issues (health, welfare, and ecosystems). It will take a more in depth look at air quality issues projected over the next 10 to 15 years and develop more integrated recommendations to address these problems.

The Subcommittee is also evaluating strategies and tools that may assist states, tribes and others in meeting more stringent/ambitious air quality goals. For example, it is examining control strategies such as voluntary programs or economic incentive-based programs that may be useful in meeting future goals. The Subcommittee is taking a more integrated approach and expanding linkages between air quality and management processes in other areas such as energy, agriculture, forest management, land use, transportation, and water quality.



Some potential components of interest could include:

- Determining meaningful boundaries
- Pollution transport across boundaries
- Defining roles at each level of government
- Incorporating environmental justice and local impacts into air quality plans
- Coordinating AQM with land use
- Building partnerships

The subcommittee is expected to provide recommendations to the CAAAC for consideration by November 2006. The final product will include both broad and specific recommendations to EPA, but also to states, tribes, industry, and other stakeholders, with the expectation that all can work concretely toward common air quality goals.

For more information visit the AQM website at <http://www.epa.gov/air/caaac/aqm.html>. For more information about the AQM Subcommittee contact Jeff Whitlow at (919) 541-5523 or by email at whitlow.jeff@epa.gov.



Tribal Air Call

National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) and the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) co-chair a monthly teleconference on air issues. These calls provide EPA's air program staff an opportunity to share information about upcoming rules and policies. For tribal professionals, the call is a way to give early feedback on air rules and policies under development. OAQPS tries to have the right experts on the line to address concerns. Some of the recent topics include Air NOW data, PM coarse standard, area source standards, monitoring issues, and discussions about the future of air quality.

EPA distributes detailed notes from the call to all participants. These notes also appear on NTAA's website. For more information or to join the call, contact: Stephen Hartsfield at (505) 242-2175, ext 106 (shartsfield@ntec.org); Julie McClintock at (919) 541-5339 (mclintock.julie@epa.gov); or Laura McKelvey at (919) 541-5497 (mckelvey.laura@epa.gov).



Air Quality System Updates

Changes Benefit Tribes. In early 2005, the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) completed modifications to the Air Quality System (AQS). The modification will allow tribes to submit air quality data to AQS using tribal codes rather than state/county codes. The modification was requested by tribes who were concerned that the requirement to use state/county codes did not recognize the sovereign nation status of tribes. The changes to AQS were developed in collaboration with tribal representatives as part of an EPA-Tribal work group. The St. Regis Mohawk Indian Nation was the first to use the new modifications since it was deployed in January 2006. OAQPS hopes other tribes will submit their data using the enhancement as well. For more information, contact Tami LaPlante at (919) 451-1915 (LaPlante,tami@epa.gov). For other AQS support, see our contact list at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/contacts.htm>.

Conference Set for June 5-9, 2006. Each year, the Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) holds an annual Air Quality System (AQS) Conference to provide hands-on computer training and to share other AQS-related information with registered users. Of the 140 attendees at last year's conference, about 20 were tribal representatives. OAQPS encourages tribes to attend future AQS Conferences to learn more about the AQS application. The 2006 Conference has been scheduled for June 5-9, 2006 in San Antonio, Texas. For more information about the conference see <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/airs/airsaqs/conference/AQS2006/aqs2006-preconf.htm>.



State Implementation Plan Workshops for Tribes

In 2005, the National Tribal Air Association's (NTAA), the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) sponsored two workshops for Tribes called "Improve and Protect Air Quality in Indian Country Through the State Implementation Plan (SIP) Process." One was held in Chicago in July and one in San Diego in November.

The purpose of these workshops was to help tribes identify off-reservation sources of air pollution and use that information effectively in working with state agencies to bring about changes in the State Implementation Plan (SIP). These changes would affect air quality in Indian country.

Here are a few quotes from the 2005 workshops:

- "...the information given has been very helpful in allowing us to get info on dealing with States. I know now how to get involved in the SIP process and how to do that most effectively....Great training."
- "...tailoring to this [audience's] diversity is very difficult. Trainers did a good job in balancing the materials on all levels."
- "[What] I learned about the SIP process and reviewing permits... is valuable information because I have had permit notices and felt lost due to my lack of experience in the air quality field. I believe that the information and resources that I acquired today will be invaluable resources at home."

More Planned for 2006.

- Oklahoma City in June 2006.
- North-west in the early fall 2006.

For more information contact Julie McClintock at (919) 541-5339 or at mclintock.julie@epa.gov.



Support Services Contract Awarded

A five-year contract for "Support Services to Implement the Clean Air Act in Indian Country," was awarded on December 15, 2005. This contract (Contract Number EP-D-06-011) will support tribes as they implement the Clean Air Act (CAA). It also supports community based air toxics efforts. The contractor, Portage Environmental, Inc. (PEI), is a Native American-owned firm based in Idaho Falls, Idaho, which has been providing high quality engineering and consulting services to federal and tribal clients since 1992.

The contract Scope of Work encompasses programmatic, technical, and administrative support activities necessary to assess, protect, and improve air quality in Indian Country and for community based efforts.

The contract is a level of effort-cost reimbursement term contract consisting of a base year and four additional one-year options. Each option has up to 7,500 hours available. Work is ordered by issuing individual work assignments outlining specific projects to be carried out by the contractor. If you have need for this type of contract, contact your Regional Tribal Air Coordinator and they will work with us to develop a work assignment. Contact Laura McKelvey with questions at (919) 541-5497 or at mckelvey.laura@epa.gov.



Tribal Community Based Risk Reduction Grant Awarded

The Tribal Community Based Risk Reduction Toxic Air Pollutants grant was recently awarded to: The Oneida Tribe of Wisconsin, Erie County, NY, and Caffee, Caffee and Associates. These grant recipients will conduct education, training and outreach of voluntary methods that effectively reduce the risk of human exposure to both indoor and outdoor toxic air pollutants in Tribal communities. Some of the recipients' activities include: open burning health education; indoor wood stove assessment and possible change out; voluntary mold assessments and education; a voluntary vehicle anti-idling program within reservation boundaries; radon testing/mitigation and indoor air quality home assessment for asthma triggers.

For more information or how to be involved please contact: Chris Griffin, IAQ Tribal Program Coordinator at (202) 343-9421 or at griffin.chris@epa.gov.



OAQPS Reorganization and the Tribal Program

The Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards' (OAQPS) recent reorganization has created a new division that includes tribal interaction as one of its core responsibilities. In his role as the Division Director of the new Outreach and Information Division, Greg Green will continue to be an advocate for the tribes. In preparation for the structural changes in the office, Greg met with tribal professionals to gather their ideas about how OAQPS can work effectively with tribes. The priorities the tribal professionals identified will be circulated in Indian country to gain a broader picture of tribal air quality needs. The results of these discussions will be integrated into the final priorities for the Tribal Program and the OAQPS strategic plan.

In the meetings, the tribal representatives stated that it is important to choose a high-level advocate of tribal interests in OAQPS. The representatives also articulated the need for OAQPS to emphasize the health and ecosystem needs of tribal communities. The tribes spoke of the need for a comprehensive health assessment to identify data gaps, and the need for OAPQS to provide technical support to address local specific and diverse needs. Tribal professionals also requested that technical and policy experts that support the tribes exist throughout the organization. There is a continued strong interest from tribes in receiving OAQPS and regional technical support for monitoring, data collection and interpretation.



Gregory Green, Division Director, OAQPS Outreach and Information Division

The highest priorities expressed were: (1) build capacity to assess air quality based on tribal needs; (2) address specific tribal pollution problems; (3) involve tribes early and often in rule and policy development; (4) work on culture change at OAQPS for staff to understand the role of tribes as regulatory partners; (5) develop Government Performance Reporting Act goals which are relevant to tribes; (6) develop model rules and regulations; and (7) recognize that competitive funding of grants works against tribes sharing information and technical expertise.

The next steps are to share the full report of these meetings more widely and to get feedback on these new directions. For more information contact Laura McKelvey at (919) 541-5497 or at mckelvey.laura@epa.gov.



CARE Request for Proposal and Training Available

EPA Offers \$2.7M to Reduce Risks of Toxic Exposure. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will award about \$2.7 million in cooperative agreements to support community-based partnerships that reduce toxic risks in local communities. A range of community groups may apply for funding, including county and local governments, tribes, non-profit organizations and universities. The deadline for submitting applications is **Monday, April 10, 2006**.

The cooperative agreements will be implemented through two levels of the Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program. The CARE program began in 2005 and helps to build broad-based local partnerships for reducing risks from toxic pollutants that come from numerous sources. Level I cooperative agreements will help establish community-based partnerships and set priorities for reducing toxic risks in a community. EPA anticipates awarding a total of eight to 10 Level I cooperative agreements, ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000. Level II cooperative agreements are for communities that already have a broad-based collaborative partnership, have identified risk reduction priorities, and are ready to implement risk reduction strategies. EPA expects to award six to eight cooperative agreements at Level II, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000.

The 2006 CARE Cooperative Agreement RFP can be found on the EPA web site at:
http://www.epa.gov/air/grants_funding.html#0601.

CARE Application Webcast. The CARE program will conduct two identical national training sessions for potential applicants, via a national webcast. A webcast is an internet web-based slide powerpoint presentation with an embedded audio portion. The webcast will be conducted on the following dates and times: (choose only one)

- **February 21, 2006: 3:00 - 4:30 p.m. (eastern time)**
- **February 24, 2006: 10:00 - 11:30 a.m. (eastern time)**

To register for the upcoming CARE Internet Seminar for either of the above dates, please go to:
<http://www.cluin.org/studio/seminar.cfm#upcoming> and click on the registration link for the "CARE Request for Proposals Q&A."

After the national training webcast sessions are completed, a recorded version of the full webcast will be available on: <https://www.clu-in.org/live/archive.cfm>. For additional information about CARE, visit EPA's Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/care> or call the hotline at 1-877-CARE909 (227-3909).