

Tribal Air News

November 2006
Volume 4, Issue 3

Minor Source Permitting Rule Update

Public Comment Period Extended

The two long awaited proposed New Source Review (NSR) regulations for Indian Country were published in the Federal Register on August 21, 2006. The proposed rules would address small sources located anywhere in Indian Country and large sources of air pollution located in nonattainment areas of Indian Country. The proposed rules are designed to address significant regulatory gaps in the protection of air quality in Indian country, to clarify jurisdiction where states are issuing permits in Indian country, and provide a level playing field for economic development in Indian country. These sources that would be affected by the rules may be new or existing businesses that are making changes in equipment and operations that would result in emissions increases.

The proposed regulations had a 90-day public comment period ending on November 20, 2006. EPA is extending the public comment period to January 19, 2007.

There are several ways in which you can submit comments. Any comments you submit about these proposed rules must be identified by the Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0076. You may submit comments by:

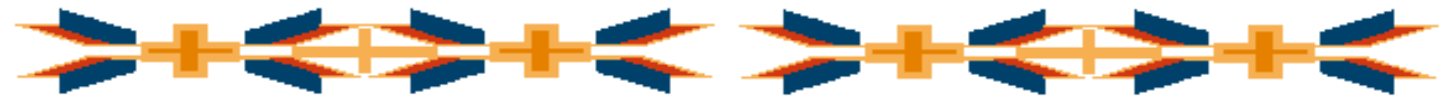
- on the Internet using the Federal eRulemaking Portal at <http://www.regulations.gov>.
- email: a-and-r-docket@epa.gov
- by mail: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA West (Air Docket), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, Northwest, Mailcode: 6102T, Washington, DC 20460



For additional information or questions about the public comment period, contact Jessica Montañez at 919-541-3407 or via email at montanez.jessica@epa.gov.

Public Training Offered

EPA is sponsoring a training meeting on November 20-21, 2006 to present an overview of the proposed rules to as many Tribes as possible. The goal of the meeting is to explain how the proposed rules will work and to ensure tribes gain an adequate understanding of the provisions of the rules in order to effectively comment on the rules. The meeting will be held at the Pechanga Resort & Casino, 45000 Pechanga Parkway (formerly Pala Road), Temecula, CA 92592. To make reservations for accommodations at the Resort call 1-888-732-4264 and refer to: "Tribal Air Meeting". For more information about this meeting contact Jill Sherman, by phone at 951-676-2768 ext. 2110 or by email at jsherman@pechanga-nsn.gov or contact Jessica Montañez, U.S. EPA by phone at 919-541-3407 or by email at montanez.jessica@epa.gov.



Final Revisions to the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for Particle Pollution

To better protect public health and welfare for millions of Americans across the country, EPA on September 21, 2006 issued the Agency's most protective suite of national air quality standards for particle pollution ever. Particle pollution, also called particulate matter or PM, is a complex mixture of extremely small particles and liquid droplets in the air. When breathed in, these particles can reach the deepest regions of the lungs. Exposure to particle pollution is linked to a variety of significant health problems. Particle pollution also is the main cause of visibility impairment in the nation's cities and national parks.

EPA's final decisions on the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particle pollution reflect successful tribal involvement. Over 50 Tribal representatives submitted comments on EPA's December 2005 proposed fine and inhalable coarse particle standards. While their comments touched on a variety of issues, some common themes included:

- the proposed exclusion of inhalable coarse particles in rural windblown dust and in soils and particles generated by agricultural and mining sources;
- the proposed revocation of the PM10 national air quality standards; and
- the proposed stringency of the fine particle standards.



EPA seriously considered the Tribal comments and our final decisions reflect their input. The final standards address two categories of particle pollution: fine particles (PM_{2.5}), which are 2.5 micrometers in diameter and smaller; and inhalable coarse particles (PM₁₀) which are smaller than 10 micrometers. (A micrometer is 1/1000th of a millimeter; there are 25,400 micrometers in an inch.) EPA is strengthening the 24-hour fine particle standard from the 1997 level of 65 micrograms per cubic meter (ug/m³) to 35 ug/m³, and retains the current annual fine particle standard at 15 ug/m³. The Agency also is retaining the existing national 24-hour PM₁₀ standard of 150 ug/m³.

The Agency is revoking the annual PM₁₀ standard, because available evidence generally does not suggest a link between long-term exposure to current levels of coarse particles and health problems. EPA is protecting all Americans from effects of short-term exposure to inhalable coarse particles by retaining the existing daily PM₁₀ standard of 150 micrograms per cubic meter. Scientific studies have found an association between exposure to particulate matter and significant health problems, including: aggravated asthma; chronic bronchitis; reduced lung function; irregular heartbeat; heart attack; and premature death in people with heart or lung disease.

EPA selected levels for the final standards after completing an extensive review of thousands of scientific studies on the impact of fine and coarse particles on public health and welfare. The Agency also carefully reviewed and considered public comment on the proposed standards. EPA held three public hearings and received about 120,000 written comments.

EPA has issued rules that will help states meet the standards by making significant strides toward reducing fine particles. These rules include the Clean Air Interstate Rule to dramatically reduce and cap particle pollution-forming emissions from power plants in the eastern United States, the Clean Diesel Program to dramatically reduce emissions from highway, nonroad and stationary diesel engines, and the Clean Air Visibility rule, which will reduce emissions affecting air quality in national parks. For more information on this final action visit <http://www.epa.gov/pm>.



New CASTNET Monitoring Sites on Tribal Lands

In 2006, the EPA helped establish a new CASTNET (Clean Air Status and Trends Network) monitoring site on tribal lands. The agreement to create a new site in northern Nebraska on the Santee Sioux Reservation is a result of an ongoing and unique cooperative effort among EPA Headquarters (HQ), EPA Regions, tribal governments, and the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC), a non-profit agency which provides member tribes with technical support and training in environmental fields. Over the past several years, this collaborative effort has resulted in a total of 3 CASTNET monitoring sites operating on tribal lands in Oklahoma, Texas, and most recently, Nebraska.



Santee Sioux CASTNET site

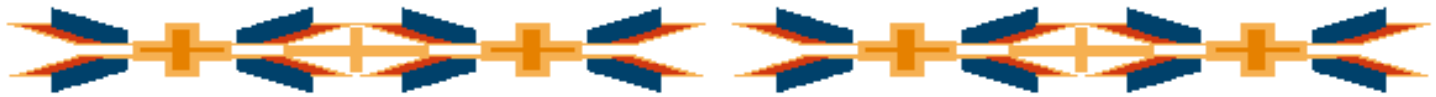
Tribes with CASNET sites initially received grants from EPA Regions 6 and 7 to establish and purchase monitoring equipment. EPA Regional staff and ITEC then worked with the local tribal environmental staff to help with the installation of the site, operation of instruments, and the interpretation of results. EPA HQ and Regions continue to support the tribes in the operation, instrument calibration and maintenance of the site as part of the CASTNET network.

EPA uses data from CASTNET and another monitoring network, called the National Acid Deposition Program (NADP), to assess the success of the Acid Rain Program and the NO_x Budget Program. CASTNET sites provide atmospheric data on the dry deposition component of total acid deposition, ground-level ozone and other forms of atmospheric pollution while NADP sites provide wet deposition data through collection and analysis of precipitation. NADP includes sites in both the National Trends Network (NTN), which collect data on acid rain and ozone precursor pollutants, as well as the Mercury Deposition Network (MDN), which collect data on mercury in precipitation.

There are a total of 13 monitoring sites in the CASTNET and NADP network located on tribal lands—3 CASTNET sites and 10 NADP sites (see map below). In 2006, NADP established a new MDN site in northern California on the Yurok reservation. While EPA was not involved directly in the development of this particular site, EPA has supported the creation of NADP sites on tribal lands in the past, including monitoring stations on Akwesasne Mohawk lands in northern New York and on Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa lands in Michigan.

Having CASTNET and NADP monitoring sites on tribal lands provides benefits to both tribes and EPA. For the tribes involved, it enhances their ability to develop and run their own environmental programs that help to protect their communities and environment. Locating these sites on tribal lands also helps EPA obtain regional data that are used to monitor long-term trends in air pollution and understand the behavior of atmospheric pollutants.





EPA Launches Updated Climate Change Web Site

EPA now has an updated and information-rich climate change web site where Tribes and other visitors can access the most up-to-date climate information available. The site highlights climate science and a wide range of programs and activities that are addressing climate change at the local, state, national, and international levels. You can visit this exciting communications tool, launched last month, at <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange>.

The Climate Change Web site is a revamped version of EPA's global warming site, and is organized for easier access to a range of updated and new information. Its five primary sections include Science, U.S. Climate Policy, Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Environmental Effects, and "What You Can Do".

Visitors to the site will find educational tools and information to help them understand their personal impact on climate change, including a list of 30 practical steps that individuals can take to reduce their emissions. They will also find a calculator to help them estimate their "carbon footprint" – the greenhouse gas emissions produced in the course of everyday activities.



For more information about the Climate Change Web site at <http://www.epa.gov/climatechange>, contact Kevin Rosseel, the Climate Change Division's Communications Director at (202) 343-9731.

Global Warming or Climate Change?

The term climate change is often used interchangeably with the term global warming, but according to the National Academy of Sciences, "the phrase 'climate change' is growing in preferred use to 'global warming' because it helps convey that there are [other] changes in addition to rising temperatures."

Climate change refers to any significant change in measures of climate (such as temperature, precipitation, or wind) lasting for an extended period (decades or longer). Climate change may result from:

- natural factors, such as changes in the sun's intensity or slow changes in the Earth's orbit around the sun;
- natural processes within the climate system (e.g. changes in ocean circulation);
- human activities that change the atmosphere's composition (e.g. through burning fossil fuels) and the land surface (e.g. deforestation, reforestation, urbanization, desertification, etc.)

Global warming is an average increase in the temperature of the atmosphere near the Earth's surface and in the troposphere, which can contribute to changes in global climate patterns. Global warming can occur from a variety of causes, both natural and human induced. In common usage, "global warming" often refers to the warming that can occur as a result of increased emissions of greenhouse gases from human activities.



Upcoming Conferences...

The 2006 Air Toxics Training Workshop will be held December 12th-14th in Durham, NC. The theme for this year's workshop is, "The 2006 Air Toxics Training Workshop... Making Ideas Come to Life". The workshop will feature sessions on regulatory developments such as the Risk Technology Review Rule and area source standards. There will also be sessions on community programs and the co-benefits of air toxics reductions and climate change. As in past years, this workshop is only open to EPA and staff of tribal, state, and local governments. The Air Toxics 101 basic training will take place on December 12th. Also on the December 12th, to run concurrently with Air Toxics 101, will be a special training event for Implementation of the Miscellaneous Metal Parts and Products Rule. The formal opening of the workshop will be on December 13 with a welcome from Steve Page, Director of OAQPS. EPA will have a great opportunity to hear the State, local and Tribal perspectives to implementing environmental regulations. The workshop will adjourn at 4:30 pm on December 14, so please plan to attend the entire day. The draft agenda and online registration is available at <http://www.cleanairinfo.com/airtoxics>.

EPA currently is soliciting presentation proposals for its **2007 Community Involvement Conference and Training**. The conference will be held in Jacksonville, Florida June 19-22, 2007. All presentation proposals are due by **close-of-business December 15, 2006**. This annual conference offers a unique opportunity to network with, and learn from, public participation and community involvement professionals from EPA and its federal, state, tribal, and community partners. The conference will offer participants original, engaging, and interactive presentations focusing on ways government can effectively interact with communities to achieve environmental results. For more information or to submit a presentation proposal visit <http://www.epa.gov/ciconference>.

National Air Quality Conference - EPA and its co-sponsor, the National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA), formerly State and Territorial Air Pollution Program Administrators and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials (STAPPA/ALAPCO), invite you to attend this year's National Air Quality Conferences, which will be held Sunday – Wednesday, February 11-14, 2007, in Orlando, Florida. Air quality professionals from federal, state, local and tribal air pollution organizations, metropolitan planning organizations, environmental organizations, and industry representatives are encouraged to participate to learn the latest information on air quality forecasting, mapping, and monitoring, air quality and your health, and innovative outreach programs. The conferences will feature optional sessions on Sunday including outreach issues with respect to agricultural air quality concerns and NOAA HYSPLIT training. The general program will begin on Monday and will include plenary sessions; focused breakout sessions; exhibits; and a poster session. Come share your experiences and knowledge, network with colleagues, and learn about new and innovative projects at our exhibits and poster area.

The conference is being held at the Royal Plaza Hotel, which is located 10-minutes from "Downtown" Disney. The hotel conference rate of \$114/night, plus 12.5% tax, will be available for 3 days after the conference, for those of you who make your reservations early (note that rooms at this rate after the conference are available on a "space-available" basis and are not part of the reserved conference room block). All reservations must be made by Friday, January 19, 2007. After this date, reservations are subject to space and rate availability. To make your reservation, please call 1-800-248-7890. Ask for in-house reservations, and then reference the EPA Air Quality Conference to receive the group rate. Please note that an online reservations system will be available in October. If you are interested in participating as a speaker or poster presenter, please visit the <http://www.airnow.gov> web page for information on the abstract submittal process. The online conference registration page is also available at <http://www.airnow.gov>.



Applicants Sought for Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center Co-Director

Appointment: Permanent, Full-time position.

Starting Salary: Grade GS-13 \$65,832 - \$85,578

Duties and Responsibilities: In this position, you will serve as the R&IE Laboratory's Co-Director of the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center. You will work side by side with a Co-Director counterpart to lead and manage the center's planning, communications and day to day operations. Working with the counterpart Co-Director, EPA Management, the TAMS Steering Committee and TAMS customers, you are responsible for responding to current air and radiation training and technical support priorities and forecasting and planning for future TAMS opportunities and challenges.

You will perform a number of duties, including:

- Serving as a TAMS and tribal environmental advocate and champion
- Serving as the EPA leader and representative for the TAMS Center
- Serving as a technical and policy expert in a TAMS discipline (e.g. air monitoring) and in the development and delivery of TAMS training and technical support.

About TAMS: The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center provides training, support and technical assistance to help Tribes establish and operate air quality monitoring programs and to learn how air pollution affects their health, culture and resources. The TAMS is a unique partnership operated jointly at EPA's R&IE Laboratory by Federal EPA staff, and staff from the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) through a grant with Northern Arizona University (NAU). Leadership of the TAMS is shared between the EPA/R&IE Co-Director and an ITEP Co-Director with guidance from a TAMS Steering Committee made up of tribal environmental professionals from Tribes throughout the United States.

Experience, Knowledge, Skills and Abilities: To apply, you will have experience working with or for a tribal environmental program and will have gained:

- Knowledge and experience in working for a tribe, tribal organization or with tribes in environmental program management and/or operation.
- Skill in working collaboratively with tribal governments and professionals
- Knowledge of Tribal and/or Federal government operations and policies
- Ability to incorporate tribal cultural concerns in development of plans and programs
- Technical expertise in an environmental field

For consideration, you must meet the qualification requirements as stated in the vacancy announcement.

If You Are Interested in this Position: Applications will only be accepted through EPA's on-line EZHire website. Please register as an applicant for employment at www.epa.gov/ezhire. Indicate that you want to be notified about the following Series/Title: 0028 Environmental Protection Specialist; select the grade, 13; select the state, Nevada; finally select both Clark County and Las Vegas. The automated system will electronically send you a copy of the vacancy announcement when it opens.

General Information: EPA is an equal opportunity employer. Selection for this position will be based solely on merit without regard to race, color, religion, age, gender, national origin, political affiliation, disability, sexual orientation, marital or family status or other differences.

EPA provides reasonable accommodations to applicants with disabilities. If you need a reasonable accommodation for any part of the application and hiring process, please notify the agency. The decision on granting reasonable accommodation will be on a case-by-case basis.



Training Event

AIAQTP Training – Data Analysis and Interpretation, Level 3

January 23-25, 2007, Research Triangle Park, NC

The TAMS Center is sponsoring an advanced, technical course in conducting data analysis and interpretation that will yield useful results for planning and decision-making purposes.

Topics include:

- Statistical analysis of data
- Graphical representation of data
- Tools for data analysis/interpretation (i.e. GIS, Enviromapper, MS Excel, etc.)
- Regulatory requirements
- Using data for planning and decision-making

Who Should Attend:

This course is designed for tribal environmental professionals who have been managing air monitoring or meteorological data and are interested in making interpretations and analyzing their data. This is an advanced course; applicants should have completed ITEP's "*Air Monitoring Data Management*" course and on-line course module: "*Fundamentals of Air Data Management*" prior to attending. Participants will be expected to bring copies of recent data sets for use during class activities. If this is a problem, please contact ITEP as soon as possible.

Course Structure and Approach:

This course will have extensive computer-based exercises and activities as well as lectures and small-group work. Participants will be expected to have an intermediate-level working knowledge of Microsoft Excel and some familiarity with GIS prior to attending this course.

Pre-Requisites:

- Introduction to Tribal Air Quality
- Air Quality Computations
- Air Pollution Technology
- Air Monitoring Data Management
- Fundamentals of Air Data Management (on-line course)

Application Deadlines:

December 4, 2006

For more information please contact Lydia Scheer, 928/523-6887,
Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu

The Tribal Air News

The Tribal Air News is produced by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The newsletter is produced quarterly and is distributed electronically.

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