

Tribal Air News

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EPA Proposes Prevention of Significant Deterioration for Fine Particle Pollution— Increments, Significant Impact Levels and Significant Monitoring Concentration

(Excerpt from Rule Fact Sheet) On September 12, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed to adopt key elements of the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) program for fine particle pollution - particulate matter less than 2.5 micrometers in diameter (PM_{2.5}).

EPA sets National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), for six principle air pollutants. These pollutants also known as criteria air pollutants include fine particles (PM_{2.5}). When an industrial facility applies for a permit to emit a criteria pollutant in an area that meets the NAAQS, the state and EPA must determine if emissions of that pollutant will deteriorate air quality. The action proposes a basis for making that determination under the Clean Air Act.

PSD Increments

On October 17, 2006 EPA finalized a new NAAQS for PM_{2.5} and is now required by the Clean Air Act to determine how much of this pollutant can be emitted in areas already meeting that standard. These determinations are made under the

PSD program, which establishes three thresholds of air quality and emissions to guide states in maintaining clean air. These thresholds are known as Increments, Significant Impact Levels, and Significant Monitoring Concentrations. The action proposed several different options to calculate the values for each of these thresholds.

EPA is taking comment on which of the options is the most appropriate for each respective threshold

Increments

An increment is a measure of how much of a pollutant can be added to the ambient air before the air quality will significantly deteriorate. More specifically, increments are the maximum allowable increase in ambient air concentrations of a criteria pollutant from a baseline concentration. Because increments only apply in areas covered by the PSD program, they are generally known as PSD increments. EPA is proposing three options for developing and setting PSD increments.

Significant Impact Levels (SILs)

The SIL is a de minimis threshold applied to individual facilities that apply for a permit to emit a regulated pollutant in an area that meets the NAAQS. The state and EPA must determine if emissions from that facility will cause the air quality to worsen. The SIL is a measure of whether a source may cause or contribute to a violation of PSD increment or the NAAQS, i.e. a significant deterioration of air quality.

If an individual facility projects an increase in emissions that result in ambient impacts greater than the established SIL, the permit applicant would be required to perform additional analyses to determine if those impacts will be more than the amount of the PSD increment. This analysis would combine the impact of the proposed facility when added on to all other sources in the area. EPA is proposing three options for developing SILs for PM_{2.5}:

(continued on page 2)

PSD Story (from page 1)

Significant Monitoring Concentration (SMC)

The third measure of air quality being addressed in today's action is the Significant Monitoring Concentration (SMC). The PSD program requires facilities to gather and submit 1-year pre-application ambient monitoring data. As part of a permit application, the appli-

cant must conduct modeling to demonstrate the impact of proposed emissions on air quality. If modeling shows an increase in ambient concentrations of pollution by an amount less than the SMC that EPA is proposing today, the source is exempted from the monitoring data requirement. EPA is seeking comments on three options for calculating the SMC.

Interested parties can download information on the proposal from EPA's Web site at: www.epa.gov/nsr. For more information, call Mr. Raj Rao at 919-541-5344 or email at rao.raj@epa.gov.

Web-based Compliance Tool Available for Tribes

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has launched a new Web-based Tribal Compliance Assistance Center that provides comprehensive compliance assistance and pollution prevention information for regulated activities in Indian country. The center can help tribal environmental professionals and facility owners comply with environmental regulations and get information on topics including waste management, air and water resources, drinking water,

and public safety. Viewers can report a complaint to EPA, find out the compliance status of facilities in Indian country, learn how to apply for federal grants, and locate specific personnel at EPA and other federal agencies.

EPA has 15 Web-based compliance assistance centers on agriculture, auto repair, automotive recycling, chemicals, construction, federal facilities, health care, metal finishing, paints and coatings, printed wiring board, printing, transportation, tribal and U.S. borders.

Tribal Compliance Assistance Center: <http://www.epa.gov/tribalcompliance/index.html>

More information on EPA's compliance assistance centers: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/assistance/centers/index.html>. The OAQPS contact for this information is Roxanne Smith, smith.roxanne@epa.gov

Tribal Participation at Air Toxics Meeting in Chicago

The Air Toxics Monitoring Data Analysis Workshop was held October 2-4, 2007, at the Westin Hotel in Chicago IL. Approximately 125 attendees shared and discussed results from national, regional, state, local, and tribal air toxics data

analyses performed over the past year. Among the presentations were "Phoenix Area Monitoring for the Joint Air Toxics Assessment Project", Leroy Williams, Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality, and "Characterization of Benzene and

Other Air Toxics in Akwesasne", Cassie David, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe. The workshop agenda and presentations are available at <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/amtic/airtox-daw-2007.html>.

EPA Approves First Ever Clean Air Act Plan for Reducing Air Pollution Developed by a Tribe

(Excerpts from EPA Region 2 air news release and internal news article) On Oct. 30, 2007 The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) announced that the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) has become the first tribe nationally to receive approval of a plan to protect air quality under the federal Clean Air Act. The plan, formally known as a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP), is a set of federally enforceable regulatory programs that identify how a tribe will achieve and maintain standards for principal air pollutants identified by EPA.

“By formally adopting this comprehensive plan to combat air pollution, the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has demonstrated environmental leadership in the greatest of Akwesasne traditions,” said Alan J. Steinberg, Regional Administrator after he signed the milestone document.

Under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, tribal nations that meet eligibility criteria can be treated in the same manner as a state for the purpose of developing clean air plans. The Saint

Regis Mohawk Tribe met the required criteria for developing a plan to protect the air quality within the exterior boundaries of the reservation. In 2007, the St. Regis met all the necessary criteria for EPA to approve the tribal plan by completing the public hearings required for the adoption of the environmental plan. The environmental pro-

“The Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe has demonstrated environmental leadership in the greatest of Akwesasne traditions”

grams included in the tribe's plan cover air quality standards for sulfur dioxide, particulate matter, nitrogen dioxide, ozone and other sources. It also includes measures to deal with permitting, open burning, and other enforcement activities

Located in northern-most New York State and bisected by the United States-Canada border, the Mohawk Territory is home to approximately 10,000 people. The tribe promotes lifestyles that respect, protect and enhance the environment for “the next seven generations at Akwesasne.”

EPA and the SRMT have been working together to tackle environmental issues since the late 80's. The SRMT Environmental Division has an accomplished air quality program. The SRMT air quality program operates an air monitoring station; issues burn permits; provides indoor air services; and performs special monitoring projects for air toxics.

To view the Tribal Implementation Plan, please visit: http://www.srmtenv.org/pfd_files/airtip.pdf. For more information on the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe and the EPA Tribal Program, visit <http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal/index.htm>.

Second Tribal Implementation Plan Approved

On November 14, 2007 EPA announced in the Federal Register the approval and promulgation of a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) submitted by the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut. The TIP establishes an enforceable cap on nitrogen oxide emissions from stationary sources owned by the Mohegan Tribal Gaming Authority and located within the external boundaries of the Mohegan Reservation. This action is intended to help attain the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone. This

action is being taken in accordance with the Clean Air Act.

On September 6, 2007 (72 FR 51204) EPA published a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (NPR) for the Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut. The NPR proposed approval of the Mohegan Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP) consisting of a tribal ordinance, entitled “Area Wide NO_x Emissions Limitation Regulation,” that establishes nitrogen oxide (NO_x) limit on emissions from stationary sources owned by the Mohe-

gan Tribal Gaming Authority and located within the external boundaries of the Mohegan Reservation. The formal TIP was submitted by Mohegan Tribe of Indians of Connecticut on May 4, 2005 and amended on August 22, 2007. For more information visit <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-AIR/2007/November/Day-14/a22221.htm>

Agreements for Two Primary Quality Assurance Organizations in Region 1

In October, the State of Maine Department of Environmental Protection (DEP), the Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians, the Passamaquoddy Tribe Pleasant Point and the Penobscot Nation reached an agreement for establishing a Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAO). The Commonwealth of Massachusetts DEP, the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 1 expect to finalize a second agreement for a PQAO later in November. These are the first PQAOs negotiated between federal, state and tribal agencies and cover all criteria air pollutant monitoring sites within the boundaries of each state operated by these agencies. EPA Region 1 is included in the second PQAO as it operates an air monitoring site at its Regional Laboratory in Chelmsford, MA.

All participating agencies are using the same or similar

EPA approved quality assurance project plans and standard operating procedures for the collection of criteria air pollutant data. All modifications and site changes will be documented and have prior approval by the EPA Region 1 Quality Assurance Office. The state agencies will provide quarterly audits on all the criteria pollutant monitors using the same standards and personnel for all sites in their respective PQAO. All the participants also agree to meet once a year to discuss air issues of common concern and to provide oversight on the common air quality monitoring program. EPA Region 1 also agrees to continue providing certification for all ozone calibrators used in both PQAOs. The state agencies further agree to provide a common laboratory, and to provide training to all site operators in each PQAO on an as needed basis. All criteria air pollution data and quality assurance data will be entered in the

EPA AQS air quality data system either by the state agency, EPA Region 1 or the respective tribe. All ozone and continuous PM 2.5 data will also be reported to EPA's AIRNOW web page on an hourly basis.

By combining the air monitoring sites in each state in a PQAO, EPA Region 1, the State of Maine DEP, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts DEP and the five tribal environmental agencies will be able to better ensure quality and uniformity in the air quality data being used for air quality forecasting and mapping throughout the State of Maine, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and on the Tribal Lands in these states. In addition, this action will allow all agencies to save resources by reducing the number of required independent NPAP audits and PEP audits. For additional information contact Norm Beloin at beloin.norm@epa.gov

“By combining the air monitoring sites in each state in a PQAO, EPA Region 1, the State of Maine DEP, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts DEP and the five tribal environmental agencies will be able to better ensure quality and uniformity in the air quality data”

Interim Wildland and Prescribed Burn Policy Under Review

EPA has been pursuing the completion of the document *Interim Air Quality Policy on Wildland and Prescribed Burns*. This document provides guidance on mitigating air pollution impacts caused by fires in the wildlands and the wildland/urban interface. It identifies the responsibilities of wildland owners/managers and state/tribal air quality managers to work together to coordinate fire activities, minimize air pol-

lutant emissions, manage smoke from wildland and prescribed fires managed for resource benefits, and establish emergency action programs to mitigate the unavoidable impacts on the public.

During the month of September and October, conference calls with tribal, state and local agencies and interested parties have been held

to receive comments on the policy and guidance described in the current draft. EPA intends to complete the document in the summer of 2008. The document can be found at:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarp/g/tl/memoranda/firefnl.pdf>,

For additional information contact Charlene Spells spells.charlene@epa.gov



Picture courtesy of Minnesota Dept. of Natural Resources

EPA and Allies Against Asthma Form Partnership

EPA and Allies Against Asthma have formed a partnership to reduce asthma in communities and are encouraging tribal environmental professionals and tribal health centers to join the "Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments Network".

The Network provides community-based asthma programs a platform for real-time learning that can drive the ongoing

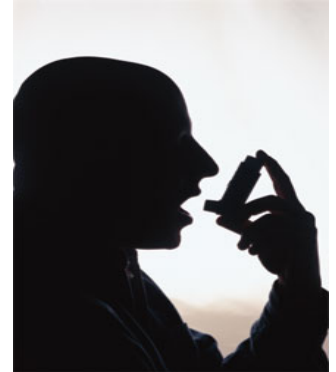
improvement of asthma care and access to cutting edge tools and resources.

To become part of this interactive Network visit www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org or for more information contact Chris Griffin at (202) 343.9421 or griffin.chris@epa.gov.

The Great Lakes Region Asthma Forum was held on February 8-9 in Chicago. Over 140 participants from mid-western asthma programs at-

tended the forum.

The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Michigan, the Bois Fort Band of Chippewa Minnesota, the Grand Traverse Band of Michigan, and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council of Wisconsin were in attendance. For additional information regarding the Forum, please contact Sheila Batka (312) 886-6053 or Lara Lasky (312) 353-5614.



The New National Ambient Air Quality Standards Review Process (see chart on page 6)

The National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) program is one of the largest regulatory programs managed by EPA. Because of this, the program is often in the spotlight. Recently, that spotlight has focused on the process by which the NAAQS are reviewed and revised. According to the Clean Air Act, EPA is supposed to review the NAAQS for each criteria pollutant—lead, particulate matter, ozone, sulfur oxides, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide—every five years and decide whether any revisions to existing standards are appropriate.

On December 15, 2005, Deputy Administrator Marcus Peacock requested a "top-to-bottom" review of the process by which NAAQS are reviewed and revised. An internal EPA workgroup was formed which focused on four main topics: how to improve the timeliness of the reviews, how to ensure that the most up-to-date scientific information would be considered, how to clarify the differences between scientific and policy judg-

ments; and how to characterize uncertainties in scientific and technical information.

Following a year-long process, which included consultations with the Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee (CASAC) (an external body of experts established under the Clean Air Act and charged with advising the Administrator on the science and on the standards themselves), stakeholder groups, and congressional staff, the Deputy Administrator directed the Agency to institute several major changes in the NAAQS review process (see http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/memo_process_for_reviewing_naaqs.pdf for a copy of the memo).

First, OAQPS and ORD will now work together to issue a single integrated plan to guide the entire review. The planning process will begin as soon as the prior NAAQS review is completed to ensure that the most policy-relevant scientific questions are at the heart of the next review of a standard.

Second, the voluminous Criteria Document—used in former reviews to critically evaluate all the new scientific studies—will be replaced by a more

concise "Integrated Science Assessment" document that contains an evaluation and synthesis of the most policy-relevant new science.

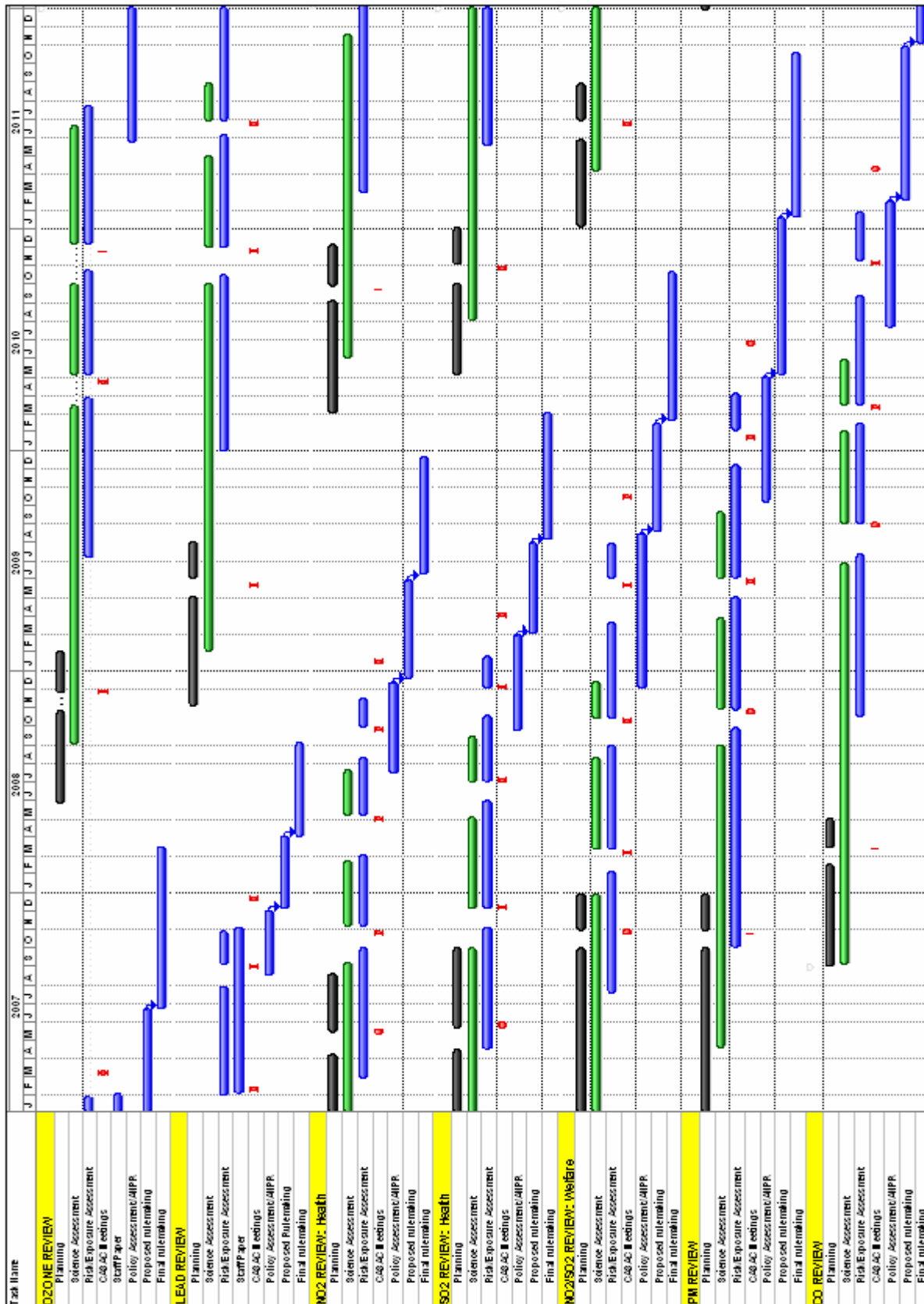
Third, OAQPS will revamp the Risk and Exposure Assessments, making them more concise and focused on key results.

Finally, the Staff Paper will be replaced by an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPR) containing a policy assessment that reflects Agency views, rather than staff views. This will ensure that the Agency hears a wide range of views regarding potential changes to the NAAQS.

CASAC will continue to provide advice to the Administrator on all key elements of the NAAQS review. Each review will continue to involve a series of consultations and peer reviews by CASAC.

EPA is transitioning to this new process gradually. The table on page 4 represents the proposed schedule for the criteria pollutant reviews.

Projected NAAQS Review Schedule (developed Sept, 2007)



Color scheme – Planning, Science Assessment Risk and Policy Assessment ANPR & Rulemaking, CASAC Review

Air Quality System (AQS) Call Center(s)...Getting to Know the People Trying to Help You



Level 1 Call Center Staff 1st row: Debra Velasquez, Director, 2nd row : Felecia Prince, Marion Shelton, Florence Poole, Kecia Salmon 3rd row :Willie Williams, Sunil Vasan,

Does it seem like every time you call the AQS Call Center you rarely talk to the same person? Does the AQS system receive so many calls that it's manned by an army of staff night and day? Well... that's really not the case. For AQS, EPA provides user assistance at three different levels, based upon the type of help needed.

EPA has a number of information management systems that utilize helpdesks or call centers. In order to provide resource efficiencies, the EPA Office of Environmental Information has consolidated an EPA Call Center in Washington DC to provide basic assistance, which is considered Level 1 assistance. All calls initially go to the Washington Call Center which is open from 6:00 AM to 9:00 PM EDT. Troy Paylor or Rosetta Jones are also Level 1 responders that happen to be situated in RTP, NC. The phone rings at their desks as if they were in DC.

When calling the helpdesk, the user must identify his/herself as an "AQS user" because Level 1 personnel support multiple applications. The Level 1 personnel will take your call and open a "ticket" that will be used to track your particular issue(s). The Level 1 personnel can handle most simple questions or issues related to resetting passwords or basic AQS application problems. They will listen to the callers issue and then determine whether a Level 2 Client Service person is best suited to handle the particular issue. The

Level 1 personnel will transfer the "ticket" to the Level 2 group in RTP, NC. who are more knowledgeable about the AQS system. The Level 2 Client Service staff provide the primary support for the AQS system and are available for 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM EDT. Staff members present the monthly new user orientations course and the bimonthly question and answer session set up specifically to help tribal AQS users. Of the four Level 2 personnel, tribes will most likely be talking to Tom Lewis or Pamela McIntyre. They will do their best to help solve your problems.

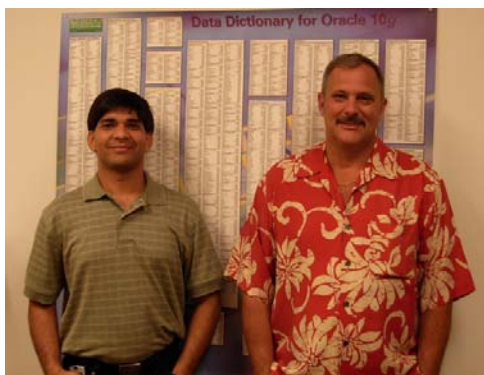


RTP Level 1 Responders
Troy Paylor and Rosetta Jones

In addition to Levels 1 and 2, there is also a Level 3 database support service. Sanjai Singh and Tom Conklin provide primary support for the Oracle database environments.

They add new users to the Oracle account and generate new passwords and account emails and provide specialized Oracle support for the helpline.

There is also a separate helpdesk for central data exchange (CDX) questions. EPA encourages our AQS users to call the CDX Helpdesk when they know they have a CDX problem (such as their CDX password). However, whenever there is a doubt about whom to call..... then call the EPA Call Center. They will know which helpdesk should be assisting the user. The CDX Helpdesk can be reached at 1-888-890-1995 or EPACDX@CSC.COM.



Database Support Services (Level 3)
Sanjai Singh Tom Conklin

Although it seems complicated the three levels of support have been developed to provide the assistance needed while utilizing the talents and resources as wisely as possible. If you have an AQS question, problem, or issue, please contact the AQS Helpdesk by calling the EPA Call Center at 1-866-411-4372 or email them at "epacallcenter@epa.gov".



Level 2 Support L-R: Ed Peckham, Tom Lewis, Pamela McIntyre, Ryan Oudreaux

OAQPS Finishes Tribal Consultation Policy Guidance Document

EPA believes early and meaningful tribal involvement is consistent with the federal trust responsibility to federally-recognized tribes and furthers the Agency's overall goal of protecting human health and the environment. With this in mind, OAQPS has completed the document titled: *Consulting with Indian Tribal Governments*.

This document describes OAQPS' views regarding tribal consultation and assists OAQPS personnel in reviewing EPA actions for effects on tribes and consulting with tribes.

The document will help OAQPS introduce staff and managers to the basics

of government-to-government consultation with American Indian governments within the context of the work performed in OAQPS. It provides a background to the subject matter that involves many important, historical, complex, and challenging issues. The document will help policy, guidance or regulation writers determine if there are impacts or effects on tribes, and if so, how to proceed. For the purpose of this document, the term "**action**" refers to any policy, guidance, or regulation developed by OAQPS. This can include actions such as the area source regulations, National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) implementation, and guidance. The Consultation

Policy was posted on the OAR Tribal Website (<http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal/announce.html>)

in August for review by the interested tribes. OAQPS will be conducting an internal OAQPS training course entitled "Working Effectively with Tribes" in November and plans to use tribal comments to revise this document prior to the meeting. Therefore, OAQPS would welcome any comments on the document. For further information on the document contact Yvonne Johnson at: Johnson.yvonnew@epa.gov

2004-2006 Air Quality Design Values on Air Trends Web Site

The 2004-2006 air quality design value spreadsheets and other updates are now posted on the EPA Air Trends Web Site <http://www.epa.gov/air/airtrends/>

A new feature is a space to keep last year's version of the design value spreadsheets posted and kept available rather than have them disappear

from public view.

In addition to the design value spreadsheets, we have updated the "fact book" pages to give more details on concentrations and AQI values, similar to what once appeared in the full-length Air Quality Trends reports.

See <http://www.epa.gov/air/airtrends/>

[factbook.html](http://www.epa.gov/air/airtrends/factbook.html) and http://www.epa.gov/air/airtrends/aqi_info.html

The information are not formal or final EPA findings, and are subject to revision. Some design values have detailed qualifying information in footnote form.

Flexible Air Permitting Rule Proposed (Excerpts from Rule Fact Sheet)

In 1990, Congress amended the Clean Air Act to require all States to develop operating permit programs. These programs require an operating permit for each industrial facility that is a "major source" of air pollution. These permits clarify which underlying federal air pollution control requirements (applicable requirements) apply to the source and requires the source to track its compliance with meeting these requirements.

On August 28, 2007, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed revisions to both the clean air operating permits (title V) and the new source review (NSR) programs under the Clean Air Act. These proposed revisions would make more broadly

available a new approach to air permitting known as a "flexible air permit". Flexible air permits would encourage pollution prevention, provide increased flexibility, enable industrial facilities to make rapid changes to respond to market demands, save resources for state permitting authorities, and improve public information.

Under the operating permits program, a flexible air permit would explain its operational plans and possible changes to those plans for the duration of the permit term – typically 5 years -- and the state, local or tribal air quality permitting authority would include permit conditions to ensure protection of public health and the environment for all of

those operating conditions. These flexible permits do not provide approval for operational changes not within the scope of conditions considered at the time of the permit application, and facilities would still be required to meet their requirements under the Clean Air Act.

Interested parties can download the notice from EPA's web site on the Internet under recently signed rules at the following address: <http://www.epa.gov/nsr>. For further information about the proposed rulemaking, contact Michael Trutna at: trutna.michael@epa.gov

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center Steering Committee Meets...Global Climate Change, Mercury and Indoor Air Technical Assistance on the Table

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center is the first technical training center designed specifically to meet the needs of tribes involved in air quality management in Indian Country and is co-managed by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), located at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff; EPA; and tribal air quality professionals. In order to provide some direction to the TAMS, a seven member Steering Committee, made up of tribal environmental professionals from federally recognized tribes or inter-tribal organizations, meets every 6 months to discuss progress, strategize and plan on what technical assistance needs to be pursued based upon current environmental issues. The TAMS Committee convened for their bi-annual meeting on October 23-25 in Las Vegas at the TAMS Training Center.

The meeting began with the introduction of the TAMS Steering Committee and their new members which include:

- Bill Thompson- Penobscot Indian Nation
- Micah Gibson – Yurok Tribe

The remaining members of the Steering Committee include:

- Steve Crawford- Passamaquoddy Tribe-Pleasant Point
- Lyn Hall – Bad River Band of Chippewa
- Ryan Callison – Cherokee Nation
- Jason Walker- Northwestern Band of Shoshone Nation
- Jim Woods – Makah Indian Tribe



Mehrdad Khatabi (left) receiving certificate of appreciation from Darrel Harmon (middle) EPA, OAR Tribal Lead and Cal Seciwa (right) ITEP Director

Outgoing members of the Steering Committee were Ondrea Barber from the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and Tony Basabe from the Swinomish Tribe who were thanked for their service over the past two years. In addition, Merhdad Khtabi was recognized for all his hard work during his tenure as acting director for ITEP while they searched for a new director, Calbert Seciwa, who was hired earlier this year.

The meeting was a mix of progress reports from the Steering Committee and presentations on particular topics of current interest like climate change, indoor air quality initiatives, the National Performance Evaluation Program, AirNow mapping and AQS. The meeting included a strategic planning exercise which led to the Steering Committee

forming subcommittees to pursue issues related to global climate change and mercury. Information on the TAMS center can be found at: <http://www4.nau.edu/tams/index.html>

Tribes to Tribes

Local Articles and Activities to Help Tribal Communities

The following article will be a new feature in the Newsletter. The intent is to highlight the local activities that are accomplished by those in the tribal communities trying to make a positive difference, however big or little, to the health, welfare and environment of their communities.

If you have something that you'd like to contribute, please email it to us. We'll try and get it in the next newsletter.

Wecowsin is an article written by Bill Thompson, the Air Quality Manager From the Penobscot Nation located on Indian Island, Maine. Bill writes the article with a "down-east" flavor



Bill Thompson during an excursion to Red Rocks after the Oct. Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Steering Committee Meeting



-----W I N D-----

Wecowsin means "wind" or "air." In this little corner of the Community Flyer, there will appear each month something from your tribe's Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Program. Any feedback, comments, complaints, or questions are welcomed. Bill Thompson, Air Quality Manager and John Banks, DNR Director welcome your thoughts and opinions.

The idea of this column is to promote Clean Air practices in each of our homes, in our personal behaviors throughout each day, in line with our Penobscot cultural value system.

The idea of this column is to promote Clean Air practices in each of our homes, in our personal behaviors throughout each day, in line with our Penobscot cultural value system.

In no way is this column meant to be an indictment of anything that you choose to do. Instead, this is in place as a simple thought-provoking tool, to reveal some good ideas and some interesting notions

——On Burning Trash Outside——

Do you know what a burn barrel is? Take a 55 gallon metal barrel, open the top up like a can of green beans and puncture holes around the bottom sides for good ventilation. Next, throw trash in and ignite. It's a useful device for destroying private documents and things that you wouldn't want identity thieves to get their hands on. However, burn barrels are also one of the worst contributors to ground level air pollution.

There used to be a burn barrel on the Thompson property back in the day. About ten years ago my own little family moved back to the old homestead on Oak Hill, and the woodstove was long gone. There was only an oil-burning forced hot air furnace (that's a whole 'nother headache right there...) so the practice of burning important papers had to be handled another way. That was where the burn barrel came in. I found one with U.S. ARMY spray painted on it, which appeared one fine day in the week of the Spring Cleanup. I figured it was free for the taking. (Used to be the time of year when a lot of furniture changed hands on a rez...)

After burning off the industrial sludge that coated the inside, it made a fine burn barrel. Boy, did we have a grand old time burning important papers. In fact, we began to burn not-so-important papers, and next thing you know, we were burning things that ought not be burned. I'd heard rumors about cyanide gas being given off from burning plastic, but I wasn't burning all that much. Of course, I didn't know how much cyanide was "too much," and what was a safe level, if there was one. I just figured that this poison was "going away" into the atmosphere. It would sort itself out "up there."

Well, I was wrong on several counts, I tell you. No one had ever informed me that using a burn barrel was a bad idea. I looked at it like this: it's my property, I can burn wood from my trees, I can burn my leaves, so I figure I can burn my papers and plastic if I want to. I can do what I want on my own property. Except that the air doesn't stay on my property. Even the rainwater travels into the ground, washing the ash and contaminants along with it from the burn barrel, into our communal aquifer.

Do you know what is in the smoke from a burn barrel? I'll tell you. Unlike municipal garbage incinerators, which burn at around 2200 degrees F, burn barrels rarely even approach 500 degrees F, and often they simply smolder. Because of the way paper is treated these days, furans, dioxins, and other halogenated hydrocarbons are emitted. Nasty business right there. Also, burn barrels give off high levels of carbon monoxide, carbon dioxide, sulfur dioxide, cyanide, formaldehyde and heavy metals such as arsenic, lead, barium, cadmium, and mercury, to name a few. Had I known this back then, of course I would have stopped burning trash outside. For important papers, I bought one of them shredders for twenty bucks back when Service Merchandise was still around. *(Continued on page 12)*

Upcoming Meetings/Conferences

2008 Symposium on Innovating for Sustainable Results:

2008 Symposium on Innovating for Sustainable Results: Integrated Strategies for Climate, Energy and the Environment will provide participants with an opportunity to learn about some of the key innovation challenges of the day. This event is being held January 7 – 10th, 2008, in Chapel Hill, North Carolina in the heart of the University of North Carolina campus.

Representatives from EPA and other federal agencies, state, local and tribal governments, and the

not-for-profit community will be attending. Business and industry representatives will be attending by invitation. On January 8th and 9th, participants will hear plenary presentations and select from a variety of session topics that explore how to realize the full potential of innovative strategies, using holistic approaches to achieve sustainable results, and collaborating for environmental problem-solving. Participants will also have an opportunity to attend pre- and post-symposia workshops

on January 7th and 10th.

The *2008 Symposium on Innovating for Sustainable Results* builds upon a series of State-EPA Environmental Innovation Symposia and National Air Innovation Conferences. Co-sponsors include the U.S. EPA, the Council for Excellence in Government, and the Environmental Council of the States. For more information, visit www.excelgov.org/sustainableresults

**January 7-10, 2008
Chapel Hill, NC**



2008 Conference on Managing Environmental Quality Systems

The EPA Quality Staff sponsors an annual conference on managing quality systems for environmental programs. This conference is a national forum for disseminating and exchanging information on managing the quality of environmental data; discussion

and action on issues of national concern; training; and technical presentations. The 2008 EPA Conference on Managing Environmental Quality Systems will take place April 21-24, 2008 in Seattle, Washington. More information on this event is coming soon. The Web

Site for this conference is: <http://www.epa.gov/quality1/meeting.html>
Over the last 5 years, EPA has had quality assurance sessions devoted to ambient air monitoring that have been attended by some tribes.

**April 21-24, 2008
Seattle, WA**



State Implementation Plan (SIP) Training

Tribes have the right and opportunity to review and comment on State Implementation Plans. Over the last two years, EPA has been helping interested tribal staff in their understanding of the SIP process and how to effectively represent tribal concerns to state agencies. We have held four high successful workshops to assist tribes

get involved in the SIP process and to build relationships with states. These were held in Chicago, San Diego, Oklahoma City and Seattle. Two more workshops are planned for the new fiscal year. One was held in Anchorage, Alaska November 6-8, 2007 and the second in scheduled for Kansas City, Kansas May 6-8,

2008. More information will be provided on the OAR Tribal Website. Each workshop is tailored to meet the needs of tribes attending the workshop. The instructor team includes federal experts in the CAA and state SIP experts.

**May 6-8, 2008
Kansas City, KS**



We're on the Web

<http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal/>

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. For more information about the newsletter, or to contribute stories and pictures contact:

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Community and Tribal Programs Group

Wecowsin (from page 10)

Works like a charm. I'd advise investing in a shredder that makes confetti, because that would be a nightmare for some junk poker to try to tape back together...

Why, here's a shredder that runs on hamster power, and then there is the manually operated shredder (scissors)...



There is always a better way to go about doing something. It just takes a little bit of thought, and some consideration for those around you. There aren't that many of us who come from this little island; we are like an endangered species: rare and precious. Let's take care of ourselves and each other, and we will all breathe a little easier.

Next time: What you gonna do with all them leaves, chummy?