



OPPT Tribal News

Environmental *VOICES*

Office of Pollution
Prevention and Toxics and
Tribal Environmental
News Exchange

In This Issue

- 1 *Tribal Programs and the Millennium*
- 2 *OPPT Tribal Program*
- 3 *News and Events*
- 5 *Tribal Environmental Programs*
- 9 *From the Office of Pesticides*
- 12 *Resources*
- 13 *Kid's Page*
- 14 *EPA Region 8 Interns*
- 14 *OPPT's GEMS*
- 15 *Interview with Mavis Smith*
- 15 *Calendar*
- 16 *Web Sites and Hot Lines*

Featuring Pesticides Programs

Tribal Environmental Programs Managing the Environment into the Next Millennium

American Indians in partnership with EPA have been working together more than ever in the planning, developing, and implementation of environmental programs in Indian Country. American Indians have always been keepers of their own environment. But as more environmental issues and problems surface in Native American communities, this partnership becomes even more critical. EPA realizes the importance of capacity building and Tribes implementing their environmental programs. Some efforts of EPA are to increase tribal capacity building and technical assistance and training for tribal environmental program managers. As tribal communities manage their diverse environmental concerns and issues, it is vital that EPA understands the different environmental programs managed by tribal organizations. With this understanding, EPA can be more flexible with various approaches so that Tribes, states, and EPA can effectively continue working together in protecting the environment and public health of American Indians well into the twenty-first century.

Several tribal groups in different areas of Indian Country have shared their environmental programs and are featured in this Summer edition of OPPT Tribal News, including:

- ▶ The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency
- ▶ The Gila River Indian Community
- ▶ The St. Regis Mohawk Environmental Division,
- ▶ The Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc.



OPPT Tribal Program

EPA's Office of Pollution and Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) has established a tribal program to communicate its programs and activities to Indian tribes and to build a more effective partnership with Indian tribes.

The tribal program was developed in 1998 with assistance of other EPA offices, the National Indian Workgroup, EPA's Tribal Operations Committee, OPPT's Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA), and members of Indian tribes.

Major activities of OPPT's tribal program include grants funding, internal training on tribal issues, follow-up activities from Tribal Operations Committee meetings, interagency coordination efforts, and stakeholder outreach.

OPPT and the tribal program also circulate this newsletter, *OPPT Tribal News*, to communicate and exchange environmental concerns and issues facing Indian country. The newsletter provides information to tribal members, governments, and tribal organizations on tribal programs and projects offered throughout the Agency and by other environmental organizations. Additionally, *OPPT Tribal News* seeks to provide information to readers about environmental programs, issues, and activities managed by many tribal organizations.

From the Editor...

With great enthusiasm, OPPT presents this Summer edition of *OPPT Tribal News*. This issue provides information on several toxic and pollution prevention environmental programs and educational activities. A wealth of knowledge can be gained by exchanging this information with tribes and other environmental professionals, and, in turn, allows us the benefit of understanding the tribal environmental issues and concerns. I offer my thanks and gratitude to all tribal contributors providing us with program information and beautiful photographs that have highlighted this EPA publication.

Also, I give full credit and thanks to our summer intern, Mavis Smith, for promoting this exchange of information and for coordinating the articles for this issue.

We hope that our readers enjoy this issue. As always, we encourage you to provide any comments, ideas, or concerns that you may have about our programs.

—Mary Lauterbach,
OPPT Tribal Coordinator

Announcement

The editors are pleased to announce that in response to a larger number of requests from our readers for news and information related to the use of pesticides on or near Indian country, and the programs and activities of the Office of Pesticides Programs, the **OPPT Tribal News** will become the **OPPTS Tribal News**. Watch for this expanded newsletter in the Fall!

To be placed on our mailing list, write to: OPPT Tribal News, 401 M Street SW, Washington, DC 24060, or send an e-mail to lauterbach.mary@epa.gov

OPPT Tribal News can be viewed on the Internet at <http://www.epa.gov/opptinr/tribal/pubs>

Mavis Smith, Summer Editor
Shanita Ridley, Writer
Gilah Langner, Editorial Assistance
Brian Adams, Graphic Design

OPPT's Mission

Promote pollution prevention

Promote the use of less toxic chemicals

Promote the reduction of risks

Promote public understanding of the risks of chemicals

News & Events

June FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Workgroup Meeting

The FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Workgroup held a special meeting on June 28th and 29th to discuss the unique role of the workgroup and its relationship to the purpose, goals and objectives of FOSTTA. Since many new tribal members have joined FOSTTA, the meeting reflected on how tribal representatives can assist FOSTTA and how FOSTTA can assist tribal representatives.

Tribal representatives attending this meeting pictured at left from top to bottom, included Sharri Venno, Chairperson of the Tribal Affairs Workgroup and member of the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians; Phyllis Attocknie, Comanche Nation of Oklahoma; Jeff Besougloff, Upper Sioux and Lower Sioux of Minnesota; Georjean Moomaw, Colville Confederated Tribe of Washington; Steven Parker of the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community; Loretta Russette, Chippewa Cree; Bernadette Hudnell, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; and the OPPT summer intern, Mavis Smith, Navajo Nation.

Among the discussions on pollution prevention and toxics were presentations on Pollution Prevention and the Tribes, the June National Lead Conference, an update on OPPT's efforts in the Children's Lead Screening program, and an overview of the Toxic Release Inventory Program, with an emphasis on new facilities reporting current TRI data. For further information on FOSTTA or if you have an interest in participating in the Tribal Affairs Workgroup, please contact Sharri Venno, Chairperson of the Tribal Affairs Workgroup, at 207-532-4273 or env.planning@ainop.com.

Tribal Affairs Workgroup members at the June 28-29, 1999 Meeting:

Tribal Participation in NPCDs National Lead Program Development Workshop

During the week of June 14th, EPA's National Program Chemicals Division (NPCD) hosted a conference in New Orleans. The theme of the conference, and the keynote speech given by Division Director John Melone, was "The Next 10 Years: A Look at the Vision for the Lead Program." This year's tribal representation was greater than ever—22 Native Americans attended from all over the United States, from as far away as Alaska. Special thanks go to Georjean Moomaw of the Colville (Washington) Federated Tribes and Eugenia Quintana of the Navajo Nation for their participation in the agenda planning group.

Lin Moos, Associate Division Director, facilitated a session dedicated to tribal issues and announced that funds would be available for a tribal conference in FY2000. Tribal representatives had a lengthy discussion on the issue of having a separate tribal conference and possible topics to be included. There was also a discussion of the \$1.5M funding available for 404(g) tribal grants and the additional \$1.2M set-aside by Congress supporting tribes in other lead activities. For additional information on available funding, contact Lin Moos at 202-260-1866, and for information regarding the conference, contact Darlene Watford at 202-260-3989.

Tribal Educators Workshop in Portland, Oregon

On May 26, 1999, various tribal educators met in Portland, Oregon to network and discuss tribal concerns in the environmental education community. The workshop was sponsored and organized by the Northwest Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE) in conjunction with EPA's Design for the Environment, the Advanced Technology Environmental Education Center (ATEEC), the National Science Foundation, and the Oregon Institute for Technology.

Among the concerns discussed at this workshop, are several challenges faced by tribal college educators, including:

- ▶ Providing professional development and continuing education
- ▶ Participation of isolated tribal colleges
- ▶ Retaining the unique aspects of the colleges

- ▶ Supporting student financial needs
- ▶ Soliciting grants from federal, state, and tribal organizations
- ▶ Student recruitment

As part of an ongoing effort, the educators are working to develop a curriculum module which incorporates the history and culture of Native Americans and other indigenous communities into mainstream natural resources and environmental management, as well as the social sciences. The module will also examine relationships concerning environmental justice and jurisdictional issues.

For additional information on the tribal workshop, please contact David Dzurec (Northwest PETE) at 541-885-1646. To learn more about the proposed curriculum module, contact Donita Gray-Krueger, ATEEC, at 319-273-5814 or Marla Hendriksson, EPA, at 202-260-8301.

Tribal Lead (Pb) Seminar

The Chippewa Cree Tribe of the Rocky Boy's Reservation sponsored a Tribal Lead (Pb) Seminar at Region 8 offices in Denver, CO on April 26th & 27th. Loretta Russette and Diane Russette organized the Pb Seminar where over 30 participants represented 17 of the 26 reservations in Region 8. Seminar participants included tribal and EPA environmental department directors, program managers/coordinators, technicians, and attorneys.

The purpose of the Pb Seminar was to inform tribes about the Pb program. There were several guest speakers, including Alvin Windy Boy, Chippewa Cree Councilman, and Yvette Joseph-Fox, Executive Director of the National Indian Health Board. Topics covered everything from TSCA Title IV sections 402 and 404 and funding issues to tribal law, statutory limitations, and jurisdictional issues. As a result of this seminar, several additional Region 8 tribes have expressed an interest in applying for Pb grants, and members of the Indian Health Board have taken an interest in lead poisoning.

EPA Approves Upper and Lower Sioux's Lead-Hazard Program

EPA's Region 5 has recently approved the Upper and Lower Sioux Communities' lead-hazard training and licensing programs. Upper and Lower Sioux have been authorized to administer and enforce within their community lead-hazard programs which certify that individuals and firms are properly trained and licensed to perform lead-based paint activities. In addition, the Upper and Lower

Sioux programs, evaluated as being at least as protective as the federal program, will offer education to homeowners so that they may safely eliminate lead hazards in their home.

For more information about the Upper and Lower Sioux lead training and certification programs, contact Jeff Besougloff, Director, Office of the Environment, 507-637-8353.

"We are pleased to have the Upper and Lower Sioux Communities be the first tribal programs approved Nationally. We look forward to a successful partnership with Upper and Lower Sioux in our mutual effort to reduce the hazards of lead-based paint to children on tribal lands."

— Phyllis Reed, Chief, Pesticides and Toxics Branch.



Tribal Environmental Programs

Alaskan Aleuts Explore Connection Between Cancer and Toxins

By Mike Brubaker, Environmental Programs Coordinator - A/PIA

Even in the remote corners of Alaska, global and regional environmental changes are having a significant impact on the lives of tribal people. Over the past decades, Aleuts inhabiting the islands of Western Alaska have begun to notice changes in their environment. Reductions in the population of marine mammals and fish, and evidence of pollution from increasing modernization, industrial development and military sites, are just a few examples. Shadowing these changes have been an increase in various types of cancer. In particular, Alaskan Natives are at risk for cancers of the colon/rectum and lungs. Many Aleuts question whether there is a connection between environmental changes and the types of cancer appearing in Aleut villages.

In response to these concerns, one regional organization is launching a research project aimed at informing tribal members about cancer trends throughout the region and in individual villages. The Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. (A/PIA) is a non-profit consortium of twelve federally-recognized tribes. A/PIA's Environmental Program provides technical assistance to Aleut Tribes and helps local tribes build capacity so that they can address environmental issues locally.

The cancer project will review existing data on a village-specific basis. Fortunately, there is excellent information available. Since 1969 the Indian Health Service has been tracking cancer among Alaskan Natives through the Alaska Native Tumor Registry. A/PIA's cancer



Wearing traditional Aleut dress, the Atka Dancers, a group of youth from the Aleut village of Atka, travel to perform in the local Aleutian chain and other Alaska Native villages.

project aims to review the data for each of the twelve tribes in the region and then provide informative presentations in several villages to raise awareness and start a dialogue on how cancer rates can be reduced in the future. Environmental exposure to pollutants is just one piece in the cancer puzzle. Hopefully, the cancer project will shed light on ways that cancer can be reduced, and if there are environmental causes, A/PIA hopes to find ways that tribes can minimize exposure and help maintain a healthy environment to Aleut communities.

A Brief History of the Aleuts

According to some archaeologists, the Aleut people or Unangan (oo nung un) have inhabited the Aleutian Islands for over 70 centuries. Aleuts subsisted in relative peace, living off the land and sea until Russian fur traders came in the 18th century to harvest pelts from the region's abundant sea mammal population and took over their land.

All Aleuts suffered under the tyranny of the Russian fur hunters. In the early 1800s, some were forced into labor in far-away locations such as the Pribilof Islands in Alaska or the Commander Islands in Russia to help in the fur seal harvest. As Russia became isolated, the Aleut people in Russia were cut off from their families remaining in the Aleutian Islands. The purchase of Alaska by the U.S. further separated the people because the Commander Islands were not included in the purchase.

After near extinction of the area's sea mammal populations, the Russians moved on and left the Aleuts to rebuild their villages and continue their traditional subsistence lifestyle. It is estimated during that time the Aleut population was reduced from between 15,000 and 18,000 to 3,600.

Aleut lives were changed once again when Japanese forces invaded and occupied the Attu and Kiska Islands during World War II. The U.S. Government evacuated most of the people from the Aleutian region and relocated them to internment camps in Southeastern Alaska. There many died due to wretched living conditions and disease. It has taken decades for the Aleut people to reclaim their native lands, and efforts to restore the damage done to villages during the war still continue.

Tribal Environmental Programs

Gila River Indian Community Focuses on Restoration, Positive Development

By Lisa M. Flores & Selena C. Cruye, Interns, Department of Environmental Quality Education

The Gila River Indian Community (GRIC) is the ancestral home of the A'kimel O'odham (Pima) and Pee Posh (Maricopa) Native American peoples. The Gila River Indian Community is a federally-recognized Indian tribe, located in the Maricopa and Pinal counties immediately south of Phoenix, Arizona. The community's 620 square mile reservation was established in 1859 by Executive Order and now includes approximately 12,000 members. Historically, the Pima and Maricopa Native Americans and their predecessors, the HoHoKam, created and maintained a sophisticated system of irrigation from the Gila and Salt Rivers, which, along with the then natural wealth of the rivers, provided an abundant life style. However, the diversion of the river waters upstream severely disrupted the agricultural based economy and the lifestyle of the community.

As the community moves into the 21st century, elected leaders have articulated a vision that includes restoration of the community's water rights and agricultural economy. Leaders have also designated certain lands for economic development to provide employment opportunities for community members and revenues for the local government and enterprises. Preservation, protection, and restoration of the natural environment for use by current and future generations are major priorities.

In addition to the economic viability, development that occurs should be a positive reflection of community heritage, culture, and values. Development that poses a significant threat to the natural environment or health, safety, and general welfare of the community are discouraged. In 1997, the Community Council approved the "Business and Land

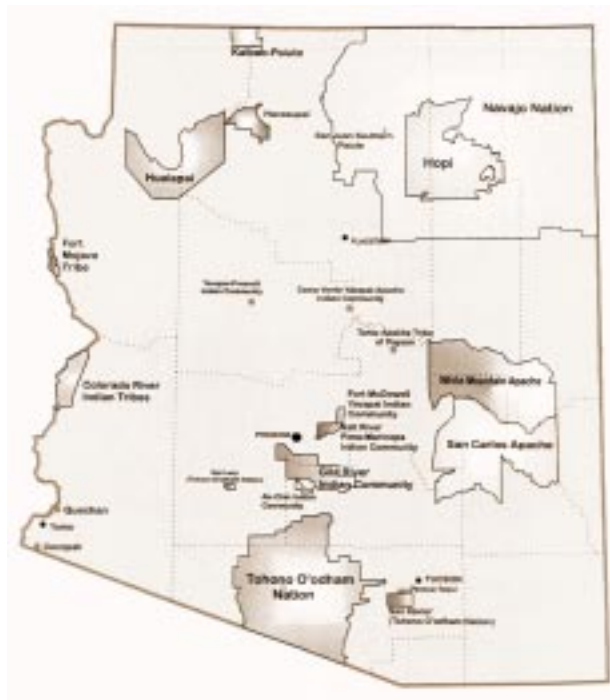
Procedure" that provides for comprehensive technical review of all proposed projects and businesses on community land, including technical analysis of any environmental risks to assist policy makers in facility approvals. The GRIC Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and Land Use Planning & Economic Development Department were the lead agencies developing the procedure.

With the General Assistance Program and other EPA Grants, GRIC DEQ expanded its environmental capacity to include Air Quality, Chemical Emergency Planning, Hazardous Waste, and Remedial Waste programs. GRIC DEQ manages comprehensive programs that provide technical and compliance assistance, take enforcement actions, and issue permits. In addition to monitoring environmental indicators through surface water sampling and a Groundwater Monitoring Network, GRIC DEQ also oversees remedial projects, recycles waste, and provides



Durrell Gerlaugh, GRIC DEQ's Education & Outreach Officer, with Headstart students (3 and 4 years of age). The students are learning about plant and food growth and the role of plants in cleaning the air

environmental education in the schools. GRIC has a substantive mentoring program for community members interested in environmental careers and provides leadership on voluntary risk reduction activities through an agricultural "Best Management Practices" working group.



Tribal Environmental Programs

St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division Utilizes GIS to Improve Environmental Quality

By Lawrence Swamp,
St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division

The Mohawk tradition of great reverence for Mother Earth and it's inhabitants has been affected by pollution from industries adjacent to the St. Regis Mohawk reservation. In response, the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe (SRMT) is implementing an environmental protection program for the reservation, which features a Geographical Information Systems (GIS) program to assist the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe's Environment Division in monitoring, assessing, analyzing, and mapping pollution problems in the community.

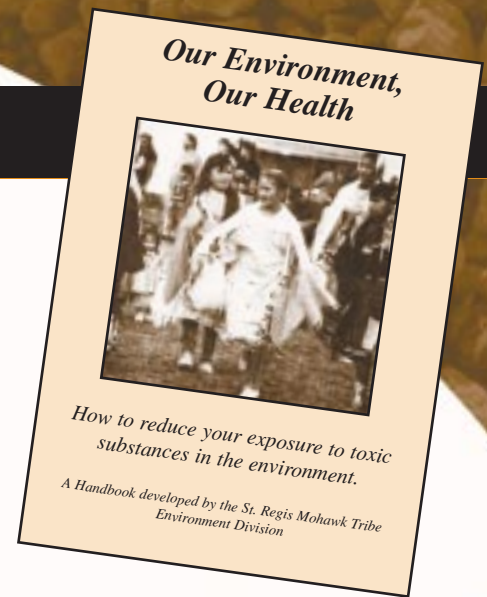
The GIS program was created as a data library to help the Environment Division track sampling points and display results that focus on contaminated areas of the reservation. Since receiving funds for a Coordinator, the GIS program has been helpful in assisting other environmental programs, such as the Sturgeon Project and Salmon Project, within the Division by establishing point locations for collecting samples. The tracking of specific areas of concern enables the Environment Division to develop prevention and restoration strategies to protect the soil, air, sediment, and water of the Mohawk territory.

The St. Regis Mohawk reservation, or Akwesasne, straddles

the U.S./Canadian border. This 12,000-member community is located along the St. Lawrence River between northern New York, western Quebec and eastern Ontario, Canada. The GIS program thus faces a unique challenge of jurisdictional issues and two different scales used in GIS mapping. Coordination is required from both northern and southern portions of the reservation.

The SRMT Environment Division's GIS program is entering its third year. The program has collected over 200 layers of geographic data for Akwesasne, northern New York, and Canada. These data are used to display sampling site locations and results, and buildings and cultural features are placed in the Cameo-Aloha plume dispersal model for hazardous materials spill response. A topographically-correct tabletop model of the eastern portion of the reservation was also created with the help of high school interns and GIS to practice hazardous materials response scenarios.

The program presently uses ArcInfo 7.2.1, Arcview 3.1, and Spatial Analyst software and Trimble Global Positioning System equipment. The Environmental Systems Research Institute Conservation program has granted software



and training, and the Bureau of Indian Affairs Geographic Data Service Center provides training and technical support.

The GIS Program will continue to utilize new technologies as they become available. The most important aspect of the program is that it enables the Environment Division to pinpoint 'problem' locations on the reservation through the use of modern technology.

Tribal Environmental Programs

Navajo Nation Tackles Toxic Hazards

By Derrith Watchman-Moore, Executive Director, NNEPA

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (NNEPA), established by the Navajo Nation Council in April 1995, is a regulatory entity within the Executive Branch of the Navajo Nation Government. NNEPA has 13 environmental programs, including an Asbestos Program and a Pesticides Program, featured below, both of which work to address toxic hazards concerning the Navajo Nation. NNEPA is responsible for implementing and enforcing environmental laws for the protection of human health and the Navajo environment.

Navajo Asbestos Program

The Navajo Asbestos Program, established in October 1993, was created as a compliance monitoring program under the Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA).

Currently, asbestos compliance inspections account for the majority of the program's activities. In October 1994, the Navajo Asbestos Program received authorization to conduct inspections as duly-authorized agents of EPA's Region 9 and currently has full responsibility to complete inspections at local education agencies of the Navajo Nation. A total of 134 state, BIA, contract grant and mission school facilities are subject to the AHERA.

In March 1998, the program also received authorization from

Region 9 to issue minor enforcement actions to BIA schools in non-compliance with AHERA. Since that time, several Notices of Non-Compliance have been issued.

For more information about the Navajo Asbestos Program, contact Merle Chischilly, Environmental Specialist, at 520-871-7891.

Navajo Pesticide Enforcement and Development Program

The Navajo Pesticides Enforcement and Development Program (NPEDP) utilizes a combination of regulations and educational outreach to increase awareness of pesticide issues within the Navajo Nation.

The Navajo Nation Pesticide Act promotes the protection of human health, public welfare, and the environment by regulating the sale, distribution, use, storage, and disposal of pesticides in the Navajo Nation with the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide and Rodenticide Act. Enforcement of federal and Navajo Nation laws on the use of pesticides is accomplished through compliance assistance to the regulated community and inspections, including market, agricultural use, non-agricultural use, and certified applicator records inspections. Annually, the NPEDP staff conducts approximately 210 inspections.

NPEDP is also working on the development of a ground-



Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency staff, from left to right, Merle Chischilly, Asbestos Program, LaVerne Garnenez, NPEDP Program Manager, Pesticide Enforcement & Development Program, Darwyn Lowery, NPEDP Environmental Specialist, and Jefferson Biakeddy, NPEDP Environmental Specialist.

water development and management plan to protect human health and sensitive ecosystems through the protection and enhancement of groundwater throughout the Navajo Nation. The Groundwater Vulnerability Assessment-Aquifer Sensitivity Study is anticipated to take 2-3 years to complete.

For more information about the program's activities, call 520-871-7892.

From the Office of Pesticide Programs

Summertime is Bug Time — Use Insect Repellents Safely!

Mosquitoes, biting flies, and ticks can be annoying and sometimes pose a serious risk to public health. In certain areas of the U.S., mosquitoes can transmit diseases like equine and St. Louis encephalitis. Ticks can transmit Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain spotted fever. When properly used, insect repellents can discourage biting insects from landing on treated skin or clothing.

Insect repellents are available in various forms and concentrations. Aerosol and pump-spray products are intended for skin application, as well as clothing. Liquid, cream, lotion, and stick products enable direct skin application. Products with a low concentration of active ingredients may be used when exposure to insects is minimal. Higher concentrations may be more useful in highly infested areas or when insects are more difficult to repel. Whenever possible, consider nonchemical ways to deter biting insects—screens, netting, long sleeves, and slacks. EPA recommends the following precautions when using an insect repellent or pesticide:

- ▶ Repellents should be applied only to exposed skin and/or clothing. Heavy application and saturation is unnecessary for effectiveness; if biting insects do not respond to a thin film of repellent, apply a bit more. Also, do not use on undergarments.
 - ▶ Never use repellents over cuts, wounds, or irritated skin.
 - ▶ Do not apply near eyes and mouth, and only sparingly around ears. When using sprays, do not spray directly onto face; spray on hands first and then apply to face.
 - ▶ Do not allow children to handle insect repellents. Do not apply to children's hands; instead, apply to your own hands and then rub the product on your child. Remember to store pesticides away from children's reach, in a locked utility cabinet or garden shed.
 - ▶ Do not spray in enclosed areas. Avoid breathing a repellent spray, and do not use it near food.
 - ▶ After returning indoors, wash treated skin with soap and water or bathe. Also, wash treated clothing before wearing it again.
 - ▶ Check the container to ensure that the product bears an EPA approved label and registration number. NEVER use a product that has not been approved for use by EPA.
 - ▶ Read the entire label before using a pesticide and follow the directions carefully. Use only the amount directed, at the time and under the conditions specified, and for the purpose listed. Even if you have used it before, read the label again—don't trust your memory.
- If you suspect that you or your child are reacting to an insect repellent, discontinue use, wash treated skin, and then call your local poison control center. If you go to a doctor, take the repellent with you. You and your doctor can get specific medical information about the active ingredients in repellents and other pesticides by calling the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) at 1-800-858-7378.

Tribal Participation Encouraged in Year 2000 National Community Involvement Conference

OPPTS co-sponsored the 1999 EPA National Community Involvement Conference on May 25-28 in Kansas City, Missouri. The goal was to bring together representatives from federal, state, and tribal governments to provide education and training on various facets of working with communities. The conference was interactive and encouraged participants to share their experiences and knowledge. Presenters focused on a wide range of issues, such as technical assistance, community participation, and media relations.

Dan Wildcat of Haskell Indian Nations University spoke on "The Challenge of Involvement: Technology, Community, Culture, and Communication." Mr. Wildcat emphasized the importance of community, as well as the changes that are resulting from current technology.

Nina Miller of the Alaskan Native Health Board, and Joe Sarcone, EPA Region 10, spoke on Village-based Solutions to Rural Sanitation Challenges in Alaska. The presentation profiled the Alaskan Native Health Board's efforts to improve rural access to water and sewer services. The Board initiated the Rural Sanitation Facilities Operation and Maintenance Demonstration project to identify ways to assist villages in meeting their water and sewer management, operation, and maintenance needs. More information on the 1999 conference can be found at www.emsus.com/99conference.

The 2000 EPA National Community Involvement Conference will be held in San Francisco. We encourage tribal representatives to attend and present at the conference. If you have questions, please contact Heidi Paulsen at 703-305-5251 or paulsen.heidi@epa.gov.

Tribal Pesticide Success Story – Ft. Peck Tribes Coordinate with State and Federal Agencies to Study Pesticides in Ground-Water

The Ft. Peck Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes and the U.S. Geological Survey have been working on a pesticides project for the past two years to study nitrate levels in ground water on the Ft. Peck Reservation, located in Northeast Montana. The tribes, U.S. Geological Survey, Montana Department of Agriculture, and EPA have organized a study of pesticides in groundwater to begin this summer.

The study area is a dryland wheat production area. Sampling starts in August 1999 and includes selected wells from the U.S. Geological Survey nitrates study. The Ft. Peck Tribes' Office of Environmental Protection will assist with the sampling, contact well owners, and provide follow-up results on data gathered in this study. The Department of Agriculture, U.S. Geological Survey, and EPA will provide funding and assist with the sampling and protocol. Ground water will be sampled for a variety of agricultural and weed control pesticides, including sulfonyleurea herbicides, the proposed Pesticide Management Plan chemicals, and phenoxy herbicides, such as 2,4-D, picloram, and dicamba.

This cooperative effort represents an opportunity for both governments and tribes to gather additional data and provide services to rural well owners.

For more information regarding this pesticides study, contact Jennifer Wintersteen, EPA Region 8, at 406-441-1123 or wintersteen.jennifer@epa.gov, or Debi Madison, Director, Office of Environmental Protection for the Ft. Peck Tribes, at 406-768-5155, ext. 325.

From the Office of Pesticide Programs

FY 1999 OPP Tribal Pesticide and Groundwater Projects Selected for Funding

In FY 1999, a total of \$445,500 was awarded to assist tribal communities in dealing with pesticide issues. Summaries of tribal pesticide projects that received awards are provided below.

Region 8

Blackfeet Nation (\$13,800)

The Effects of Pesticides on Culturally Significant Plants and Subsistence Hunting and Fishing on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation

The project will identify and catalogue types and locations of significant or medicinal plants on the Blackfeet Indian Reservation in pesticide-use areas; fish and game areas; and other land areas used by the tribe. The tribe will also attempt to identify which pesticides are being used and any historical incidents of adverse effects on plants, fish, and wildlife.

Region 9

Hoopa Valley Tribe (\$46,800)

Cooperative Pesticide Monitoring and Outreach Program - Hoopa Valley Tribal EPA

This project will entail building the tribe's capacity to better address pesticide concerns and to participate in regional efforts to document health-related pesticides concerns. The tribe will also seek to enhance its existing cooperative study with the California Department of Pesticide Regulation to create more sampling events and locations.

Colorado River Indian Tribes (\$50,000)

Feasibility of Using a Combination of Composting and Planting for Cleaning-Up Pesticide Contaminated Soil at Parker, Arizona

The project seeks to address soil contamination stemming from a fire at an agrochemical storage location

on the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation in Parker, AZ. The project will characterize the site to determine the extent of contamination and evaluate the best methods for decontamination, including composting and biodegradation.

Shoshone-Paiute Tribes (\$29,300)

Pesticides Special Project: An Assessment of Pesticide Usage on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation

The project will determine pesticide usage on the Duck Valley Indian Reservation. If pesticides are used, the tribe will then try to determine risks to health and the environment associated with this use. Based on the information obtained, the tribe can then decide whether to develop a pesticide ordinance and management plan.

Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (\$10,100)

Emergency Fire Ant Abatement Grant

The project will establish a hot-line phone service for reporting fire ant nests/hills and an administrative measure to monitor and record locations of fire ant colonies, number, size, and damage. The grant will also be used to develop a plan for treatment and to establish a pilot-project for identifying environmentally-safe pesticides, application controls, and education materials.

Region 10

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (\$50,000)

Monitoring Movement of 1,3-Dichloropropene (Telone II) and Metam-Sodium (Vapam) Through the Soil Profile, Fort Hall Indian Reservation, Southeastern Idaho

The project will examine migration and persistence of 1,3-dichloropropene and metam-sodium and their degradation products through the soil

profile after application to crop fields. Monitoring movement and persistence of these compounds in soil will provide information on the potential for future groundwater contamination problems.

For more information, contact OPP Tribal Coordinator Elizabeth Resek at 703-305-6005 or resek.elizabeth@epa.gov.

The following eight tribal pesticide-groundwater projects were also awarded grant funding from OPP. All projects involved ground water management plan development.

Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma (\$50,000)

Miami Tribe of Oklahoma (\$38,000)

Prairie Band Potawatomi Nation (\$30,500)

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (\$20,000)

Blackfeet Tribe of the Blackfeet Indian Reservation (\$50,000)

White Mountain Apache Tribe (\$13,500)

Twenty-Nine Palms Band of Mission Indians (\$22,000)

Augustine Band of Mission Indians (\$21,500)

Resources

Coming Soon!! More Workshops Offered on Developing Pesticide Management Plans

More EPA Groundwater and Pesticide Plan Development Workshops are scheduled for tribal water resource staff, drinking water utility staff, farm and natural resource operation staff, and tribal officials concerned about protecting water resources.

The Native Ecology Initiative, the Oglala Lakota Nation, and Mountaintop Associates have formed a team to train and assist Indian tribes in developing groundwater and pesticide management plans. The team plans to (1) conduct orientation workshops to provide an understanding of ground water as an important natural resource and explain the proposed ground water protection strategy, (2) develop “shell plan” workshops to assist tribes who want to develop a plan; and (3) direct technical assistance.

Remember, participation in the workshop and all materials are free! Travel and lodging, however, are the responsibility of workshop participants.

Additional workshops are being scheduled for later in the Fall and Winter. For more information or to register for the workshops, contact Ron Cooper, Mountaintop Associates, P.O. Box 1563, Bozeman, Montana, 59771, 406-585-3501 (phone and fax), ron_cooper@in-tch.com.

Upcoming workshops:

September 29, 30 & Oct. 1
Hosted by Robinson Rancheria
Nice, California

New EPA Resource Guide Helps Facilitate Improved Cooperation Among 'Stakeholders'

Are you a facility manager or worker, government official, or community activist faced with an environmental issue that you think may be better addressed by cooperating with other interested parties? If so, a new EPA publication, *Constructive Engagement Resource Guide* (EPA 745-B-99-008, May 1999) can help you work through this decision-making process and reach a better solution for all.

Constructive Engagement is any effort that brings together a diverse group of stakeholders to cooperatively discuss a facility's environmental activities. Through constructive engagement, a non-adversarial partnership is formed in which each stakeholder has the capacity to participate effectively.

With general guidance and case studies, this guide will help you understand constructive engagement and its process. To order up to five free copies of the *Constructive Engagement Resource Guide*, contact EPA's National Service Center for Environmental Publications at 1-800-490-9198, 513-489-8695 (fax), or ncepi.mail@epa.gov. Copies can also be ordered online at www.epa.gov/ncepi or downloaded from www.epa.gov/reinvent/stakeholders. For additional information about the Resource Guide, contact Judith Kendall at 202-260-1802 or John Bowser at 202-260-1661.



EPA Region 8's Summer Interns in Tribal Lands

By Sadie Hoskie, Region 8

One of the barriers to developing ongoing environmental capability in tribal lands is the limited number of Native Americans qualified in technical and scientific environmental management and willing to relocate or remain on Indian reservations. During the summer of 1998, Region 8 made a commitment to rectify this by placing its full complement of summer interns, all of whom are Native Americans, in Tribal Environmental Program Offices on reservations in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Montana.

In recruiting for this first-time effort, the Region 8 Human Resources Office and Tribal Assistance Program worked closely together. Human Resources advertised the vacancies at educational institutions, and the Tribal Assistance Program focused on local recruitment. Tribal Environmental Directors on 26 reservations throughout the Region were also asked to identify students at local community colleges and high schools would benefit from an internship and were interested in environmental protection.

Once hired, the interns were assigned to the Tribal Environmental Directors at each of the reservations where they were placed. Their assignments varied and were extensive. Many worked with field technicians in completing water sampling for the summer water quality-monitoring program. Assignments also included bison and native plant restoration and management; identification and characterization of wetlands; location, management, and removal of underground storage tanks; use of geographic positioning system equipment; underground injection control inspections; and conducting fish inventories.

The summer intern program proved to be a success and received positive feedback from tribes and the Regional Operations Committee. The introduction of summer interns is only a piece of the mosaic that will develop into a stable environmental presence throughout tribal lands.

OPPT's Geographical Exposure Modeling System

The new Geographical Exposure Modeling System (GEMS) is a modernization of OPPT's older Graphical Exposure Modeling System and PCGEMS tools. GEMS brings together in one system several EPA environmental fate and transport models and some of the environmental data needed to run them. What makes GEMS special is that it includes models and data for ambient air, surface water, soil, and groundwater, and it makes the models much easier to use than their stand-alone counterparts. For example, one of the unique features of GEMS is the Canonical Environments Data Base, which will contain environmental data for rivers and lakes, and greatly speeds up and simplifies the creation of river and lake environments for EXAMS, EPA's Surface Water Modeling program. GEMS will have statistical analysis, graphics, and Geographical Information System capabilities for analyzing and displaying data and environmental modeling results.

GEMS has interactive menus to guide the user in selecting models, selecting and organizing data to be used as input to model runs, executing model runs, and presenting model outputs. The menus also provide user help. The new system is modular in design so that other models can be added to the system easily in the future. GEMS also has the capability of retrieving data from EPA Oracle databases, such as the TRIS data in Envirofacts.

The new GEMS program is currently being redesigned under contract by General Sciences Corporation. Phase I of the design is well underway and will include a local version for use by EPA. Completion of Phase I is planned for 1999.

Phase II will begin in 2000, and includes making the new GEMS available to anyone through the Internet.

For more information about the model, contact Lynn Delpire at 202-260-3928 or delpire.lynn@epa-mail.gov.

Find four environmental hazards at the campsite shown in the picture below.



Answers: (1) a lantern inside a tent; (2) trash, including aluminum cans, a glass bottle, and candy bars, on the ground and inside the recycle containers or trash can; (3) a campfire left unattended; and (4) an oil can floating in the river.

Interview with Mavis Smith



Mavis Smith is a summer intern working in EPA's Office of Pollution and Toxics (OPPT) as the Assistant to the OPPT Tribal Coordinator, Mary Lauterbach.

Q: Mavis, tell us about your background.

A: I'm a tribal member of the Navajo Nation and come from a large family now living in Bimhall, New Mexico. I received my bachelor's degree in Psychology at the University of New Mexico and have been accepted to the Education Counseling graduate program at Western New Mexico University.

Q: What other environmental organizations have you worked for prior to coming to EPA?

A: Prior to my internship at EPA/OPPT, I worked for the Navajo grassroots organization Eastern Navajo Diné Against Uranium Mining (ENDAUM). ENDAUM is fighting for the protection of pristine waters and human health by working to stop a Texas-based mining corporation from constructing and operating three proposed uranium mines

(in situ leach mining) in the Navajo communities of Church Rock and Crownpoint in New Mexico.

Q: As a member of a federally-recognized Indian tribe, what problems do you think most tribes face in their environment?

A: American Indians traditionally value the environment and hold it sacred. However, tribes are not excluded from the ever increasing array of environmental problems and issues. Tribal groups are grappling with many different environmental problems including solid waste, land management, uranium and coal mining waste, and abandoned mines. Tribal groups are also faced with different environmental issues within their distinctive regions.

Q: What projects have you worked on as Assistant to the OPPT Tribal Coordinator?

A: My main responsibility was developing the Summer issue of *OPPT Tribal News*. I gathered articles from EPA departments and tribal organizations, such as the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency, Gila River Indian Community's Department of Environmental Quality, and the St. Regis Mohawk Tribe Environment Division. I also assisted in the development of an OPPT Tribal website, which is currently being tested.

Q: Has networking with the Agency and several tribal organizations enhanced or changed your environmental interest or goals?

A: I learned about many interesting programs and organizations while developing this issue. I'm also hoping that by featuring these tribal groups and their programs, readers will get a chance to learn about successful programs and possibly come up with ideas to establish similar projects within their own communities in the future. As a tribal member of the Navajo Nation, it is especially rewarding to work with OPPT's tribal program and gain an Agency perspective, which serves to protect the environment and human health in all communities. I would like to respectfully express my appreciation to all of my fellow co-workers at OPPT, especially Mary Lauterbach, OPPT Tribal Coordinator, and Phil Robinson, Branch Chief, Liaison Branch.

Mark Your Calendars!

September 1999

20 **Region 6**
Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting
 Albuquerque, NM
 Ellen Greeney
 214-665-6778

21-22 **Region 6**
3rd Annual Tribal Environmental Summit
 Albuquerque, NM
 Ellen Greeney
 214-665-6778

October 1999

20-21 **Region 8**
Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting
 St. George, UT
 Judy Caribou Hervig
 303-312-6290

26-29 **Region 9**
7th Annual Tribal/EPA Conference and Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting
 San Francisco, CA
 Sara Jacobs, Tim Grant
 414-744-1603,
 415-744-1488

November 1999

17-20 **AISES**
AISES 21st Annual National Conference and Professional Development Seminars
 Minneapolis, MN
 303-939-0023

EPA Web Sites and Hot Lines

EPA	www.epa.gov
OPP	www.epa.gov/pesticides/
OPPT	www.epa.gov/opptintr
Pollution Prevention	www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home
American Indian Environmental Office	www.epa.gov/indian
Asbestos Ombudsman Hotline	1-800-368-5888
EPCRA Hotline	1-800-535-0202
Lead Hotline	1-800-532-3394
National Pesticide Telecommunication (NPTN) Hotline	1-800-858-7378
TSCA Hotline	202-554-1404