

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.
To receive a copy, call:
AK, Robb . 907-271-6323
ID, Arlene . 208-378-5749
OR, Don . . 503-326-5015
WA, Alison . 360-753-8185

LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/TRIBAL.NSF/Newsletter/Issues>

Vol. 16, No. 2 — February 2007

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

February

- 5-7 **EPA Tribal 106 Guidance Training**, Seattle, WA (*See page 2, bottom*)
- 6-7 **DCI America Better Governance: Strengthening Your Organization from Within**, Anchorage, AK
- 6-8 **AIAQTP: Advanced Air Program Management Course**, Seattle, WA. For information: Darrel Harmon, 202-564-7416

March

- 2 **Educational Outreach for Air Quality Professionals**, Albuquerque, NM. For information: Darrel Harmon 202-564-7416
- 19-22 **Tribal Indoor Air Training**, San Carlos, AZ. For information: Louise Hill 415-947-4192, hill.louise@epa.gov

April

- 26-28 **24th Annual Gathering of Nations Powwow**, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque. For information: <http://www.gatheringofnations.com/powwow/index.htm>

June

- 3-6 **Western State Wetlands Workshop: Strengthening the Roles of Land Trusts & Local Governments**, Park City, UT (*See page 3*)
- 11-15 **Sharing Indigenous Wisdom: An International Dialogue on Sustainable Development Conf.** Green Bay, WI. For information: <http://www.sharingindigenouswisdom.org/>

<> FUNDING and OPPORTUNITIES <>

Capacity Building

All federally recognized Tribes, including Tribes in Alaska, are eligible to request funding under the **Brownfields State and Tribal Response Program**. EPA Regions will be **accepting requests until February 15, 2007**.

The goal of this funding is to ensure that tribal response programs include certain elements that help build program capacity to address and manage contaminated lands. About \$50 million will be available nationally. Individual

requests may be made for up to \$1.5 million to cover a one-year project period. In Region 10, tribal requests have ranged from \$27,000 to \$400,00. To learn more, read the guidance available at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields> and then talk with your regional Brownfields Coordinator for details on how to apply.

Contact: **Susan Morales**,
Region 10 Brownfields Coordinator: 206-553-7299 or
morales.susan@epa.gov

Student Internships

The Department of Energy is offering summer internships to Native Americans who are currently college upper-class or graduate students. To be considered for the 2007 summer program, **applications must be received by February 24, 2007**.

For more on the program, the eligibility requirements and an application see: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/internprogram.html> or phone **Sandra K. Begay-Campbell**: 505-844-5418.

>>>>>

F
U
N
D
I
N
G

\$10 Million for Nation's Beaches

Thirty states and five territories will share \$10 million in grants for beach water quality monitoring and public notification programs, EPA announced on January 9th. Beach water quality monitoring helps local authorities identify what steps to take to reduce pollution. It can lead to advisories or closures when bacteria concentrations reach unhealthy levels.

The grant amount is based on the length of the beach season, miles of beaches and number of beachgoers. EPA is also focusing on developing new technologies to rapidly

analyze beaches for bacteria contamination. Studies involving state-of-the-art detection methods, coupled with population and illness surveys, are under way at various beaches to evaluate the new analytical approach.

If all 35 eligible states and territories apply and meet the performance criteria, the distribution of the funds for 2007 in Region 10 is expected to be: Alaska \$150,000, Oregon \$229,570 and Washington \$225,960. For information: <http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/beaches/grants>

Earth Science/Public Health

E
V
E
N
T

The U.S. Geological Survey is hosting the 2nd *Earth Science and Public Health Meeting* **February 27th — March 1st** at the National Center in Reston, VA. This will be a forum to foster collaboration between the public health and earth science communities, which can lead to solutions for environmental health problems. It is aimed at organizations and individuals interested in environmental and earth science factors affecting human health.

This meeting is designed to provide a broad forum for discussion bringing together a variety of interested parties, including policy makers scientists, resource managers, congressional staffers, federal and state government, and non-governmental organizations.

The meeting will be set up along six thematic areas: 1) potential contaminants and pathogens in air, dusts, and soils; 2) drinking water exposure to chemical and pathogenic contaminants; 3) human consumption of bioaccumulative contaminants; 4) pathogen exposure through recreational waters; 5) vector-borne and zoonotic (animal to human) diseases; and 6) animals as sentinels of human health.

The first day of the meeting — Tuesday, February 27 — is an overview day. The following two days will consist of talks, posters, and breakout sessions organized around the six topical sessions. Registration is free. Information and registration can be found at: <http://health.usgs.gov>

T
R
A
I
N
I
N
G

Training on Clean Water Act 106

EPA 106 Guidance training **is being held in Seattle, Washington, February 5 to 7**. The training covers new guidelines, monitoring requirements, monitoring strategy, water quality standards and more. For last-minute information, contact Arlene Boss at 208-378-5749.

If you cannot attend, see the article on 106 grants in the January newsletter. You can also contact Lena Ferris: 202-564-8831, or visit: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/cwfinance/>

Educator Fellowships

The Earthwatch Institute requests proposals from elementary, middle and high school educators and administrators for *Educator Fellowships*. Earthwatch seeks adventurous, innovative science educators who have an interest in conservation, sustainability, and life-long learning. Participants work alongside a leading field scientist on some of the most important environmental issues facing the planet today, like climate change and biodiversity. Fellowships cover on-site expedition costs. Due dates vary by location. For more: <http://www.earthwatch.org/site/pp.asp?c=dsJSK6PFJnH7b=393763>

Western State Wetlands Workshop

The Association of State Wetland Managers, with sponsorship from EPA, is hosting a Western State Workshop: *Strengthening the Roles of Land Trusts and Local Governments in Protecting and Restoring Wetlands and riparian Areas*. The workshop will be held **June 3 to 6, 2007** in Park City, UT. It is designed for technical and semi-technical staff of land trusts, local governments, state agencies, and federal agencies. It will present "how to" information concerning the protection and restoration of wetlands and riparian areas. For more information: <http://www.aswm.org/calendar/lt&lg/lt&lg2.htm> or contact Laura Burchill at laura@aswm.org

Tribal Schools Notebook

EPA's *Tribal Schools Compliance Assistance Notebook* provides quick access to many programs and resources available to help tribal school districts and tribal schools prevent and resolve environmental issues in schools. The Notebook presents information on complying with federal laws and regulations and maintaining school facilities that are safe and healthy for

students and staff. Topics include asbestos, chemical use and management, drinking water, pesticides, PCBs, lead-based paint, and more. The *Notebook* is available at <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/tribal.nsf/programs/tribal+schools>
If you have questions, please contact Don Dossett at 206-553-1783.

Tribal Air Grants Information

The *Tribal Air Grants Framework: A Menu of Options* is a guidance document that has been developed nationally to assist tribes interested in understanding and assessing both ambient and indoor air quality problems in Indian country. The entire menu of options, as well as individual menus, is available on the Region 10 website: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NSF/webpage/Tribal+Air+Program+Main+Page>

EPA's *National Website for Indoor Air Quality* has a lot of information and links to resources: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq>. These include *Asthma*, *Smoke Free Homes*, and *Tools for Schools* programs.

Public Service Announcements for Tribes: There are several excellent radio PSA's that can be used by tribes to reach out and inform their communities about the health impacts of second hand smoke on children and other sensitive individuals. You can find more information at: <http://www.aatchb.org>. This is an excellent example of tribes pursuing indoor air programs.

Alaskan Native Villages could possibly make use of these if they have access to radio stations or other ways to disseminate information.

OAR's *Tribal Air Web Page* has a lot of useful links and examples of what tribes are doing: <http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal>

The *Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals* (ITEP) at Northern Arizona University has some very good training, as well as outreach materials and ideas on indoor air quality and other air issues. Region 10 has funded them to provide training on Indoor Air Quality for Alaskan tribes, as well as Rural CAP and the Alaska Building Science Network. The link to the ITEP Indoor Air Resource page can be found at: <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/resources/iaq.asp>

EPA's Alaska Operations Office website for Indoor Air Quality has some other good links: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/states/alaska.html#indoor%20Air%20Quality>

E
N
V
I
R
O
T
O
O
L
S

Free Online Water-Treatment Training

The American Water Works Association (AWWA) is pleased to offer a free online educational opportunity for tribal utilities. It is the online course: *Water 101 for Tribal Nations*. The *Water 101* course introduces students to the principles of water treatment and distribution, as well as plant operations and management.

The course also provides information on drinking water regulations and security. The online course is available at any time, and students can progress at their own speed.

Water 101 was made possible by a grant from EPA. Anyone employed by a tribal utility in the United States can take this course.

You can access the course at AWWA's website: <http://www.awwa.org/learnonline/listing.cfm> . Just follow the onscreen instructions.

If you have questions about the course, contact Joshua L. Hicks, Grants Program Specialist at 303-347-6146.

Water Contaminant Information Tool

EPA has expanded the Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) to assist water utilities, public health officials and federal, state, tribes and local agencies to better plan for and respond to intentional or accidental contamination events. Launched in November 2005, WCIT is a secure, on-line database profiling chemical, biological, and radiological contaminants of concern for drinking water and wastewater utilities.

WCIT includes both regulated and non-regulated contaminants and provides current, reliable data from peer-reviewed reports and research. The system includes general

information for 93 contaminants and now includes additional information in four new data categories: drinking water treatment; wastewater treatment; environmental impacts; and infrastructure decontamination.

Access to WCIT data is password protected. Qualified individuals must apply to EPA and undergo screening before being granted access. Currently drinking water and wastewater utilities, State drinking water primacy agencies and laboratories, drinking water and wastewater associations partnering with EPA, state and local public health officials, and federal officials are eligible for access. For information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/wcit>

Radon and Lung Cancer

Each year, nearly 20,000 people die from lung cancer caused by exposure to radon. A common source of exposure to radon that can be avoided is in the home, yet only one in five homeowners has actually tested for radon. January was National Radon Action Month, and EPA is still urging people to test their homes.

Radon is an invisible radioactive gas that can seep into your home from underground and can reach harmful levels if trapped indoors. The only way to know if your home contains high radon levels is to test for it. Nearly 80 percent of American homes have not been tested for radon, even though a simple test costing as little as \$25 can help detect a possible radon problem. If radon is found, homeowners should consult with qualified professionals who can reduce radon exposure for a cost similar to

many common home improvement repairs. State radon offices can help the public find qualified radon professionals.

EPA is working with organizations across the country to educate people on how to protect themselves from radon exposure in their homes. Local government agencies, non-profit organizations, schools, health care providers, radon professionals, and other community groups will work together to host activities to increase radon awareness, promote testing and mitigation, and advance the use of radon-resistant new construction.

For information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/rnactionmonth.html> . To get your home tested: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/radontest.html>

E
N
V
I
R
O

I
N
F
O

E
N
V
I
R
O

N
E
W
S

Reduce Water Consumption

Here are some tips for conserving fresh water:

- Don't let the water run while shaving or brushing teeth.
- Take short showers instead of tub baths.
- Keep drinking water in the refrigerator instead of letting the faucet run until the water is cool.
- Scrape, rather than rinse, dishes before loading the dishwasher; wash only full loads.
- Wash only full loads of laundry or use the appropriate water level or use load-size selection on the washing machine.
- Buy higher efficiency plumbing fixtures and appliances.
- Repair all leaks (a leaky toilet can waste 200 gallons a day).
- Water the lawn or garden

- during the coolest part of the day (early morning is best).
- Water plants differently according to what they need. Check with your local extension service or nursery.
- Set sprinklers to water the lawn or garden only, not the street or sidewalk.
- Use soaker hoses or trickle irrigation systems for trees and shrubs.
- Keep your yard healthy: dethatch, use mulch, etc.
- Sweep outside instead of using a hose.
- Learn how to plant trees, build a pond, compost, and more from the Department of Agriculture's Resources Conservation Service: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/feature/backyard/>

Wood Preservative ACC

EPA is taking legal action to deny the registration for acid copper chromate, commonly known as ACC, for residential use. EPA's scientific review process concluded that the risks associated with residential uses of ACC outweigh the minimal benefits. The proposed residential uses of ACC would pose a cancer risk for treatment and manufacturing workers, as well as non-cancer risks for homeowners, children and contractors.

ACC contains hexavalent chromium, a known human carcinogen when inhaled and a dermal irritant and sensitizer. Because ACC-treated wood may contain high levels of chromium, disposal could require that it be handled and disposed of as a hazardous waste. EPA is following the administrative process, under the federal pesticide law, to finalize this decision. For more information: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/factsheets/chemicals/acid_copper_chromate.htm

Nationwide Permit Revisions Coming: Tribal Input Sought

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers proposed reissuing and modifying the Nationwide Permits (NWP) for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act in September 2006. These general permits authorize minor activities having minimal impact on the environment for work performed within rivers, streams, lakes and wetlands.

Nationally, the Corps was scheduled to have issued the Nationwide Permits in late January, 2007. They will take effect 60 days after their publication date. Locally, each Corps District has published proposed regional conditions which affect how the permits are handled in each state. Those conditions are due to be finalized sometime in January or February, 2007.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is reviewing the Nationwide Permits and

regional conditions to ensure that they meet Clean Water Act water quality standards on tribal lands.

EPA Region 10 is seeking input from tribal governments on the Nationwide Permits and the regional conditions regarding how they may directly or indirectly affect aquatic resources within Indian Country.

<http://www.usace.army.mil/cw/cecwo/reg/citizen.htm>

For more information or to comment, contact the EPA representative in the state closest to your reservation or village.

Alaska: Phil North,	907-260-4882 x226
Idaho: John Olsen,	208-378-5756
Oregon: Yvonne Vallette,	503-326-2716
Washington: Krista Rave-Perkins	206-553-6686

**I
N
F
O**

Tribal Self-Determination

The spring 2006 issue of the American Bar Association's *Human Rights Magazine* focuses on tribal issues. Articles include: "The Rise of Tribal Self-Determination and Economic Development," "Tribes and Self-Determination in Alaska" and others. <http://www.abanet.org/irr/hr/spring06/home.html>

Check out EPA's page of links for Web-savvy kids:
<http://www.epa.gov/indian/kidlinks.htm>

To Report Spills and Accidents

Note these emergency numbers to call in the event of hazardous material spills or accidents.

Alaska	800-478-9300	Washington	800-258-5990
Idaho	800-632-8000	National (EPA)	800-424-8802
Oregon	800-452-0311		



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Tribal Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, ETPA-085
Seattle, Washington 98101-1128