

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
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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. 15, No. 10 — October 2006

◁ CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ▷

October

- 1-6 63rd National Congress of American Indians Annual Meeting, Sacramento, CA.**
For information: Jamie Gomez 202-466-7767 or jgomez@ncai.org
- 17-19 Enforcement, Compliance & FARR Workshop, Kiana Lodge, Suquamish Reservation, WA**
For information: Diana Boquist 206-553-1586 or 800-424-4372 or Dee Williams 360-394-8502
- 19-21 NIEA, Anchorage, AK www.niea.org**
- 31-11/3 Air Quality and Community Health Training, Umatilla Reservation, Pendleton, OR**
For information: Lydia Scheer: 928-523-6887 Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu (page 3)

November

- 2-5 28th Annual AISES Conference, Detroit, MI <http://www.aises.org/>**
- 6-7 Region 10/NWIFCA, 4th EPA/Washington Tribes Environmental Symposium**
For information: Fran Wilshusen 360-438-1181 x 351, fwilshus@nwifc.org
- 6-9 2006 National Air Monitoring Conference, Las Vegas, NV [Correction: 9/06 issue had date error]**
- 15-17 Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE), 2nd National Training Workshop, Seattle, WA.** For information: <http://www.cleanairinfo.com/care>

December

- 7-8 Northwest Environmental Conference, Red Lion, Jantzen Beach, Portland, OR**
Conference and Trade show (Improving the Environment) <http://www.nwec.org/>

◁ FUNDING ▷



Region 10 IGAP Program Redesign Process

This has been a very busy year for the Region 10 IGAP program and its Tribal Coordinators. When the dust settles on September 30, (*deadline for material to be included in the October newsletter was September 20th*) we expect to have fully utilized our funding for the second consecutive year, making roughly 190 grant awards and amendments.

We are also working on the 2008 GAP funding invitation, with the hope of an October mailing date. And, perhaps most important of all, we are planning to take a fresh look

at how we deliver the IGAP program and intend to do so in a way that is very inclusive of tribes in Region 10. Here are the details on that effort:

Background: The primary objective of the Indian Environmental General Assistance Program is to provide financial assistance to the 271 federally recognized tribes in Region 10 in order to develop the capacity to administer their own environmental programs. Thirty additional tribes have applied to join over 220 existing IGAP grantees, representing a second year of significant

growth in the program: in the past two years over 30 new grantees have joined.

Fourteen Tribal Coordinators manage these grants, many of whom currently are responsible for more than 25 grants, while also serving as EPA advocates for the tribes they work with. In the latter capacity, Tribal Coordinators are responsible for:

- Having an in-depth understanding of each tribe's environmental needs,
- Advocating for tribal environmental needs and perspectives within EPA,



Region 10 IGAP Program Redesign Process *continued*

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- Assisting EPA employees and others to understand the unique needs, culture and status of tribal governments.

At present, Tribal Coordinators report doing, at best, an adequate job managing grants and struggling to fulfill limited aspects of their broader advocacy role.

Challenge: A number of factors make this a critical time for the IGAP program:

- IGAP funding is decreasing (from \$27.1 million in 2005 to \$24.1 million in 2006), and future cuts are expected beginning in 2008.
- The number of IGAP grantees is increasing (over 30 new applicants in the last two years).
- Staffing resources have remained constant with significant turnover due to “burnout” (three staff members have left the Agency in the past few months). The recommended number of grants for a full-time Project Officer is 15 grants. Region 10 Tribal Coordinators, who are expected to do far more than manage grants, manage more than 15, several manage a great many more.
- Region 10 includes 47% of the nation’s federally recognized tribes but receives only 30% of the IGAP program’s regional FTE.
- The vast majority of tribes are located in Alaska, a number of which reside in remote locations where travel and other costs have increased substantially.

- EPA continues to increase its requirements for complying with administrative grant conditions and achieving environmental results, increasing the workload burden on both Tribal Coordinators and grantees.

Desired Outcome: Recommendations from EPA and Region 10 tribes for delivering the IGAP program more effectively given current resources. If possible, identify options to expand available resources. **Process:** A collaborative EPA-tribal process led by a core, cross-representative team using the following approach:

- Finalize project plan and scope of work.
- Convene cross-representative project team.
- Develop problem statement, definition of success and criteria for measurement.
- Present information to partners and customers, and gather information from them about their needs and concerns.
- Analyze current delivery model to ensure understanding and identify areas for improvement.
- Develop options based on criteria and test with focus groups of partners and customers.
- Finalize recommendations and present to the Director of the Office of Ecosystems, Tribal and Public Affairs for decision-making.
- Communicate final decisions to partners and customers.
- Implement decisions, measure progress and make adjustments.

We plan to complete all of the above steps by September 2007.

Environmental Justice Small Grants

Tribal representatives of a nonprofit organization may apply for a grant to address local environmental hazards through community partnerships. The Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG) is a multi-state program designed to help communities understand and address their exposure to multiple environmental harms and risks. **Deadline for applications is October 23, 2006.** For information visit: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?mode=VIEW&opId=10091>

Wal-Mart Conservation

Wal-Mart Stores, Inc. and the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation request proposals for Acres for America. This program provides funding for projects that conserve important habitat for fish, wildlife, and plants through acquisition of real property. The goal of the program is to offset the footprint of Wal-Mart’s domestic facilities on at least an acre-by-acre basis. For information: <http://www.nfwf.org/programs/acresforamerica/rfp.cfm>

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Low-Income/Minority Grants

EPA is now seeking grant applications for projects to assist low-income and minority communities in assessing and dealing with their specific and sometimes increased environmental and public health risks.

Up to \$150,000 is available to non-profit organizations through EPA's Office of Environmental Justice. Grants will be awarded through two separate programs: the Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving Cooperative Agreement and the Environmental Justice Small Grants Programs. **The deadline** for grant applications is **October 23, 2006**.

The intent of these programs is to encourage low-income and minority communities to develop locally based solutions to their sometimes disproportionate share of environmental and public health issues.

For more detailed information: <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/resources/publications/ej/grants/rfa-cps-grant-6-13-06.pdf>

If you have more questions after visiting the website, contact Ayako Sato at 202-564-5396 or Shelia Lewis at 202-564-0152.

Tribal Assistance

The Grants Administration Division (GAD) of the Office of Administration and Resources Management (OARM) is issuing a Statement of Work (SOW) to provide administrative and financial systems assistance and advice to tribes. They are particularly interested in SBA 8(A) firms. This SOW is the one for which GAD has allotted yearly funding.

Annual funding levels are expected to be between \$200,000, and \$400,000, with actual levels depending on the Agency's budget situation. It also could go higher in the event that other programs would like to join forces and supply funds as well. If you have questions, please contact Glen Langlois at 202-564-5296 or via email: langlois.glen@epa.gov.

Coarse Particulate Matter

EPA, as part of its Science To Achieve Results (STAR) program, invites applications proposing studies of thoracic coarse particulate matter (PM10-2.5), its sources, composition, variability, and health effects. The grant is aimed at tribal air programs, colleges or health providers. The **closing date for proposals** is 4:00 pm Edt, **November 30, 2006**.

For information: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2006/2006_star_coarse_pm.html
Or contact Tom Barnwell at 202/343-9862, email: barnwell.thomas@epa.gov.

Storytellers' Festival

Are you a traditional tribal storyteller, oral historian or song carrier who would like to teach your art and knowledge to the younger generation? Or would you like to become an "emerging storyteller" and work with a traditional storyteller to learn the art. If so, you could be awarded a travel scholarship to attend the upcoming Northwest Indian Storytellers Association Festival and Apprenticeship Workshop on **January 4-7, 2007**. It will feature the talents and cultures of traditional Northwest American Indian tellers, during three evenings of festival storytelling and two workshops that will include afternoon matinees and open microphones. Events will include a silent charity auction, live and online, and a raffle.

Travel Scholarships are being provided to teller and apprentice teams to attend the gathering. **Applications are due November 1, 2006**. For information contact Elaine Lanegan at 503-777-7140 or e-mail: liaison@wisdomoftheelders.org.

Air Quality Training Oct. 31- Nov. 3

Air Quality & Community Health training, on the Umatilla Reservation, is hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals. Level 2 will focus on identifying community health impacts and strategies for modifying them. For more information, contact Lydia Scheer at 928-523-6887.

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Wastewater *How-to*

A “How-to” guide for implementing EPA’s Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered Wastewater Treatment System is final. The guide describes a step-by-step approach for developing a community management program for decentralized wastewater systems. It includes specific community examples and an overview of the elements essential for sound management of these systems. It also provides links to extensive resources: <http://cfpub.epa.gov/owm/septic/guidelines.cfm#handbook>.

The Phraselator

A hand held electronic device could help tribes throughout the country preserve their native language. The Phraselator was developed by a defense company after the September 11 attacks and was first used strictly for soldiers to communicate with non-English speakers.

The device looks like an oversized calculator with a computer screen. The user can speak an English phrase or select one on the screen. A recorded voice then speaks the phrase in the tribal language. For more: <http://www.ndntv.com/phraselator.html>.

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Got Mold?

Molds are part of the natural environment. Outdoor molds help break down dead organic matter which is good for the environment. Indoor mold growth should be avoided. Molds reproduce by tiny spores that float through outdoor and indoor air.

Mold may begin growing indoors when mold spores land on surfaces that are wet. None of the mold spores will grow without water or moisture. Molds can cause health problems: allergic reactions and asthma attacks in people allergic to mold.

It is impossible to get rid of all mold and spores indoors. Some mold spores will be found floating through the air and in house dust. Controlling indoor moisture can

prevent or limit mold. If there is mold growth in your home, you must clean it up and fix the water problem. If you clean up mold, but don’t fix the water problem then, most likely, the mold will come back.

For a *Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture and Your Home*, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/iaqmolds/moldbasics.html>

T B E P

The Tribal Based Environmental Protection group, made up of the five tribes in Maine, has a website for lead awareness that tribes may find of interest: <http://www.tbep.net> .

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Sea Lions and Salmon

Biologists from Oregon and Washington are finalizing an official request to the U.S. Secretary of Commerce for permission to kill up to 50 California sea lions in the Columbia River at Bonneville Dam. *[As reported on the Portland tv station KGW website.]*

Robin Brown, Oregon’s program leader for marine mammal research and a scientist who has studied sea lions for the past 30

years, said he has spotted repeat offenders over the last two years. He commented that there is no effective way to stop the animals, who swim 150 miles up the Columbia River to eat endangered salmon. The sea lions are protected under federal law.

Brown said he expected the official request to be submitted near the end of September. It could take six months for approval.

Green Power

EPA is the first federal agency to buy renewable energy, or *green power*, equivalent to 100 % of its annual electricity needs. The Agency signed a contract with 3 Phases Energy Services to buy more than 100 million kilowatt hours (kWh) in renewable energy certificates, effective in September.

The arrangement extends annual *green-power* purchases to more than 190 EPA facilities nationwide. This *green-power* purchase provides enough electricity to power 27,970 homes for a year.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/greeningepa/greenpower.htm> Green Power Partnership: <http://www.epa.gov/greenpower>

70 Miles to a Gallon

An inventor in Springfield, OR., John Green, has developed a three-wheel vehicle that is purported to average 70 miles per gallon of fuel at a cost of \$1.00 per gallon. The *Eco-Fueler*, as it is known, seats three, one in the driver's seat and two in the bench seat behind the driver. It is designed to be a commuter car.

The *Eco-Fueler* runs on compressed natural gas. It has a machine that compresses natural gas, from the home, into two 8-gallon canisters behind the back seat. It takes about 4 ½ hours to fill the tanks. The vehicle will sell for just under \$20,000.

A I E O

The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) has published the first EPA Tribal Program Enterprise Architecture (TPEA) tribal data newsletter. This quarterly newsletter will publish information about TPEA work. AIEO hopes to develop partnerships with parties interested in sharing information and experiences with data collection and information management: <http://www.epa.gov/indian/new.htm>. To obtain copies email liu.ed@epa.gov or call 202/564-0287.

Clean Air for Tribes

The EPA is proposing a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), under the Clean Air Act, for tribes in Indian country. The FIP would include two basic air quality regulations for the protection of Indian country communities. The first rule would apply to minor stationary sources and minor modifications at major stationary sources in Indian country (minor NSR rule). The second rule would apply to all new major stationary sources and major modifications in areas of Indian country not attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) (nonattainment major NSR rule). The rules would be implemented by EPA, or a delegated tribal agency assisting EPA with their administration, until replaced by an EPA-approved tribal implementation plan for an area of Indian country.

DATES: Comments must be received on or before (90 days after date of publication in the *Federal Register*). Under the Paperwork Reduction

Act, comments on the *information collection provisions* must be received by OMB 30 days or sooner after publication in the *Federal Register*.

Submit your comments, identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0076, in one of these forms :

- www.regulations.gov. Follow the on-line instructions for submitting comments;
- E-mail: a-and-r-docket@epamail.epa.gov ;
- Fax: 202-566-174;
- Regular mail: Attn: Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2003-0076, U.S. EPA West (Air Docket) 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Mailcode: 6102T, Washington, DC 20460. Please include two copies. In addition, please mail a copy of your comments on the *information-collection provisions* to the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget (OMB), Attn: Desk Officer for EPA, 725 17th St. NW., Washington D.C. 20503.



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

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Air in Indian Country

Review of New sources and Modifications in Indian Country, under 40 CFR Parts 49 and 51, for which the comment deadline is **November 20, 2006**. The rule focuses on both the regulation of minor sources in Indian Country and regulation of major sources in non-attainment areas within Indian Country. In the proposed rule, EPA has noted the areas for which it would like comments. For those interested, the rule may be viewed and downloaded at: <http://a257.g.akamaitech.net/7/25/2422/01jan20061800/edocket.access.gpo.gov/2006/pdf/06-6926.pdf>.

If you have any comments and observations to share concerning the proposed rule, please sent them to Bob Gruening at: bgruenig@netc.org or 505-242-2175 ext. 103. Such comments and observations will be helpful in developing a larger set of comments for tribes to use in addressing EPA about the proposed rule.

Water Goals

An EPA spokesman told BNA that EPA plans to lower its goal for the percentage of U.S. residents served by community water systems that meet all federal standards. EPA believes it cannot meet the current compliance goal of 95% by 2008. The Agency proposes a compliance goal of 91% by 2011, according to spokesman Dale Kemery.

A major reason for the proposed downgrade is that several drinking water systems serving large populations have chronic violations, according to the mid-year report. In addition, each year there are sporadic violations, often of short duration, by other large systems.

Kemery said that EPA proposed the revised goal in its strategic plan for 2006 through 2011, which is currently under development. The Agency released the draft strategic plain in May for public comment.

EPA's FY 2006 Mid-Year Performance Report is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/index.htm#fymeasures>.