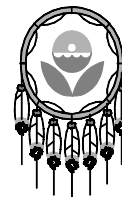


# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



## LETTER

Vol. XV No. V  
May 1, 2006

### Work Shops and Conferences

**May 1-4, 13<sup>th</sup> National Tribal Environmental Council Conference, Temecula, CA.** For more information:

<http://www.ntec.org> or Contact David Conrad at: [dconrad@ntec.org](mailto:dconrad@ntec.org)

**May 2-3, Freshwater Spill Conference, Portland, Oregon.** Free registration at site below:

<http://www.freshwaterspills.net/fss06/resister/html>

**May 9-11, Energy Efficiency in Tribal Community, Denver, CO.** National conference on energy efficiency and weatherization: More: <http://www.certreearth.com/events.php>

**August 21-25, Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Indian Reservation, Pendleton, OR.** See Item below this page.\*

**September, 24-28, Tribal Science Conference, Ocean Shores, WA.** See item below this page.\*\*

**October 25-26, Region 10/NWIFCA, 4<sup>th</sup> EPA/Washington Tribes Environmental Symposium, TBA**

For information: Fran Wilshusen 360/438-1181 x 351, [fwilshus@nwifc.org](mailto:fwilshus@nwifc.org)

**November 2-5, 28<sup>th</sup> Annual AISES Conference, Detroit, MI.** [www.aiuses.org](http://www.aiuses.org)

**Region 10 Tribal  
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To receive a copy call:

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### **World Asthma Day**

May 2, 2006 is Asthma Awareness Month. In support of Asthma Awareness Month, EPA developed a free Event Planning Kit, an Asthma Awareness Month Web page, and Event Listing forms. Visit: <http://www.epa.gov/asthma/>

[awm.html](#) or enter "Asthma Awareness Month and indoor environments" in your Internet search engine to view the Web site link. The planning kit is a free resource for community organizers, health care providers, school nurses, teachers, and everyone who is committed to raising awareness of asthma triggers and their management.

### **Tribal Leaders' Summit\***

Join us in Pendleton, Oregon at the Wildhorse Resort and Casino August 21-25<sup>th</sup>. Experience the culture of the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indians as you discuss critical environmental issues

with leaders from the EPA and tribes from Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Registration forms are ready for the 2006 EPA Region 10 Tribal Leaders' Summit. Contact Joyce Houle, Summit Coordinator at: [joycehoule@ctuir.com](mailto:joycehoule@ctuir.com) or 888/809-8027 x2336 for information about registration, scholarships, travel, and speaking proposals : <http://www.umatilla.nsn.us/2006EPAsummit.html>.

### **Tribal Environmental Science\*\***

The Conference is designed for tribal leaders and staff working on environmental

science topics. Members of tribal organizations, tribal faculty and students, representatives of EPA, and other federal agencies are invited to participate. To encourage tribal participation, the Conference has no registration fee and offers a limited number of tribal travel scholarships: <http://www.quinaultbeachresort.com>

### **SBIR Program**

EPA requests proposals for the FY06 Phase 1 of the Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program. This procurement is a total small business set-aside. Areas of interest include, but are not limited to: Green Buildings, Innovation Manufacturing for Environmental Protection, Water and Wastewater Management, Mining and Mine Waste Management, Management of Animal Feeding Operations, Agriculture and Rural Community Improvement, Engine and Vehicle Emission Reduction, Lead Paint Detection and Removal. Up to 40 contract awards are anticipated. The RFP will close May 24, 2006. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/icer/sbir>.

### **RTOC and NTOC Elections**

Four representatives have been recently elected to the Region 10 Operations Committee (RTOC) and the National tribal Operations Committee (NTOC). We welcome: Brian Cladoosby, Swinomish, NTOC for western

Washington and western Oregon; Daniel Ellanak, Ouzinkie, NTOC for Alaska position #2; Moses Squeochs, Yakama, ROTC for eastern Washington; and Michael Mail, Quinault, RTOC for western Washington. The NTOC and RTOC charters, as well as a complete list of representative, can be found at:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/tribal.NSF/programs/rtoc>.

### **Water Infrastructure Funding**

USDA Rural development has water infrastructure funding available for tribes under the Native American Grants program. This year \$16.3M is available nationwide. Eligible tribes must have a per capita income of no more than \$15,110, and unemployment rate of at least 6.25%, and a documented public health or environmental need. More: <http://www.usda.gov/rus/water/2006funding.htm>.

### **Drinking Water Week**

**May 7-13** is Drinking Water Week. For more than 30 years, the American Water Association has celebrated Drinking Water Week with its members – a unique opportunity for water professionals and the consumers they serve to join together to recognize the vital roll of water in our daily lives. During the first week in May, utilities, their communities and other groups around the country celebrate our most precious natural resource with fairs, programs, and other events. AWWA offers celebration

ideas, materials, promotional opportunities and other topics to spread the word about The Wonder of Water.

Drinking Water Week is a great time to teach kids about the wonder of water. There are pages filled with everything from coloring pages to classroom activities to science experiments. Info: <http://www.awwa.org/advocacy/dww>.

### **May is Wetlands Month**

May is the month we recognize and celebrate the ways wetlands enrich the environment and people. It is a time to give back to the environment by learning more about wetlands and participating in the many scheduled events. The EPA is proud to partner with other federal, state and local agencies and private organizations celebrating American Wetlands Month each May. Events are scheduled across the country to educate, involve and engage Americans who want to better understand the value of one of Earth's most important ecosystems. This year's theme is "It Pays to Save Wetlands."

Wetlands Month was inaugurated in 1991 by EPA and its partners in federal, state, tribal, and local governments and private and nonprofit organizations as a way to educate Americans about the value of wetlands as a natural resource. Annual events, including national and regional conferences, have been staged. A broad range of people with ties to wetlands, including

wetland scientists, educators and public interest groups participate in these celebrations. The annual celebration of American Wetlands Month in May inspires and empowers people to work throughout the year to protect, preserve and expand wetlands. For further information about American Wetlands Month go to: [www.iwla.org/index.php?id=169](http://www.iwla.org/index.php?id=169).

### **Water Utility Tools**

EPA has released a set of user-friendly multimedia products to help small drinking water utilities meet new regulations to control arsenic. The tools will provide owners and operators with information to guide them in making treatment decisions. One tool of particular note is the Arsenic Virtual Trade Show, a learning portal for arsenic-treatment technology. The website features a database of vendors, a treatment decision tree, and tips for selecting treatment providers. To launch the Arsenic Virtual Trade Show, go to: [www.arsenictradeshow.org](http://www.arsenictradeshow.org). Information about arsenic and drinking water is available at: [www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/arsenic)

### **Toolkit Drinking Water**

EPA has released a specialized toolkit to encourage school officials and child care facilities to reduce lead in their drinking water. The “3Ts for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water at Schools and Child Care Facilities Toolkit” contains materials to implement

a voluntary training and testing strategy.

“Our drinking water tools for schools teach lead prevention through action and awareness,” said Benjamin Grumbles, assistant administrator for water. “This new and improved guidance will help students, teachers, and parents have confidence in the quality of their school’s tap water.”

Testing water in schools and child care centers is important because children spend a significant portion of their days there. The “3Ts Toolkit” explains how to test for lead in drinking water; report results to parents, students, staff, and other interested parties; and take action to correct problems. The toolkit also includes an update to a 1994 EPA technical guidance to help schools design and implement testing programs. Steps in the program include:

- Collecting information on school drinking water and identifying assistance to implement a school lead control program.
- Developing a plumbing profile.
- Developing a drinking water testing plan.
- Testing the facilities’ drinking water for lead.
- Correcting problems when elevated levels are found.
- Communicating with the school community about a school lead control program.

EPA developed the toolkit in conjunction with non-government organizations and several federal agencies including the U. S. Department of Education.

Printed copies of the toolkit are available through the Water Resource Center at 800/832-7828 and through the Safe Drinking Water Hotline at: 800/426-4791. Tool kit: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/schools/guidance.html>

### **Wastewater**

To help state, tribal, and local governments determine the best way to protect public health and the environment, the EPA has issued a booklet that outlines their recommendations, titled, *Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) wastewater Treatment Systems*.

The guidelines describe five models of management; each model increases in complexity from low to high. Copies are available on the Web at: [www/mesc/wvu.edu](http://www/mesc/wvu.edu) or can be ordered by calling 800/624-8301.

### **Tribal Pollution Prevention**

The Tribal Pollution Prevention (P2) website is up and running! See: <http://www.tribalp2.org/index.php>. This is a new resource for Tribal Environmental Staff. Folks can contact National Pollution Prevention Roundtable (NPPR) staff in D.C. directly at 202/299-9701 or the regional NPPR representative at 360/407-6354 if they have questions or need assistance.

### **Washington Energy Assistance**

Some \$461.268 in federal block grant money has been allocated to help families in

Washington state, including Native Communities, pay their home energy bills. The funds are administered by the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, a program of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Individuals interested in applying for assistance should call 866/674-6327 or:

[energyassistance@ncat.org](mailto:energyassistance@ncat.org).

(include city, county and state in the e-mail message) or visit:

[www.acf.hhs.gov/programsx/liheap](http://www.acf.hhs.gov/programsx/liheap).

### **Watershed Planning Handbook**

A draft guide to help organizations develop and carry out watershed plans is now available. The *Draft Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters* may be useful for communities, watershed groups, and local, state, tribal and federal environmental agencies. This handbook contains in-depth guidance on quantifying existing pollutant loads, developing estimates of the load reductions required to meet water quality standards, developing management measures, and tracking progress. EPA will accept suggestions on the document in the coming year to incorporate in the final version. The handbook is posted at: [www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed\\_handbook](http://www.epa.gov/owow/nps/watershed_handbook).

### **Stormwater Webcasts**

EPA has launched a new series of webcast training

sessions for municipal stormwater managers.

Designed for those unable to attend out-of-town or multi-day workshops, this series provides a mix of basic and advanced topics in two-hour blocks.

These webcasts allow participants to listen to lectures and see presentation through their computers. Webcasts will be scheduled about every other month from now until September. Future topics are expected to include Construction 101, Stormwater Utilities 201, Illicit Discharge Elimination and Detection 101, and Program Development. To sign up or learn more visit:

[www.epa.gov/npdes/training](http://www.epa.gov/npdes/training).

### **ExpectMore.gov**

A new government website called **ExpectMore.gov** offers candid, easy-to-understand assessment of federal programs. The website allows the public to see what government agencies are doing to improve program performance.

The assessments are based on formal program evaluations designed to identify weaknesses and programs that do or don't show results. A program's efficiency is determined by the cost to achieve its results. These assessments help ensure efficiency overall by checking whether a program duplicates other, better run programs or whether the program as already fulfilled its purpose.

The tool used for the assessments is called the Program Assessment Rating Tool or PART. PART was

developed by the White House Office of Management and Budget (OMB) in 2003. By yearend 2006, all federal government programs will have been reviewed and rated.

**ExpectMore.gov** offers assessments of nearly 800 federal programs so far, including about 43 EPA programs. Summaries provide a program overview, key findings and the actions agencies are taking to improve performance. Each summary links to the full program assessment details, the program's website, and the search result for similar federal programs:

[www.expectmore.gov](http://www.expectmore.gov).

### **Water Use**

A century ago, the average American used only about 10 gallons of water a day to drink, cook, clean, and bathe. Today Americans use 100 gallons a day per person on average. At the same time the average American household spends only \$474 per year on water and wastewater charges, yet spends an average of \$707 per year on carbonated soft drinks and other noncarbonated refreshment beverages.

These factoids were taken from an EPA Office of Water web page devoted to building and maintaining Sustainable Water Infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. The site has a wide variety of articles, guides and case studies aimed at improving the management and sustainability of water systems.

The Sustainable Water Infrastructure for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century web page can be found at: <http://www.epa.gov/water/infrastructure>.

### **Air in the Home**

According to the EPA, the air quality in your home can be up to 10 times more polluted than outdoor air.

Ironically, this condition is due in part to the significant advancements that have been made in attempts to improve home comfort, lower utility bills and reduce energy consumption. Tighter, more energy-efficient homes prohibit the free exchange of air that was typical of their drafty predecessors. Consequently, chemicals present in building materials are not easily dissipated and can aggravate allergies, depending upon one's sensitivity to certain chemicals. More: <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/#smoke-free%20homes>.

### **Microwaves & Plastic**

Studies have shown that dioxins may be released into the atmosphere when chlorinated plastics such as polyvinyl chloride (PVC) – Which is a component of some plastic wraps and food packaging – are incinerated at high temperatures.

Food safety experts agree that consumers should take the following precautions when using plastic wrap or plastic containers in a microwave oven:

- Only plastic containers or packaging labeled “Microwave Safe” should be used in

microwave ovens, • If plastic wrap is used when microwaving, it should not be allowed to come into direct contact with food.

### **New Car Smell**

A Michigan environmental group is charging that at least part of the so-called “new car smell” is toxic, and that the interior of an automobile has dangerous levels of various chemicals. The report *Toxic at any Speed* comes from the Ecology Center, an Ann Arbor, Mich.-based group. It reports that PBDEs, used as fire retardants, and phthalates, used primarily to soften PVC plastics, are found in dangerous amounts in dust and windshield film samples.

The group says that phthalates are partly responsible for the smell associated with new cars. Drivers and passengers are exposed to these chemicals through inhalation and contact with dust, according to the group's report.

“These groups of chemicals have been linked to birth defects, impaired learning, liver toxicity, premature births and early puberty in laboratory animals, among other serious health problem,” according to the report.

Ford had among the lowest level of PBDEs in its vehicles, and General Motors (Research) and BMW vehicles also had lower-than-average levels for all chemicals tested. But Mercedes, Chrysler, Toyota and Subaru had higher-than-average

levels of both PDES's and phthalates.

### **RepelleX**

More than 100 nationwide importers and distributors of RepelleX lawn and garden products have been issued stop sale orders from the EPA because they contain an unregistered pesticide (*quaternary*) that essentially has not cleared the agency's regulatory review.

The three RepelleX products in question contain quaternary ammonium salts, a substance considered a pesticide by EPA and thus subject to agency registration requirements. The three products are RepelleX14-2-2 Fertilizer Tablets, RepelleX Deer Repellent Concentrate, and Bulb Saver Concentrate. EPA stated the products misspell the ingredient as “*quartenary*” ammonium salts.

### **Pacifiers**

Pacifiers may do more than pacify infants – They could protect them from Sudden Infant death Syndrome. A study recently conducted by the National Institutes of Health and Kaiser Permanente found that babies that use pacifiers during naptime and bedtime reduce their risk of the deadly disorder by as much as 90 percent. Among Native Americans, SIDS is the second leading cause of death in infants. Indian families lose a child to SIDS at more than twice the rate of the general population, according to the American Lung Association.

**Beach Water Testing**

EPA researchers developed a new rapid method for testing beach water quality that will protect Americans' health by reducing the time for detecting bacterial contamination from 24 hours to just two.

The research used DNA analysis to quantify two types of bacteria, *enterococci* and *bacteroides*.

**Global Warming Cost**

People can't take steps to reduce global warming unless they know how much they are contributing to it. Using that belief as a starting point, environmentalist and Silicon Valley companies rolled out a new plan to help South Bay business and the public compute

how many pounds of "greenhouse gases" they are generating, and then voluntarily offset that pollution with donations to companies that produce wind power and other renewable energy.

Under the scheme, the sierra club and Acterra, a Palo Alto environmental group, unveiled a new Web site [www.cool-it.us](http://www.cool-it.us), where individuals can type in the number of miles they drive, their car's gas mileage, the amount of electricity and natural gas on their power bills and how many airline miles they fly.

**IDAHO**

Rebecca A. Miles a 1997 Washington State University graduate and a leader of the Nez Perce Tribe was announced as

Woman of the Year at the annual WSU Women's Recognition Luncheon held at the Pullman Campus Tuesday March 21<sup>st</sup>.

Miles was elected as the Nez Perce Tribe General Council Chairman at age 27. She was re-elected by her peers as the first woman chairman of the executive committee, they youngest to be elected to that position.

Her nomination cited her compassionate and positive attitude about life, and not that this, combined with her commitment to serving and her organizational skills and ability to work well with others, is a formula for leadership. *Ta'c Tito'oqan News, April 2006*