

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.
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LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



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

Vol. 16, No.8 — August 2007

◁ CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS ▷

August

- 10 Toxics in Traditional Foods – Assessing the Health Benefits and Risks**, La Conner, WA.
For information, contact Jamie Donatuto, jdonatuto@swinomish.nsn.us or Debra Lekanof
dlekanof@swinomish.nsn.us, phone, 360-391-5296
- 22-23 Tribal Children's Environmental Health Summit**, Denver, CO. Priority given to tribes in Regions
6, 8, & 10 but open to everyone. For info: Eric Byous, byous.eric@epa.gov or 415-972-3790

September

- 25-27 Air Pollution and Ecosystems**, Las Vegas, NV. For information: Sue Rose at susan.rose@nau.edu
or 928-523-1488

October

- 3-5 EPA Western Brownfields Workshop**, Portland, OR. For information: Laura Sneeringer at
303-861-1637 or email wbwregistration@sra.com to register

November

- 5-8 HazMat Explo**, Las Vegas, NV. For information: Angie Proboszcz at proboszcz.angie@epa.gov
or 415-972-3077
- 14-15 WasteWise and National Partnership for Environmental Priorities Annual conference**,
Washington DC, NV. (See Page 2)

◁ EPA LAUNCHES NEW TRIBAL WEBSITE ▷

The Environmental Protection Agency has launched the first-of-its-kind portal website to help the tribal community, its supporters and the public find tribal environmental information and data through a single web-based access point.

Announced today at the National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) meeting in Washington, DC, the portal is part of EPA's commitment to strengthen its partnership with Indian tribes and governments to protect human health and the environment. Established in 1994, the NTOC comprises 19 tribal leaders and senior Agency leaders, and meets once a year to discuss implementation of tribal environmental protection programs. Currently, there are approximately 560 separate, federally-recognized tribal governments in the United States.

"For centuries, Native Americans have been respected for their commitment to Mother Earth. At EPA, we share in the obligation to pass down a cleaner, healthier environment to future generations," said EPA Administrator Stephen L. Johnson. "This new Web site reflects EPA's ongoing efforts to reach-out to the tribal community in order to accelerate human health and environmental protection in Indian country."

The new cross-agency website allows EPA to consolidate and share environmental information reflecting the tribal community's perspective and needs into a central, easy-to-navigate structure. Various EPA programs, such as enforcement, waste, underground storage tanks and water, are also consolidating their tribal information through this website. The site will help users save time and resources by making it easier to locate tribal environmental information within EPA and other government agencies.

Visit the tribal portal: <http://www.epa.gov/tribalportal>

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WasteWise Conference

The 2007 WasteWise and National Partnership for Environmental Priorities (NPEP) Annual Conference is being held **November 14 and 15, 2007** at the Marriott at Metro Center in Washington, DC. The WasteWise Communities campaign helps partners with various aspects of waste reduction, including waste prevention, recycling, buying products manufactured with recycled-content, and even how decreasing waste can decrease climate change impacts. A block of rooms are being held at the Marriott at Metro Center until October 23, 2007.

Call Marriott Reservations at 800/228-9290 or direct at 202/737-2200 to reserve your room. Identify yourself with the "EPA WasteWise Annual Conference." For more information visit: <http://wastewise.tms.icfi.com/events.htm>

National Tribal Conference for Environmental Management 2008

The conference will take place in Billings, MT, the third week of June 2008. Travel begins on Sunday for those interested in field trips or in-depth training sessions. Otherwise, you can plan to come in on Monday. The Office of Water is organizing the conference this year so the Office Assistant Administrator, Ben Grumbles, and Deputy Assistant Administrator, Mike Shapiro, are expected to attend. If you aren't familiar with this conference, and have questions, feel free contact Karen Rudek at 202-564-0472.

Pesticide Control Grants

The purpose of this solicitation is to provide financial assistance to eligible tribal governments, Alaskan native villages, or intertribal consortia for projects to conduct research, development, monitoring, public education, training, demonstrations, and studies related to pesticide control. Examples of the types of projects the Agency will consider include, but are not limited to: Development or implementation of a plan to manage pesticide use on reservation, including reduced use of pesticides or use of alternatives to pesticides; conducting pesticide safety education and outreach; development or implementation of measures to protect water from pesticide contamination; conducting vulnerability assessments to determine potential threats from pesticides to water sources or endangered or threatened species; sampling water, soil or culturally significant plants, wildlife, or objects for pesticide contamination; determining effects of pesticides on cultural activities such as subsistence hunting or fishing; and conducting pesticide disposal days.

This year \$400,000 is available to tribes nationwide for pesticide projects, with a limit of \$50,000 per project. Project proposals may be submitted by any federally-recognized tribal government, Alaska native village or any tribal consortium eligible to receive federal funds. Applications must be postmarked or received electronically through grants.gov **by August 24, 2007**. For more information: http://www.epa.gov/pesticides/grants/proposals/2007_tribal_grant_rfp.pdf

Particulate Matter & Health

EPA is requesting proposals for Innovative Approaches to Particulate Matter Health, Composition, and Source Questions. Through this RFP, EPA seeks applications proposing to improve the ability of epidemiologic studies to link health outcomes to sources and components of air pollution. \$5 million is expected to be available and up to 6 awards are anticipated. Proposals are **due September 11, 2007**. For more information, contact Darrell Winner at winner.darrell@epa.gov or go to: http://es.epa.gov/ncer/rfa/2007/2007_star_part_matter.html

Rural Community Development Initiative (RCDI)

USDA requests proposals for RCDI. This program supports qualified intermediary organizations that will provide financial and technical assistance to recipients to develop their capacity and ability to undertake projects related to housing, community facilities, or community and economic development. Eligible activities include, but are not limited to: Assisting recipients to complete predevelopment requirements for housing and community facilities by providing architectural, engineering, or legal services; improving recipient's organizational capacity by providing training and resource material on developing strategic plans, board operations, management, financial systems, and information technology. \$6.2 million is expected to be available and individual awards will range from \$50K to \$300K. Responses are **due September 6, 2007**. For information: <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rd/>

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Hazardous Waste Management Grant for Tribes

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals from Tribal governments and Intertribal Consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs, and to build tribal capacity to address hazardous waste mismanagement in Indian country.

All hazardous waste management activities that address the RCRA Subtitle C "cradle to grave" approach are eligible. Each of the following hazardous waste management program activities are considered central to a "cradle to grave" program:

1. Hazardous Waste Identification,
2. Hazardous Waste Generator Siting, Monitoring, & Compliance (Large Quantity, Small Quantity, and Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators),
3. Hazardous Waste Recycling, Used Oil, and Universal Wastes,
4. Hazardous Waste Transportation,
5. Treatment, Storage, and Disposal Facility Siting, Permitting, Monitoring, Corrective Action, & Enforcement,
6. Land Disposal Restrictions,
7. Combustion.

Applicants may choose to submit applications either in hard copy (paper) format or electronically through <http://www.grants.gov>. Applications submitted in hard-copy must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or received in the EPA Program Office via hand delivery by August 13, 2007, 5:00 p.m. EDT. Electronic applications must be submitted **by August 13, 2007, 5:00 P.M. EDT**. EPA anticipates awarding of up to 4 cooperative agreement(s). The total budgets may not exceed \$79,500.

For more information: <http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/07-07.pdf>

STAG Funding for Tribes

The Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance published the 2007 State and Tribal Assistance Grant solicitation. One of the focus areas for this grant solicitation is Tribal Compliance Assurance Training and Workshops.

Grant funding awarded for this focus area will be used to support two types of environmental training in Indian country:

(1) improving the ability of tribal environmental professionals to properly and safely conduct inspections pursuant to applicable environmental laws; and

(2) increasing understanding of the roles and responsibilities of EPA and federally-recognized Indian tribes in ensuring environmental compliance in Indian Country and other tribal areas.

Due to limited resources, priority will go to proposals that will improve the capabilities of multiple tribes. The funds must be used for building the capacity and expertise of tribes to implement compliance assurance and enforcement programs. These funds cannot be used for the actual implementation of compliance monitoring and enforcement programs.

The deadline for submitting applications (proposal and partial grant application) is **August 23, 2007**. Applicants will be notified of the funding recommendations **by September 28, 2007**.

For information:

<http://www.epa.gov/compliance/state/grants/stag/opportunities.html>

Fellowship Opportunity

Creighton University has recently established a new fellowship for students seeking a Masters in Science in environmental and atmospheric sciences, with emphasis in remote sensing. The program is seeking qualified Native American students with interests in environmental and atmospheric sciences. The fellowship includes the cost of tuition, a stipend for living expenses, and travel costs for meetings and research.

Students are being sought for the **Fall 2007 Semester**. Application information is available at Creighton's Graduate School website: <http://www2.creighton.edu/gradschool/index.php>. For additional information, contact Dr. John Schalles atjfsaqua@creighton.edu.

HUD CodeTalk Website

HUD has a website, CodeTalk, which is a federal, interagency, Native American website designed specifically to deliver relevant electronic information to Native American communities. There are at least three programs that may be of interest to Tribal Communities. They include: The Indian Housing Block Grant Program, The Rural Housing and Economic Development Program, and The Indian Community Development Block Grant Program. Most Tribes receive funds through the Indian Housing Block Grant Program which has \$624 million available in FY 2007. This may be the best potential source of funds to help change-out inefficient wood stoves in cleaner burning hearth appliances for those who are eligible, i.e., low income people (80% of the median income=low income).

Go to: <http://www.hud.gov/codetalk>

Improved Watershed Tool

EPA has updated its Better Assessment Science Integrating Point and Nonpoint Sources (BASINS) watershed management program to run on free open source geographic information system software. BASINS 4.0 includes point and non-point source data for users to assess or predict flow and water quality for selected streams and entire watersheds. For more information or to download BASINS 4.0 visit:

<http://www.epa.gov/waterscience/basins>

Report Says Tap Better Than Bottle Water

A consumer rights organization published a report Jun 29 that said tap water is generally healthier, less expensive, and better for the environment than bottled water. The report also recommends U.S. consumers choose tap over bottled water. The EPA regulates all public drinking water systems, while the Food and Drug Administration regulates bottled water. The report said, however, that FDA regulates only 30 percent to 40 percent of water sold across state lines. The full report is available at:

<http://www.foodandwaterwatch.org/water/pubs/reports/take-back-the-tap>

Section 1813 Tribal Rights of Way Report

DOE and DOI have delivered copies of the Section 1813 Tribal Rights of Way Report to the Senate and House Committees of jurisdiction. A copy of the report is available online at: <http://1813.anl.gov>. Letters to all federally recognized tribes are forthcoming. For more information: David Meyer, U. S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave., SW Rm. 8H033 Washington, DC 20585 or 202-586-3118.

Centers for Disease Control

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has a new service available - an RSS feed to CDC emergency bulletins on quality threats and issues. Water utilities may want to look into this CDC opportunity to receive automatic alerts about a variety of biological, chemical, and radiological issues or problems via RSS.

RSS stands for *Really Simple Syndication* and it is an easy way to receive automatic updates from CDC to your desktop or browser.

To set up an RSS feed, go to:

<http://www.bt.cdc.gov/rss>

and follow the instructions provided.

Federal Air Rules for Reservations

The Federal Air Rules for Reservations (FARR) is a basic set of federal air rules that apply within the exterior boundaries of 39 Indian Reservations in Idaho, Oregon and Washington to protect human health and the environment. These rules "level the playing field" and ensure that residents within the boundaries of the reservations enjoy air quality protection similar to that existing outside the reservations.

You can call the FARR Hotline at 800/424-4372 to request forms or information, a copy of the rules or facts sheets, report a complaint or ask questions about the FARR rules. The Hotline is available M-F 8:30 AM – 4:00 PM PDT. For information:

<http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/farr.htm>

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Wood Stoves

Residential wood smoke from wood stoves and fireplaces contributes 6 percent (420,000 tons) of the total amount of fine particle pollution (PM2.5) directly emitted in the United States each year. That contribution can be significantly greater in areas where wood stove use is high. In addition, about 22 percent of total U.S. polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon (PAH) emissions come from residential wood smoke.

EPA is conducting a national campaign to help state, local and tribal agencies reduce emissions of fine particles and air toxics by replacing old, inefficient wood stoves with cleaner-burning technologies. EPA estimates that for every 20 wood stoves replaced, PM2.5 emissions will be reduced by 1 ton per year. This cost-effective program (less than \$2,000 per ton for every old stove replaced) may help you bring your area into attainment with the national fine particle standards. For additional information on the program contact Larry Brockman, brockman.larry@epa.gov, or 919-541-5398.

EPA's New Go Green! Newsletter

America is shifting to a "green culture" in which all 300 million citizens are embracing the fact that environmental responsibility is everyone's responsibility. As a step in that direction, citizen environmental partners can sign up to receive EPA's new consumer newsletter, *Go Green!* EPA is launching this monthly, email newsletter to provide "what you can do" information on activities and events that everyone can use to make a difference just about anywhere - in homes, workplaces, schools and communities.

The newsletter will include information on such issues as how to calculate individual energy use, upcoming environmental activities and observances and recent news reports from EPA. For information about *Go Green!* or to sign up for the newsletter visit: <http://www.epa.gov/newsroom/gogreen>

Agriculture Website and Pesticide Screening

EPA launched a new agriculture laws website on June 15. The site provides a lookup tool listing federal environmental regulations that could impact agriculture. Knowing the rules beforehand would allow farmers to address issues before they become a problem.

The site, which is an outgrowth of EPA's National Strategy for Agriculture, aims to improve communication, collaboration and innovation with the agricultural community.

You can check out the site by visiting <http://www.epa.gov/agriculture/law.html>.

EPA has also published the preliminary list of 73 pesticides it will be screening for endocrine disruptor activity. Environmental worries over endocrine disruptors and their impact on the environment has been growing and EPA has developed new screening methods to determine if a compound has that activity.

The first list, which EPA stresses is for screening only, contains quite a few compounds that will be familiar to farmers. You can check the list out by visiting <http://www.epa.gov/endo/pubs/prioritysetting/draftlist.htm>. The agency is seeking comment on this list to be evaluated.

Climate Change Resource

The Nature Publishing Group offers a free online journal entitled *Nature Reports: Climate Change*. This publication provides authoritative, in-depth reporting on climate change and its impact on policy, society and the economy. For journal:

<http://www.nature.com/climate/index.html>

Rechargeable Batteries

Rechargeable batteries may last many years, but they eventually need to be replaced. Be sure to recycle any rechargeable batteries. If you do not know where to drop them off, call 800-822-8837. Input your ZIP code on the phone keypad and listen for locations of recycling centers in your area.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10 Tribal Program
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Seattle, Washington 98101-1128

Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome. Please submit articles to: Don Creek, 811 S.W. 6th Ave. EPA, Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

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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)	800-424-8301
Oregon	800-452-0311		