

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. 7— July 2007

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

July

- 16-20 Weatherization Program Basics for Tribes**, Bozeman, MT. For more information: Mike Vogel or Luke Elliott at 406-994-3451
- 17-20 NETI Basic Inspector Course**, Seattle, WA. For info: Jeffrey Lightner, lightner.jeff@epa.gov
- 23-26 National Forum on Contaminants in Fish**, Portland, ME. For info: <http://fishforum.rti.org>
- 24-26 Hazards in Water Resources**, Universities Council on Water Resources & National Institutes for Water Resources Conference, Boise, ID. For information: <http://www.ucowr.siu.edu>
- 30 Traveling the Traditional Highways of our Ancestors**, Lummi Stommish Grounds, Lummi, WA
For info: <http://www.paddletolummi.com> or Freddie Lane: freddielane@paddletolummi.com
- 30-8/5 AYEA Summer Institute**, Univ. of Alaska, Anchorage. For info: <http://www.ayea.org> (See page 6)

August

- 21-24 7 Generations Training**, Atmautluak, Ak. For info: Edward Nicolai at 907-553-5335 (See page 7)
- 22-23 Tribal Children's Environmental Health Summit**, Denver, CO. Priority given to Regions 6, 8, & 10 tribes, open to everyone: <http://epa.gov/region8/humanhealth/children/2007summit.html> or Eric Byous, byous.eric@epa.gov or 415-972-3790

September

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

October

- 3-5 EPA Western Brownfields Workshop**, Portland, OR. (See below)

November

- 5-8 HazMat Explo**, Las Vegas, NV. For information: Angie Proboszcz at proboszcz.angie@epa.gov or 415-972-3077

<> BROWNFIELDS WORKSHOP <>

Register now for the EPA Western Brownfields Workshop to be held **October 3 to 5, 2007**, in Portland, Oregon.

Who should attend?

- EPA Brownfields Grantees
- Potential or Interested Grantees
- Invited Grantees' Consultants
- Invited Federal, State or Local Partners.

The workshop will be held at the Doubletree Hotel & Executive

Meeting Center, Portland Lloyd Center, 1000 NE Multnomah, Portland. Call 800-996-0510 **by Tuesday September 18, 2007** to reserve your government-rate room. Identify yourself as being with the EPA Western Brownfields Workshop.

For more information, contact Laura Sneeringer at 303-861-1637 or send an e-mail to: wbwregistration@sra.com

<> SCHOLARSHIP <>

The Water & Wastewater Equipment Manufacturers Association and *Water & Wastes Digest* are currently accepting applications for the 2007 WWEMA/WWD Scholarship. The \$1000 scholarship will be awarded to a student seeking a career in a water- or wastewater-related field.

The deadline for submitting a scholarship application is Monday, September 24, 2007.

Applications can be obtained by e-mail at waternews@sgcmail.com or by phone at 847-391-1011.

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Cultural Resource Training

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers is providing an innovative training opportunity in the sustainable environmental operation principles and cultural values of indigenous peoples. The objective is to apply and institutionalize those principles in current programs and projects.

The training has four goals: 1) to develop a better understanding of indigenous cultural, spiritual and environmental beliefs, 2) to share the knowledge and experience of sustainable living, 3) to develop the principles and values needed to evaluate federal agency actions, sustainability and environmental concerns, and 4) to find synergy in sharing ideas among federal agencies in the protection and preservation of the land and natural environment. This will help the agencies more effectively accomplish tasks on their lands. At the same time, it will fulfill their trust responsibilities to the tribes.

Training of this type is unprecedented in the federal government. This immersion training is conducted by indigenous tribes on their

reservations. The course takes the thousands of years' experience that sustained indigenous Native Americans and applies the experience to maintain an environmentally healthy, diverse and sustainable condition. It recognizes the interdependency of life and the physical environment. It balances and synergies human development and natural systems. It develops ways to assess and modify cumulative impacts to the environment. It builds, shares and integrates scientific, economic and social knowledge that supports better understanding of the environment and the impacts of their work. And it respects the views of individuals and groups.

This course has been so successful that it is now on the curriculum of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers' Professional Support Center Proponent-sponsored Engineer Corps Training (PROSPECT) registry. The course is now open for attendance from all branches of state and federal governments and the private sector. For more information: <http://www.sad.usace.army.mil/Native%20American/Native%20American%20Training.htm>

Mobility Disaster Response Grants

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Proposals are invited for up to three cooperative agreements for research and/or demonstration projects to improve emergency preparedness, disaster response, and disaster recovery, in the event of an emergency, for people with specific mobility needs

Proposals will be funded by the Transportation Equity Research Program (TERP), which was established by the Safe, Accountable, Flexible, and Efficient Transportation Equity Act — A Legacy for Users (SAFETEA-LU). The program supports research and demonstrations that focus on transportation planning, investment, and operations for transit-dependent, low-income and minority populations.

Cooperative agreements will be three-year awards. The total available funding for the first year is \$214,000. Subsequent funding is authorized at \$250,000 per year under (SAFETEA-LU). Actual funding will be based on annual appropriations.



Encouraged to apply are city or township governments, county governments, for-profit organizations (other than small businesses), Native American tribal governments, Native American tribal organizations, nonprofits having a 501(c)3 status, institutions of higher education, small businesses and state governments. For more: [http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Emergencyprep_RFP\(2\).doc](http://www.fta.dot.gov/documents/Emergencyprep_RFP(2).doc)

Recycling Consumer Electronics

Best Buy Company requests proposals for consumer electronics recycling grants. This program seeks to increase recycling opportunities available to communities across the United States. Support is provided for events hosted by 501(c)(3) nonprofit organizations and for events hosted by other organizations in cities and townships nationwide. Grants range from \$500 to \$1,500. Responses are accepted on a continuing basis. For more information, visit: <http://communications.bestbuy.com/communityrelations/recycling.asp>

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Tribal Transit Assistance

The Tribal Transit Technical Assistance Program, funded by the USDA Rural Business and Cooperative Service assists tribal communities in promoting economic growth and development by improving transportation services.

The program provides planning assistance for facilities development, transit service improvements and expansion, new system start-up, policy and procedure development, marketing, transportation coordination, training and public transit problem-solving activities. Deadlines are on a rolling basis. For more information: <http://www.ctaa.org/techassist/usda/M-STAPPN.pdf>

Economic Development

The U.S. Economic Development Administration requests proposals under the amended Public Works and Economic Development Act of 1965 and the Trade Act of 1974. This program supports projects that promote comprehensive, entrepreneurial and innovative economic development efforts to enhance the competitiveness of regions.

Project results should include increased private investment and higher-skill, higher-wage jobs in areas with substantial, persistent economic distress. \$250.7 million is expected to be available. Proposals are accepted continuously. For more information: <http://www.grants.gov/search/search.do?oppld=13169&mode=VIEW>

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New Tribal Energy Project (TEP)

All TEPs funded through the program are now accessible geographically on a U.S. state map. Projects can also be found under the Tribe’s name, year of award, type of project, and technology. For more, visit: <http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/projects.cfm>

AirCompare Answers Air Quality Questions

A new tool developed by EPA provides local air quality information to help people make informed decisions about moving, vacationing or living in different areas of the country.

“From people getting ready to retire to vacationers or those changing jobs, Americans are increasingly considering air quality as they make their plans,” said Bill Wehrum, EPA’s Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. “AirCompare helps answer those questions in a way that’s simple to understand.”

AirCompare uses EPA’s popular Air Quality Index (AQI) to explain air quality from a health perspective. A person with asthma, for example, can use AirCompare to select up to 10 counties across the country and with the click of a button, find out how many days the air there was unhealthy for asthmatics last year. Or someone planning a trip can find the best time of year to visit a particular

area, based on concerns about asthma, heart disease, outdoor activity, or just general interest. AirCompare searches EPA air quality databases to pull information about pollutants reported under the AQI — and to translate it into charts that show simply whether the previous year’s air quality was healthy, unhealthy or unhealthy for specific groups more susceptible to pollution. The tool also can provide a multi-year snapshot of a county’s air quality, based on a particular health issue.

U.S. air quality has improved dramatically since EPA first began addressing air pollution. Emissions of six key pollutants have dropped by more than half since 1970, and the national average concentration for each of those pollutants is now well within the level of its air quality standard.

To view AirCompare: <http://www.epa.gov/aircompare> . For more information: John Millett, 202-564-4355 or millett.john@epa.gov

Guidance Manuals for Stage 2 DBP Rules

As part of its Simple Tools for Effective Performance (STEP) series, EPA has developed new manuals to help small public water systems understand the Stage 2 Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts Rule (Stage 2 DBP) and Long Term 2 Enhanced Surface Water Treatment (LT2) Rules. "EPA is committed to helping small and rural communities continue to provide safe and affordable drinking water for their citizens," said Benjamin H. Grumbles, Assistant Administrator for Water.

In addition to an overview of the rules, the manuals provide step-by-step guidance on how small systems (serving fewer than 10,000

people) can comply with the rule. The manuals also provide helpful worksheets and examples of actions that systems might take to comply with the rules. The documents serve as EPA's official compliance guide for small public water systems, as required by the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act (SBREFA).

The Stage 2 DBP manual is available on the EPA website at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/stage2/compliance.html>. Find the LT2 manual at <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/disinfection/lt2/compliance.html>. Both documents and other STEP guides are also available on EPA's small water systems site: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm>

Superfund Cooperative Agreement Final Rule

EPA has updated the regulation governing Superfund cooperative agreements and Superfund state contracts. The objective is to promote greater involvement by states, Indian tribes, inter-tribal consortia and other government divisions in the cleanup of Superfund sites.

EPA has issued a final rule, *Cooperative Agreements and Superfund State Contracts for Superfund Response Actions*, reflecting

changes made to improve the administration and effectiveness of Superfund cooperative agreements and state contracts. The revisions incorporate various policy changes since 1990, provide additional regulatory flexibility, and update references to other regulations that have changed. The final rule can be found at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr/EPA-GENERAL/2007/May/Day-02/g7990.htm>

For more information, contact: Roxanne Smith at 202-564-4355 or smith.roxanne@epa.gov.

National Estuary Report

On June 5, EPA released its first *National Estuary Program Coastal Condition Report*, which ranks the condition of ecological resources in the 28 estuaries of EPA's National Estuary Program (NEP). The report serves as a foundation for EPA's efforts to protect, manage and restore coastal ecosystems.

Overall, the NEPs are in fair condition and scored better than or equal to all non-NEP U.S. estuaries, despite significant population pressures. The information is based upon EPA-sponsored monitoring data collected from 28 NEPs between 1999 and 2003, as well as monitoring data collected by the individual NEPs.

The data were collected as part of EPA's National Coastal Assessment — the most comprehensive and nationally consistent data set available on estuarine conditions. The NEP estuaries were rated individually, regionally and nationally, using four primary indicators of estuarine condition: water quality, sediment quality, benthic (bottom) condition, and fish-tissue contaminant concentrations.

Estuaries provide habitat for more than 75 percent of America's commercial fish catch. Estuarine-dependent fisheries are among the most valuable, with an estimated worth of more than \$1.9 billion nationwide. Coastal recreation and tourism generate an additional \$8 to \$12 billion annually. To see the Coastal Condition Report: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/oceans/nepccr/index.html>

EPA's New Pesticide Screening

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EPA is in the final stages, preparing to screen pesticides for their potential effect on the endocrine system. The Agency is seeking comment on the draft list of 73 pesticides to be evaluated under the new screening regimen.

Pesticide candidates on the draft list were selected for screening based on their high potential for contact with people or the environment, and not on possible endocrine-disruption effects. The ultimate purpose of the screening will be to determine if pesticides do adversely influence the endocrine system. This is not a list of potential endocrine disruptors.

Using validated tests and other scientific information, EPA's Endocrine Disruptor Screening Program, mandated under the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA), will determine if certain chemicals have an effect on the endocrine

system. The list of the pesticides that will be screened was published in the Federal Register in June.

The list focuses on those pesticide ingredients, both active and inert, with relatively high potential for human exposure. The Agency gave priority to active ingredients with possible human exposure through food and water; residential exposure to pesticide products; and high levels of occupational exposure to agricultural pesticides.

For inert pesticide ingredients, the priority was those with high production volumes found in human or ecological tissues, water and indoor air.

For more information about the draft list, visit:
<http://www.epa.gov/endo/index.htm>

Energy Star Climate Change

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EPA is launching a public service announcement promoting Energy Star as an important part of the solution to climate change. The Agency debuted the 30-second TV spot on June 13th at the Energy Efficiency Forum in Washington, D.C. This spot features ordinary individuals who represent the growing number of Americans turning to Energy Star to help save energy and money while protecting the climate for future generations.

"Looking for the Energy Star label is an easy thing consumers can do to make a difference," said Bob Meyers, EPA's Acting Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation. "Energy Star assures consumers that products are energy efficient, cost effective, and deliver the product features and quality consumers want."

In 2006 alone, Americans, with the help of Energy Star, saved \$14 billion in energy costs

and prevented greenhouse gas emissions equivalent to those from 25 million vehicles. The savings from Energy Star are expected to double in the coming years.



Consumers can look for the Energy Star on more than 50 different kinds of products in the marketplace, including consumer electronics (DVDs, TVs), office equipment (computers, monitors and printers), heating and cooling equipment (furnaces, boilers, air conditioners) and lighting. New homes can also earn the Energy Star.

The Energy Star TV public service announcement will be distributed nationally and will become part of a larger campaign that also includes print public service announcements. Visit: http://energystar.gov/index.cfm?c=promotions.pt_psa

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



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office

ALASKA NEWS

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Study: Solid Waste Burning in Native Alaskan Villages

EPA's Alaska Operations Office has hired a summer intern to gather and examine information relating to solid waste burning in native Alaskan villages. The intern, Ms. Rashmi Sahai, is a senior at the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) and will be working out of the Anchorage office.

Ms. Sahai will be contacting Alaskan tribes to gather information on current practices of burning solid waste, including the use of burn boxes. The goal is to understand current conditions, looking for examples of good burning practices, as well as the

“lessons learned” from poor combustion. Through Ms. Sahai’s efforts and the cooperation of Alaskan tribes, EPA hopes to develop best-burning guidance to share with native villages throughout Alaska and to reduce air pollution from trash burning. If you have information to share about the use of burn boxes or solid waste burning practices, please contact Ms. Sahai at 800-781-0983 or 907- 271-3419.

This internship is funded through the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and ends mid-September 2007.

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AYEA Summer Institute

Alaska Youth for Environmental Action (AYEA) announces its Summer Institute to be held from **July 30th to August 5th**, at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. The Summer Institute will provide exciting training for Alaskan youth who want to explore the use of art and other media as vehicles for delving into important environmental issues in Alaska.



Participants will examine different forms of art while learning about issues that affect our environment. They will share ideas and interests, be inspired by guest speakers and performers, while networking with other youth from across the state.

Scholarships are available. To find out more or to apply, please contact AYEА at 907-339-3907 or visit the website <http://www.ayea.org> .

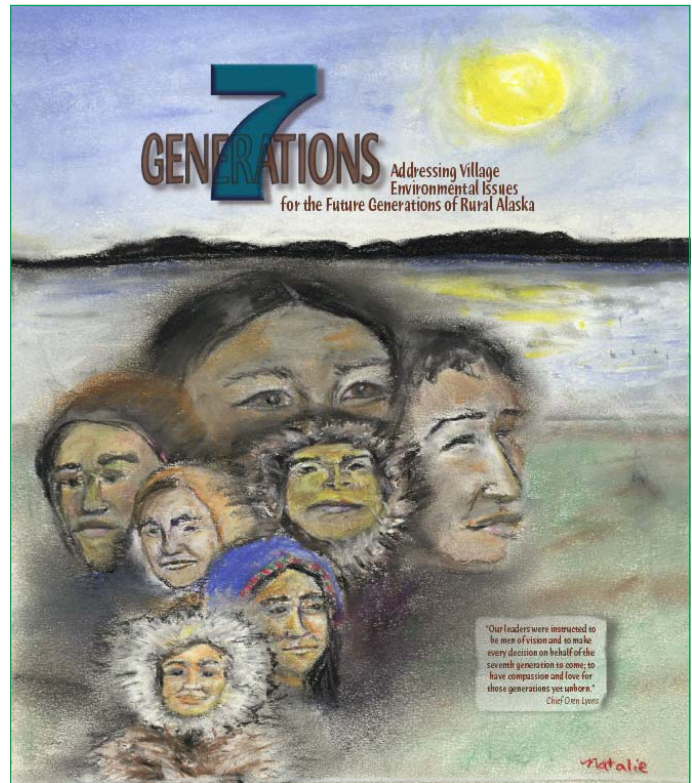
7 Generations Training Opportunities

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Aleutian Pribilof Islands Association, Inc. is proud to offer the 7 Generations course through funding from the EPA. This training is a way to build community strength through identifying and solving environmental problems. It is a powerful process that can lead to a healthier and more sustainable community.

Upcoming training will be held in Atmautluak, Alaska **August 21-24, 2007**. If you are interested in attending, please contact Edward Nicolai at 907- 553-5335 or toll free at 800-478-2742. If Ed is not available, please feel free to contact Klaudia Klaudi at 907-222-4216 or klaudiak@apiai.org.

If you would like more information about the program or upcoming classes, please take a look at the “7 Generations Home Page” at www.7generations.us under “About US” and “Workshops.”



Check out EPA's page of links for Web-savvy kids:

<http://www.epa.gov/indian/kidlinks.htm>



Got E-mail?

Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to Robb Woodman at: woodman.robert@epa.gov

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 | | |

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**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office**

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