

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. 17, No. 5 — May 2008

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

May

- 5-7 **Brownfields National Convention, Detroit, IL.** For info: see <http://www.brownfields2008.org>
- 18-20 **Sixth Nation Water Quality Monitoring Conference, Atlantic City, NJ.**
For info: wef.org/ConferencesTraining/ConferencesEvents/NatWaterQualityMonitoringConference/
- 20-22 **Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan Training, Anchorage, AK.** For info, contact Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@akforum.org or 907-349-2163.
- 29-30 **Climate Change in the Northwest, "Tribal Perspectives" Seattle, WA.**
To register, contact Crystal Varisco at 503-249-5770.

June

- 23-27 **Nurturing Mother Earth-Our People's Destiny, 8th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, Billings, MT.** Hosted by the Montana/Wyoming Tribal Leaders Council and co-sponsored by EPA. For info: www.ntcem8.org/or contact Allyson Kelly at 406-252-2550.

August

- 4-7 **Air Toxics Summit 2008, Boise, ID.** For info: Ashley Zanolli at 206-553-4452.

Senior Advisor for Tribal Policy

Jim Woods of the Makah Tribe has been selected as the next EPA Senior Advisor for Tribal Policy. Jim is expected to be able to take up his important duties sometime in May.

Since 2004, Jim has led the Sustainable Resource Management Division within the Makah Fisheries Management Department. In that capacity, Jim managed the tribe's environmental protection programs. His duties also included natural resource management of freshwater and marine ecosystems on and adjacent to the Makah reservation, as well as serving as a policy advisor to the Makah Tribal Council.

In addition, Jim is a member of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee and has been recognized by EPA on a national level for his work in the field of air toxics. He was also appointed by the Secretary of the Commerce to the Marine Protected Areas Federal Advisory Committee, Chairs the National Tribal Air Association, Chairs the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary Intergovernmental Policy Council and serves on the Ozette Sockeye Salmon Recovery Steering Committee. He has also worked to protect treaty guaranteed rights and aquatic sustainable resources on the reservation and within the usual and accustomed hunting and fishing areas participating in the efforts of the Northwest Indian Fisheries Commission.

Please join EPA in welcoming Jim Woods to the Region 10 Team!

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Tribal Leaders' Summit

Over 350 people attended the Tribal Leaders' Summit at the Squaxin Island Reservation in Kamilche, Washington last month. The Squaxin Island Tribe hosted the four day event which included discussions regarding the Indian Trust Doctrine, Government-to-Government relations, the Regional and National Tribal Program, Climate Change, and much more. Some themes and concerns that arose throughout the summit were the need for partnerships and collaboration; communication within EPA, between EPA and Tribes, and among Tribes; climate change and clean energy; and funding. Funding concerns included both the need for increased funding and for more flexible implementation of funds while ensuring accountability.

Tribal Leaders will receive a written summary of the summit and a letter regarding the RTOC Charter revisions and communication guidance this month. EPA also intends to engage Tribes in the Regional/National Climate Change effort by developing a subcommittee of RTOC this summer. Finally, EPA will be developing a funding and policy briefing for the new administration's transition team by this fall.

Tribal Solid Waste Management Grants

EPA is making approximately \$2 million available for the Tribal Solid Waste Management Assistance Project. The Project helps tribes close or cleanup open dumps, develop alternative disposal options, and establish integrated solid waste management programs. Eligible entities may apply for funding under one of four categories: (1) proposals to characterize/assess open dumps; (2) proposals to develop integrated solid waste management (ISWM) plans and tribal codes and regulations; (3) proposals to develop and implement alternative solid waste management activities/facilities (including equipment acquisition); and (4) proposals to develop and implement cleanup, closure, and post-closure programs for open dumps in Indian Country.

EPA anticipates selecting approximately 20 proposals. Awards amounts will range from \$10,000 to \$500,000. The deadline for proposals is **June 9, 2008**. The RFP may be viewed at: www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm#EPA-OSWER-OSW-08-03

Environmental Justice Small Grants Program

EPA is making approximately \$800,000 available for the Environmental Justice Small Grants Program (EJSG). The purpose of the grant program is to support and empower communities that are working on local solutions to local environmental and public health issues. Proposed projects should include a workplan that includes strategies for identifying local environmental issues, educating and empowering the community about the issues, building consensus, and setting community priorities. In addition, the workplan should also demonstrate how the applicant will collaborate with other stakeholders to realize their project goals and objectives.

The EJSG Program is designed to address multi-statute environmental and public health issues. For this reason, each project must include activities that are authorized by two or more of the following Federal environmental statutes: Clean Water Act, Section 104(b)(3); Safe Drinking Water Act, Section 1442(c)(3)(C); Solid Waste Disposal Act, Section 8001(a); Clean Air Act, Section 103(b)(3); Toxic Substances Control Act, Section 10(a); Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act, Section 20(a); Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act, Section 203.

EPA anticipates awarding 1-4 grants in each of EPA's ten regions in the amount of \$20,000 per award. The deadline for proposals is **June 30, 2008**. The RFP and additional information on the EJSG Program may be viewed at: www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/grants/ej-smgrants.html

Administration for Native Americans Grants

Beginning with FY 2006, the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) no longer publishes grant announcements in the federal Register. Applicants may now find synopses of all ACF grant opportunities posted on www.grants.gov where applicants may also apply electronically. Applicants may also find complete text of all ACF grant announcements on the ACF website at:

Scholarships and Grants

The Administration for Native Americans (ANA) Alaska Region website has information on scholarships and grants focused on American Indian Health. For information on specific opportunities visit: www.anaalaska.org/scholarships.htm

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EPA Multimedia Portal

The EPA launched its new web multimedia portal: www.epa.gov/multimedia/

The multimedia portal is EPA's one-stop location for environmental video, audio/podcasts, and photography.

The portal also includes interactive features such as "Ask EPA" and the Deputy Administrator's blog, "Flow of the River." Another feature called "EPA in Action" goes behind-the-scenes following the diverse jobs performed by the EPA workforce and examines some of the most pressing environmental issues facing our nation today.

Viewing video is integrated into the site using flash player, while photos of events and EPA work will be posted in a series of online galleries. Users may also subscribe to several podcast series or select from a number of individual podcasts featuring EPA experts and senior officials.

This new multimedia portal is an important resource for the public, journalists, academia, local governments and the environmental community. The portal will help increase awareness of important news items through an intuitive, media-rich focus, rather than through traditional electronic print.

Improving Air Quality in Local Communities

A new EPA website features dozens of projects that local communities can do to help make the air cleaner and healthier to breathe. The "Improving Air Quality in Your Community" website features activities for reducing both indoor and outdoor pollution, including diesel engine retrofit programs, improving air quality in local schools, and pollution prevention options for small businesses. Many communities across the country have put these projects into action and have made improvements to their local air quality. This site also includes information about the costs to establish and maintain each project, and how local communities can apply for EPA grants to kick-start their activities. For more information visit: www.epa.gov/air/community

NESC Website

In development for more than a year, this new site features better access to National Environmental Service Center (NESC) information and new features to help web visitors get the water, wastewater, and environmental training information they need.

The new NESC site features access to various publications, free and low-cost products, databases, and information about different water and wastewater topics.

For website: www.nesc.wvu.edu

National Tribal Water Council

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) is an EPA-funded project that was established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes, and Tribally-authorized organizations, in matters pertaining to water. The NTWC advocates for the health and sustainability of clean and safe water, and for the productive use of water for the health and well-being of Indian Country, Indian communities, Alaska Native Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

For more on the NTWC visit: nationaltribalwatercouncil.org

EPA TAS Strategy

Early this year EPA finalized a strategy for improving the review of tribal applications for treatment in the same manner as a state (TAS) to administer EPA regulatory programs. The strategy is designed to facilitate the timely review of TAS applications to administer EPA regulatory programs and improve ongoing communications with the tribal applicants. To see the strategy visit:

www.epa.gov/tribalportal/pdf/strategy-for-reviewing-applications-for-tas-01-23-08.pdf

Improve Wetland and Stream Mitigation

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and EPA released a new rule to clarify how to provide compensatory mitigation for unavoidable impacts to the nation's wetlands and streams. The rule will enable the agencies to promote greater consistency, predictability and ecological success of mitigation projects under the Clean Water Act.

For more on the rule visit: www.epa.gov/wetlandsmitigation/

Aircraft Drinking Water

In the United States, drinking water safety on airlines is jointly regulated by EPA, the Food and Drug Administration, and the Federal Aviation Administration. In April 2008, EPA announced a new proposed rule that will help protect aircraft passengers from microbiological contamination of drinking water.

The proposed Aircraft Drinking Water Rule will tailor existing health-based drinking water regulations to fit the unique characteristics of aircraft public water systems. For example, the proposed rule will require specific types of monitoring, disinfection, and public notification that are appropriate for the airline industry.

For more information or to view the new rule visit: www.epa.gov/airlinewater/regs.html

Aircraft Emissions and Global Warming

Emissions from aircraft contribute to global warming and the EPA and the Federal Aviation Administration are considering new regulatory standards and other steps to reduce these emissions. Robert Meyers, EPA Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation, told the House Select Committee on Energy Independence and Global Warming that aircraft operations in the United States account for about 10 percent of greenhouse gas emissions from the U.S. transportation sector and about 3 percent of total U.S. greenhouse gas emissions.

For Mr. Meyers' full testimony visit:

www.epa.gov/ocir/hearings/testimony/110_2007_2008/2008_0402_rjm.pdf

Climate Change Strategy

EPA's Office of Water has made available for comment a public review draft of the National Water Program Strategy: Response to Climate Change. The draft document represents the National Water Program's initial effort to identify potential impacts of climate change for clean water and drinking water programs and define actions to respond to these impacts. The strategy also proposes 46 specific actions the National Water Program will take to respond appropriately to climate change in topic areas including: adaptation, research, mitigation, and education. Only those actions which can be initiated in fiscal years 2008 or 2009 with an assumption of level funding are included in the strategy.

A March 28, 2008 memorandum signed by the Assistant Administrator for Water requests comments on the draft strategy. Both the memorandum and the draft strategy are available at:

www.epa.gov/water/climatechange/

Comments can be emailed to: Water_Climate_Change@epa.gov or mailed to:

U.S. EPA, Office of Water,
Attention: National Water Program Draft Climate Change Strategy,
Mail Code: 4101M,
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW,
Washington, DC 20460.

Comments must be submitted by **May 27, 2008**.

Strengthened National Standards for Ground-Level Ozone

The EPA significantly strengthened its national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog. These changes will improve both public health protection and the protection of sensitive trees and plants.

For more details: www.epa.gov/groundlevelozone/actions.html#mar07s

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Children's Environmental Health

EPA's 10-year research effort has led to greater understanding of children's environmental health.

"Understanding potential environmental health risks to children is important to EPA," George Gray, Assistant Administrator of EPA's Office of Research and Development, said in a news release. "This research will help us assess and address environmental factors that may affect some of the most vulnerable members of our society."

The report, released in March 2008, provided insight on how to assess children's exposures, what biological markers say about exposures or effects of exposures and what steps must be taken to prevent harmful exposures.

Among the key findings: People metabolize pesticides differently based on their genotype. Many babies do not develop the ability to metabolize some pesticides during the first two years of life, putting them at greater risk. Children living close to major roadways in Southern California have a higher risk of asthma.

EPA's ban on two household pesticides -- diazinon and chlorpyrifos -- has led to a rapid decrease in exposure in New York. Also, children born after the ban were healthier.

For more on children's environmental health visit: www.epa.gov/envirohealth/children

Questions on Pesticides?

Contact the National Pesticide Information Center (NPIC) at 800-858-7378.

Pharmaceutical Disposal

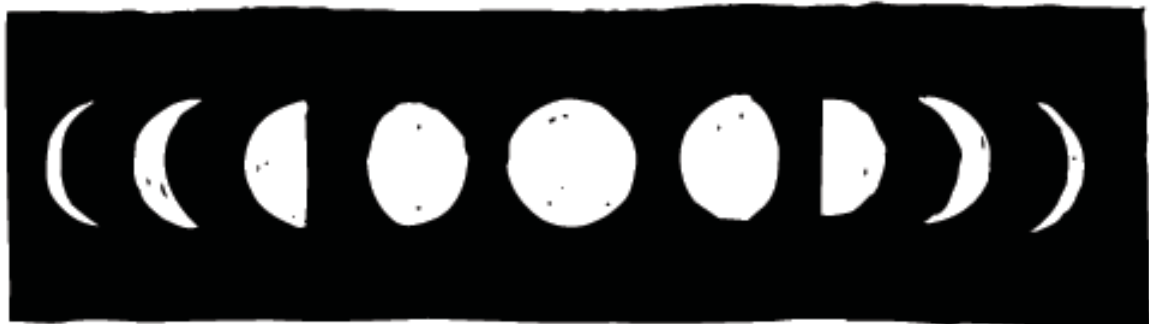
The Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America (PhRMA) signed an agreement with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the American Pharmacists Association (APhA) to help protect fish and aquatic resources from improper disposal of medication. According to a statement, the campaign, called "SMARxT DISPOSAL," will advise consumers on how safely to dispose of medicines and highlight the risks of improper disposal. "Trace amounts of chemical compounds often associated with medications have been increasingly detected in our waters, the very waters that support our nation's fish and other wildlife," Gary Frazer, Assistant Director of Fisheries and Habitat Conservation at USFWS, said in a statement. According to Frazer, instead of flushing medicines or pouring them down a drain, consumers should crush them in a plastic bag, add coffee grounds, sawdust or kitty litter, seal the bag, and put it in the household trash after removing all identifying personal information.

For more on the SMARxT DISPOSAL campaign visit: www.smarxtdisposal.net/

Organic Dioxane?

The Organic Consumers Association recently released a report that details the presence of 1,4-dioxane, a carcinogenic contaminant, in 47 of 100 so-called natural cleaning and personal care products, including such popular brands as JASON, Kiss My Face, Alba, Seventh Generation and Nature's Gate.

For more information on 1,4-dioxane found in organic products visit: www.organicconsumers.org/bodycare/DioxaneAlert080314.pdf





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

ALASKA NEWS

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**Integrated Solid Waste Management
Plan Training**

May 20 - 22, 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska

Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP) training is scheduled for May 20-22, 2008 in Anchorage, Alaska. The ISWMP training is specifically designed for native village leaders, solid waste managers, technicians, and other decision makers in rural Alaska who are working with on-going solid waste management programs. ISWMP training will provide options for addressing environmental and human health issues caused by currently unmanaged open dumps, by assisting rural communities with the following planning needs:

- Identifying resources and tools for defining community-based goals and objectives for solid waste management and setting priorities to address problems,
- Documenting the current status of solid waste programs and current impacts to environmental and human health (including subsistence resources and water quality),
- Identifying possible cost effective and safe solid waste management alternatives and uncertainties associated with each alternative,
- Identifying possible funding sources to assist with implementation of an ISWMP,
- Developing enforcement codes and/or resolutions with alternative enforcement actions for solid waste regulation, and
- Developing a timeline to revisit and modify priorities as an ISWMP is developed and implemented.

This training and educational resources will provide communities in rural Alaska with the necessary information to create a site specific integrated solid waste management plan and increase administrative, technical capacity, and networking opportunities to address environmental and human health concerns that stem from unmanaged and unregulated solid waste issues.

Post training one-on-one assistance for developing ISWMPs will be available to participants after they complete the ISWMP training to: further develop

and refine an ISWMP specific to their village's needs, identify and resolve specific issues that arise as participants further develop their plans at home, and reinforce the concept of the ISWMP as a living document to be used in implementing health risk reduction practices.

Partial Scholarships are available. There is no fee for attending these courses, however, participation is limited to the first 25 applicants.

For questions or to receive a complete announcement and application please contact Jennifer Williams at jwilliams@akforum.org or 907-349-2163.

**One day training on mining processes
and potential mining impacts in two
Kuskokwim River locations.**

Training will be provided by EPA and Alaska Dept. of Environmental Conservation staff. Monday, June 2nd the training will be provided in Aniak, Alaska. On Tuesday, June 3rd the training will be in Bethel, Alaska. Locations TBD. Space is limited and priority will be given to those who live in the Kuskokwim Region who wish to learn more about potential resource development issues. Please contact Tami Fordham or Mahri Lowinger for more information at 800-781-0983.

Simple Ways You Can Make A Difference

Here are a couple of tips on how you can help to control waste:

Always consider that styrofoam is not recycleable and does not biodegrade. Don't buy styrofoam popcorn or peanuts to fill your packages. Remember there are a number of alternative packing pellets that are biodegradable.

Try to avoid buying food that comes in styrofoam containers. If you are out at a restaurant, see if you can get your take home in a cardboard container.

Remember that you get rid of junk mail by signing up online at DirectMail.com's Mail Preference Registry at www.directmail.com/directory/mail_preference/ or by calling DMA Customer Assistance at 800-CUT-JUNK.

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Free Hazardous Waste Operation And Emergency Response Training For Tribes

The University of Washington Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences has received a grant from the National Institute of Environmental Health and Safety to provide training and education to workers engaged in activities related to hazardous materials and waste generation, removal, containment, transportation, safety and emergency response. With the grant they are able to provide affordable training to their target population of Native Americans, Alaskan Native, and construction or port workers who are potentially exposed to hazardous substances in Alaska, Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Type of Courses they can provide:

- 40 Hr HAZWOPER
 - 8 Hr HAZWASTE Refresher
 - 24 Hr HAZWOPER
 - Oil Spill Response
 - Basic Industrial Emergency Responder Operations
 - Industrial Emergency Response Awareness
 - Emergency Responder Basic Operations
 - Emergency Responder/Hazardous Materials Technician
 - Emergency Response Hazardous Materials Specialist
 - 16 Hour Disaster Site Worker
 - Hazardous Materials Transportation Awareness
 - Confined Space
 - General Industry Safety
 - Construction Safety
- Hazard Communication

Who To Contact for More Information: Mike Willis, Assistant Director - Continuing Education and Outreach, Department of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences, University of Washington at mwillis@u.washington.edu or 206-616-7899

Help EPA Save Paper: Sign Up For Electronic Receipt of the Region 10 Tribal Newsletter Today

Since at least 1991, The U.S. EPA Region 10 Alaska Tribal Newsletter has been mailed to all of its readers in a paper format. However, the desire to reduce the use of paper products to preserve the environment has prompted us to send this important request as part of the May Newsletter.

We would like to be respectful to those of you in rural communities who do not have reliable access to the Internet. With that thought in mind, we will continue to send out paper mailings to our readers only if you would like us to.

For those of you who wish to help us in our quest to preserve the environment, and can reliably receive our Tribal Newsletter electronically, please send your email address to lozano.carlos@epa.gov and say:

“Take me off the paper mailing list. I would like to only receive the Tribal Newsletter electronically.”

EPA and our partners are always striving to look for efficient and environmentally-friendly ways of doing things. We appreciate all your efforts and assistance, be they contributions great or small.

Moisture Control is the Key to Mold Control

Always remember that molds growing indoors can cause health problems as they produce allergens (substances that can cause allergic reactions) and irritants. In some cases, potentially toxic substances know as mycotoxins can be produced by molds.

For some, mold or mold spores may cause allergic reactions like sneezing, runny nose, red eyes, and skin rash (dermatitis). Allergic reactions to mold are common and can be immediate or delayed. Molds can also cause asthma attacks in people with asthma who are allergic to mold spores.

Consider installing exhaust fans in the kitchen or bathrooms where you live, if you do not have them. Exhaust fans reduce the build up of moisture with which molds need to grow.

For more tips and suggestions, please visit Mold Basics at www.epa.gov/mold/moldbasics.html



Got E-mail?

Make the choice to receive this newsletter electronically. Send your e-mail address to Carlos Lozano at lozano.carlos@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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