

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. 9 — September 2008

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

September

15-19 **Wetlands Symposium, Portland, OR.**
Info: www.aswm.org/calendar/wetlands2008/index.htm

October

27-29 **14th Annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, Anchorage AK**
Anchorage Sheraton Hotel Info: www.anthc.org/cs/dehe/sustops/atcem.cfm

November

16-19 **National Low Impact Development Conference, Seattle, WA,** Environmental and Water
Resources Institute of ASCE, Information: content.asce.org/conferences/lid08/

Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meets

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) held its third Quarterly Meeting in July in Post Falls, Idaho. During this meeting the RTOC updated its Strategic Plan. Election of officers was held with Violet Yeaton, from the Port Graham Native Village, Alaska, elected Co-Chair; Rosalie Kalistook from the Orutsararmiut Native Council, Alaska, elected Vice Chair; and Aja DeCoteau from the Yakama Nation, Washington, elected Secretary. The next Quarterly Meeting will be held in Region 10's Seattle office in October. For more information, contact Diana Boquist in Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit at 206-553-1586.

Native American Walkers

In 2008, Native Americans walked across America: Native American walkers - teenagers, young adults, middle-aged and older adults alike - along with supporters from many nations took part in the second Longest Walk. The Walk was designed to call attention to global warming and living in harmony with the environment as well as raising awareness about preservation of sacred Native American sites. The participants walked over 4,400 miles, and, in the words of one participant, participated in 'cleaning Up Mother Earth mile-by-mile, village-to-village, city-to-city, state-to-state and shore-to-shore from Alcatraz Island to Washington, D.C,' while spreading a message from the Native point of view about living in harmony with the environment and preserving and protecting sacred Native American sites. The trek began on Alcatraz Island in San Francisco on February 11, 2008 and ended exactly six months later on the steps of the Capitol in Washington D.C on July 11, 2008.

Tribal Training Website

The Tribal Training website contains listings of EPA sponsored training courses offered to Tribes under the Clean Water Act. The web site contains links to important resources and tools to assist Tribes with the development and implementation of water quality programs. The web site also contains links to self-paced trainings for both CWA and non-CWA training programs.

Link to Tribal Training Web site: www.epa.gov/water/tribaltraining

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EPA Identifies Areas that do not meet Fine Particle Standards

August 19, 2008 the EPA announced intended designations for the 24 hour PM2.5 standard for all state lands and for **Indian country**. EPA revised the national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) on September 21, 2006 to provide increased protection of public health and welfare from fine particle pollution.

In Region 10, which includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington and Tribes, the following states will receive PM2.5 designation modification letters with proposed “non-attainment” designations for the following areas:
 AK: Fairbanks and Juneau areas;
 OR: Klamath Falls and Oakridge areas;
 ID: Cache County around Franklin area and Pinehurst area; and WA: Tacoma area.

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires that EPA announce our modifications to State’s boundary and designation recommendations no later than 120-days prior to promulgating final designations. Following this announcement States and **Tribes** will have the opportunity to demonstrate why any modification EPA proposes to their recommendations is inappropriate. We plan to issue final designations by December 18, 2008.

EPA intends to open a 30-day public comment period on our intended designations. EPA recommended that states and **tribes** consider nine factors in assessing whether or not to include an area in the designated non-attainment area boundary. These factors are: emission data; air quality data; population density and degree of urbanization; traffic and commuting patterns; growth rates and patterns; meteorology (weather/transport patterns); geography/topography; jurisdictional boundaries; and level of control of emission sources.

For more information about this action visit:
www.epa.gov/pmdesignations/2006standards/index.htm
 View the National news release:
yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/d0cf6618525a9efb85257359003fb69d/5e9b2ae0d253187d852574aa00676dd1!OpenDocument

Global Change on Human Health

The EPA has released a report that discusses the potential impacts of climate change on human health, human welfare, and communities in the U.S. The report, entitled *Analyses of the Effects of Global Change on Human Health and Welfare and Human Systems*, also identifies adaptation strategies to help respond to the challenges of a changing climate and identifies near- and long-term research goals for addressing data and knowledge gaps.

The report discusses the challenges and potential effects of climate change, including unusual or unexpected weather, and how some individuals and communities may be disproportionately affected by climate change, including older adults, the poor, children, and people with chronic medical conditions. However, the U.S. has well-developed public health infrastructures and environmental programs that protect our air and water, which can help minimize the impacts. For more information see:
cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=197244

Biological and Habitat Water Data Exchange

The Office of Water is pleased to announce the release of the Water Quality Exchange (WQX) version 2.0, a data transfer system which now allows states, tribes and other organizations to share their biological and habitat monitoring results. Since February 2007, WQX version 1.0 has provided a way for states, tribes, and other organizations to share physical, chemical and fish tissue water monitoring data. Because many monitoring programs use biological and habitat data as the basis for assessing water quality, WQX version 2.0 enhances the richness of information available for data sharing, analysis, and improved decision making by watershed managers. All data shared using the WQX framework can be accessed on-line in the STORET Data Warehouse, EPA’s repository for water quality data. Please visit www.epa.gov/storet/wqx.html

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EPA Re-Issues Permit for Construction Site Stormwater

The EPA is re-issuing a stormwater Construction General Permit (CGP), which expired July 1, 2008, for a two-year time period. The permit will apply only where EPA is the permitting authority, which is in five states (Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New Mexico, Idaho and Alaska); Washington, D.C.; most territories; and most Indian country lands.

The CGP regulates the discharge of stormwater from construction sites that disturb one acre or more of land, and from smaller sites that are part of a larger, common plan of development. The permit requires operators of the construction sites to use stormwater controls and develop stormwater pollution prevention plans to minimize the discharge of sediment and other pollutants associated with construction sites in stormwater runoff.

Under the re-issued permit, new dischargers include new construction sites that start construction on or after the effective date of this permit and those that have already started construction, but do not have coverage under the 2003 CGP. Sites that have coverage under the 2003 CGP must continue to comply with the provisions of that permit and do not need to apply for coverage under this new permit.

The permit uses most of the same terms and conditions as EPA's 2003 permit. EPA is coordinating the permit with a second effort that is underway to establish national clean water standards, known as an effluent limitation guideline, for the construction and development industry. Upon finalization of the guideline, EPA plans to include its provisions into a new and improved five-year CGP to be reissued no later than July 2010.

Greenhouse Gas

Total emissions of the six main greenhouse gases in 2006 were equivalent to 7,054.2 million metric tons of carbon dioxide. These gases include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons and sulfur hexafluoride. The report indicates that overall emissions have grown by 14.7 percent from 1990 to 2006, while the U.S. economy has grown by 59 percent over the same period.

The inventory tracks annual greenhouse gas emissions at the national level and presents historical emissions from 1990 to 2006. The inventory also calculates carbon dioxide emissions that are removed from the atmosphere by "sinks," e.g., through the uptake of carbon by forests, vegetation and soils. Inventory report: www.epa.gov/climatechange/emissions/usinventoryreport.html

Energy Frontier Research Centers (EFRC)

DOE requests proposals for the EFRC to accelerate the rate of scientific breakthroughs needed to create advanced energy technologies for the 21st century. The EFRC will pursue the fundamental understanding necessary to meet the global need for abundant, clean, and economical energy. Through this initiative, DOE seeks to bring together the skills and talents of multiple investigators to enable fundamental research of a scope and complexity that would not be possible with the standard individual investigator or small group research project. \$500 million is expected to be available and up to 50 awards are anticipated. Responses are due October 1. For more information, contact Emiela Bradford at emiela.bradford@ch.doe.gov or go to: e-center.doe.gov/iips/faopor.nsf/UNID/933104E42D0185E58525742100694C78?OpenDocument

The EPA's 2008 Report on the Environment

EPA 2008 ROE provides the American people with an important resource to understand trends in the conditions of the air, water, land, and human health of the United States. This report uses scientifically sound measures, called indicators, to address fundamental questions relevant to the EPA's mission to protect the environment and human health. To accomplish this mission, EPA must pay close attention to trends in the condition of the Nation's environment. This information is captured in this report and can help EPA prioritize its work and focus on human health and ecological activities that can lead to improvements in the conditions of the Nation's environment. For a more interactive experience, visit the ROE Indicators at: www.epa.gov/ncea/roe

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New Report Available on Ecosystems and Climate Change

The EPA has released a report that can help reduce the potential impact of climate change on estuaries, forests, wetlands, coral reefs, and other sensitive ecosystems. The report, entitled Preliminary Review of Adaptation Options for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources, identifies strategies to protect the environment as these changes occur.

To develop this assessment, scientists studied national parks, national forests, national wildlife refuges, wild and scenic rivers, national estuaries, and marine protected areas – all protected by the federal government. The report takes a unique approach by using the management goals set for each protected area to understand what strategies will increase the resilience of each ecosystem – in other words, increase the amount of change or disturbance that an ecosystem can absorb before it shifts to a different ecosystem. Using these strategies, managers can maintain the original goals set for these ecosystems under changing climatic conditions. The strategies will be useful to federal agencies and can also be broadly applied to lands and waters managed by other government or nongovernmental organizations.

The peer-reviewed report provides the best-available science to date on management adaptations for ecosystems and resources. It was developed following the guidelines developed by the U.S. Climate Change Science Program (CCSP).

The Global Change Research Program in EPA's Office of Research and Development led the development of the report. It is one of 21 synthesis and assessment products commissioned by the CCSP.

The CCSP was established in 2002 to provide the Nation with science-based knowledge to manage the risks and opportunities of changes in the climate and related environmental systems. The program is responsible for coordinating and integrating the research of 13 federal agencies on climate and global change.

For more information on Preliminary Review of Adaptation Options for Climate-Sensitive Ecosystems and Resources: cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=180143

Watershed Handbook

EPA has released an online document to help communities, watershed organizations, and environmental agencies develop watershed plans to meet water quality standards and protect water resources. *The Handbook for Developing Watershed Plans to Restore and Protect Our Waters* is designed to help with any watershed planning effort, but should be particularly useful to persons working with impaired waters. It contains in-depth guidance on quantifying existing pollutant loads, estimating the load reductions required to meet water quality standards, developing effective management measures, and tracking progress. The handbook includes ways to protect important elements of the landscape and aquatic habitats. Find it on the web at www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/academy

Web Site Helps Kids Identify the Healthiest Fish to Eat

The EPA launched a new Web site at www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/kids/ to help children and their parents choose the healthiest fish to eat, using interactive stories and games.

“Our new Web site is a fun way for kids and parents to learn about the importance of fish in a healthy diet and how to choose the healthiest fish to eat,” said Benjamin H. Grumbles, EPA’s assistant administrator for water.

Whether they catch their own fish or buy it at a store, children and their parents can use the Web site to learn how to select fish that are low in contaminants. The Web site includes stories focusing on different methods of obtaining fish, along with interactive games, to teach children ages 8-12 how to recognize common fish species and use fish advisories. The site can be viewed at: www.epa.gov/fishadvisories/kids

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Kids Have WaterSense, Too!

Curious kids who like fun and online adventure might want to know about the new kids-only pages on EPA's WaterSense website—complete with a cartoon hero named Flow. Flow gets their imaginations and water-efficiency awareness flowing with activities all about water. Flow teaches kids why it's important to save water and how to use less. Kids can play Test Your WaterSense, in which they dodge the villainous Water Wasters—like Sogosaurus, who doesn't care that she waters her lawn every day of the week, Drip Drip, who won't fix his leaky faucet, Swirly, who likes to flush his toilet all the time, and Drainiac, who runs her faucet when brushing her teeth. The little squirts will become WaterSense Heroes in no time! www.epa.gov/watersense/kids/index.htm

New WaterSense Materials for Kids, Teachers

A Day in the Life of a Drop teaches students about the connections between the sources of the water they use and how that use affects human health and the environment. These fun learning materials, for grades 3-5, include a teachers' guide, two student worksheets, a spreadsheet to track water use at home, and a pledge for students and their families to 'filter out bad water habits.' The new curriculum can be found on EPA's website at: www.epa.gov/watersense/water/drop.htm

Water Quality Standards Academy—New Online Course

EPA now offers a multi-media, web-based training course for state and tribal employees and the general public on key aspects of the water quality standards program and other Clean Water Act programs. This Internet-based training program is an abbreviated version of the week-long, in-class Water Quality Standards Academy course. It includes the following modules:

- (1) Introduction to EPA and the Clean Water Act,
- (2) Water Body Uses,
- (3) Water Quality Criteria,
- (4) Anti-degradation,
- (5) Standards Submittal and Approval, and
- (6) Variances, Use Attainability Analyses, Mixing Zones and Other Flexibility Options.

Learn more at: www.epa.gov/waterscience/standards/academy/

Updates to IRIS

Final human health assessments for four polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDEs) are now available on the Agency's Integrated Risk Information System (IRIS) website at www.epa.gov/ncea/iris/recent.htm
The four PBDEs are

tetrabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-47),
pentabromodiphenyl (BDE-99),
hexabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-153) and
decabromodiphenyl ether (BDE-209).

PBDEs are used as flame retardants in a variety of consumer's products including furniture foam, draperies, carpets, automobile fabrics, and plastics for TV cabinets and personal computers.

These IRIS health assessments were subjected to Agency and inter-Agencies reviews, external peer review by a panel of experts, and public review prior to finalization.

Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC)

This is a new program to provide unbiased educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites. This program, developed by the EPA, can help communities by providing experts to explain hazardous waste problems and EPA's plans to clean up the waste. www.azserc.org/LinkClick.aspx?fileticket=3nVBC%2bth1bs%3d&tabid=36&mid=526



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Alaska Operations Office

ALASKA NEWS

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Update on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program

As many Tribes are aware, the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation has applied to the US EPA, Region 10 (EPA) to administer the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program. (NPDES).

The EPA has been conducting a detailed review of the application while engaging in Tribal consultation and holding public meetings. To date, EPA has held government to government consultations with Louden Tribal Council; Kotzebue IRA; Native Village of Curyung; Aleknagik Traditional Council; Native Village of Clark's Point; Ekwok Traditional Council and New Stuyahok traditional Council. Tribal consultation is scheduled for both Western and SouthEast Alaska, where multiple Tribes will participate, and the Sun'aq tribe of Kodiak has also requested consultation.

The Sitka Tribe of Alaska will be hosting a SouthEast regional consultation on September 11, 2008. It will be an Update on the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System program

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The Sitka Tribe of Alaska will be hosting a SouthEast regional consultation on the potential NPDES delegation on the morning of September 11, 2008. It will be at the Naa Kahidi, from 8:30 until

11:30 a.m. Interested Tribes are encouraged to contact Polly Bass at 907-727-3207 for additional information. The consultation in Bethel will be on September 30th, 2008 and will be hosted by the Orutsaramuit Native Council (ONC). Please contact Rose Kalistook at 907-543-2608 for additional information. You are also welcome to contact Nina Kocourek in Seattle, EPA Office of Water and Watersheds, 206-553-6502 or kocourek.nina@epa.gov or Michelle Davis, EPA Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit, Alaska Operations Office, 907-271-3434 or davis.michelle@epa.gov for additional information.

Public meetings were held in Juneau, Anchorage and Fairbanks. The public comment period is now closed and EPA is reviewing the comments it has received. Even though the public comment period is now closed, EPA is still engaging in Tribal Consultation, which will continue until the end of September.

All Alaskan Tribes are encouraged to review the State's application on-line and to sign up for e-mail updates from the ADEC at www.dec.state.ak.us/water/npdes/index.htm Of particular interest will be the section titled *Public Participation in the APDES Permitting Process*. It describes how the ADEC will work with Tribes and the public if the NPDES program is delegated.

Also on-line is a presentation by Christine Psyk, Region 10 EPA's Associate Director of the Office of Water and Watersheds. It gives an overview of the NPDES program transition and discusses program oversight and the relationship between EPA and the Alaskan Tribes if the program is delegated to the State. We encourage Tribal Councils to review this presentation, and if they have concerns or questions to contact EPA.

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If you have questions, please contact Nina Kocourek or Michelle Davis at the telephones or e-mails listed above.

Regional Applied Research Effort award to Region 10!

We are pleased to announce that the Alaska Regional Office of Region 10 EPA has been selected to receive a RARE award. What is a RARE award? It is a Regional Applied Research Effort grant. The goal is to bring together staff from an EPA program to work with representatives of the Office of Research and Development (ORD) to answer a research question. The Alaska Regional representatives (Michelle Davis, Joe Sarcone and Ted Jacobson) will be working with a great team, including Christopher Impelletari, Principle Investigator, ORD, Thabet Tolymat, PhD.ORD and Bart Faulkner, NMRL. The project will receive additional technical support from Fran Stefan and the staff of Region 10 EPA's office of Air, Waste and Toxics in Seattle.

The question that will be considered by this project is "what is in the leachate of some rural landfills?" The RARE project is an Alaska statewide effort to look at pathogens and toxics in five open dumps and consider their possible impact on local drinking water sources. As we know, Alaska's open dumps contain mixed hazardous, solid and organic wastes and are sometimes underlain by permafrost, which may act as a liner or seal.

Tribes who are interested in possibly participating in this study are asked to email either Joe Sarcone, sarcone.joseph@epa.gov or Michelle Davis at davis.michellev@epa.gov

We will e-mail an assessment worksheet to everyone who contacts us. It will help us to determine if your landfill meets the site

characteristics that are needed for this research. Among the information we will be asking about are:

1. Landfill location and access
2. Site information, including if there is permafrost, standing or seasonal water, age and site ownership.
3. Ability of the Tribal staff to participate in this research effort for the next year. We expect that there may be some training opportunities and look forward to developing strong partnerships with the Tribal governments who are selected

There may also be a session on this project at the Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in October or at other Tribal Environmental meetings. We hope to begin sampling training over the fall and winter and start fieldwork next summer. The results of this research may lead to improvements to landfill management practices and help refine a waste management index tool. Thank you for your interest.

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yosemite.epa.gov/r10/tribal.nsf

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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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