

NEWS

The Tribal Newsletter
is published free monthly.

To receive a copy, call:
AK, Robb . 907-271-6323
ID, Jim . . 208-378-5691
OR, Don . . 503-326-5015
WA, Alison . 360-753-8185

LETTER

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



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

Vol. 17, No. 4 — April 2008

<> CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS <>

April

- 14-16 Tribal 24-hr HazMat, Richland, WA.** To register contact Josie Clark at 206-553-6239 or clark.josie@epa.gov
- 21-24 EPA Region Tribal Leaders Summit, Little Creek Resort and Casino, Kamilche, WA.**
Info: http://www.squaxinisland.org/tribal_leaders_summit/index.html
- 21-24 Conference on Managing Environmental Quality Systems, Seattle, WA.**
(See item on page 2.)

May

- 5 Brownfields National Convention, Detroit, IL.**
Info: <http://www.brownfields2008.org>
- 18-20 Sixth Nation Water Quality Monitoring Conference, Atlantic City, NJ.** For info:
<http://wef.org/ConferencesTraining/ConferencesEvents/NatWaterQualityMonitoringConference/>
- 29-30 Climate Change in the Northwest, "Tribal Perspectives," Seattle, WA.**
(See item on page 2.)

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 information visit: <http://www.ntcem8.org/> or contact Allyson Kelly at: 406-252-2550

August

- 4-7 Air Toxics Summit 2008, Boise, ID.**
(See item on page 2.)

April 22 is Earth Day

On April 22, 1970, 20 million people across America celebrated the first Earth Day. It was a time when cities were buried under their own smog and polluted rivers caught fire. Now Earth Day is celebrated annually around the globe. Through the combined efforts of the U.S. government, grassroots organizations, and citizens like you, what started as a day of national environmental recognition has evolved into a world-wide campaign to protect our global environment. Learn about the history of Earth Day at: <http://www.epa.gov/earthday/history.htm>

A short video about Earth Day from EPA Administrator Steve Johnson:

<http://www.epa.gov/epahome/intro.html>

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Managing Environmental Quality Systems

The EPA Quality Staff is pleased to announce the 2008 Conference on Managing Environmental Quality Systems to be held April 21-24, 2008 in Seattle, Washington. The 2008 conference continues a 27-year tradition of addressing environmental issues through the exploration of advancements in environmental quality systems management. The theme of this year's conference is "Sharing Information to Spur Innovation."

This conference is a national forum for disseminating and exchanging information on managing the quality of environmental data; discussion and action on issues of national concern; training; and technical presentations. The conference is open to all interested members of the environmental community including representatives from EPA, other Federal Agencies, State, local, and Tribal governments, academia, and the private sector. There is no charge for attending the conference or training. Conference home page: <http://www.epa.gov/quality1/qs-2008.html>

Air Toxics Summit 2008

EPA Region 10 and Idaho DEQ will be hosting the Air Toxics Summit 2008 with co-sponsorship by EPA Region 8, Oregon DEQ and Washington Dept of Ecology. The summit will be held on August 4-7, 2008 in Boise, Idaho.

The Air Toxics Summit brings together federal, state, provincial, local and tribal air quality professionals with their community and academic partners to share solutions to air toxics challenges throughout the western United States and Canada. The Summit is held over four days and includes many concurrent conference sessions, training sessions, a poster session, and evening social activities. Training sessions are held on the first and last day of the Summit, and will be provided free of cost for every registered participant or presenter.

For more information:
<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NSF/webpage/Air+Toxics+Summit:+Region+10>

Climate Change in the Northwest "Tribal Perspectives"

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians will host Climate Change in the Northwest "Tribal Perspectives" on May 29-30, 2008 at the Seattle Public Library in Seattle, Washington. The purpose of the conference will be to provide a strong foundation for Tribal Leaders on the most current science as applied to climate change in the Northwest. Specific sessions will concentrate on germane federal legislation and public policy, and its effect on Northwest tribes. Tribes will have an opportunity to develop future position papers on climate change on how best to fully engage their collective power to develop strategies that is mindful of the tribes' unique status in the Northwest.

Agenda topics include: Climate Change Overview, Understanding Climate Change in the Northwest, Effects on Water Supply and Quality, Effect to Forest Ecology & Management, Effects to Salmon and Other Fisheries, Coastal Ecosystems & Communities, Potential Health Effects, and Congressional & Legislative, Public Policy Update, and a Policy/Strategy Session.

For additional information: Patrick Gonzales-Rogers, USFWS Tribal Liaison, 503-231-6123; or Lyn D. Dennis, Executive Director ATNI, 503-249-5770. To register: Crystal Varisco, ATNI Conference Coordinator, 503-249-5770 or crystalv@spiritone.com

Pollution Prevention Grants

The Pollution Prevention Grant Program supports State and Tribal technical assistance programs which help businesses identify better environmental strategies and solutions for reducing or eliminating waste at the source. EPA anticipates it will award approximately \$4.1 million in total program funding during Fiscal Year 2008. Grants will be awarded and managed by each of EPA's ten Regional Pollution Prevention Program Offices.

The deadline for submitting a proposal is **April 16, 2008**. Funding announcement: <http://www.epa.gov/p2/pubs/grants/ppis/2008rfpp2grant.htm>

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Tribal Lead Grants

EPA is making approximately \$500,000 available for Tribal Lead Grants. EPA is accepting grant proposals from federally-recognized tribes and tribal consortia to support tribal educational outreach and to conduct a baseline assessment of tribal children's existing and potential exposure to lead-based paint and related lead-based paint hazards.

Eligible activities for funding included educational outreach, data gathering, inspections, risk assessments, training, and development of new and innovative approaches to identifying or reducing lead poisoning.

The number of grants awarded will be based on the quality of proposals received and available funding, but EPA expects to award approximately 4-6 grants. The deadline for proposals is **April 21, 2008**. The RFP may be viewed at the EPA Lead website:

<http://epa.gov/lead/new.htm>

or the Grants.gov site at:

<http://www.grants.gov/>

Watershed Protection Program Grants

EPA is seeking proposals for the FY08 Assessment and Watershed Protection Program Grants (AWPPGs). The total amount of expected funding available is approximately \$500,000, depending on Agency funding levels and other applicable considerations. It is anticipated that five to eight awards will be made in three categories: (1) Assessment and TMDL Workshops; (2) Tools, Incentives, and Products Training for the Watershed Approach; and (3) Tools, Incentives, and Trainings that Foster the Financing of Water Quality Protection and/or Habitat Restoration/Protection Activities on a Watershed Scale. The deadline for proposals is **April 22, 2008**.

Funding announcement: <http://www.epa.gov/owow/funding/rfp.html> or <http://www.grants.gov/> Questions: Tim Icke at icke.tim@epa.gov

Small Water Systems Placards

Small water systems, particularly those that serve very small populations or tribal communities, can be challenged in understanding the regulatory requirements that apply to them. EPA is releasing a new set of placards that summarize day-to-day monitoring requirements for small drinking water systems. Having monitoring requirements readily available in an easy to read format should improve monitoring and reporting compliance at small systems.

These placards provide step-by-step instructions for conducting monitoring under the Total Coliform Rule, Surface Water Treatment Rules and Nitrate regulations. The placards can be printed and hung on the wall for quick reference by drinking water operators. The placards and other tools for small systems are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/smallsys/ssinfo.htm>

EPA Region 10 Autobody Campaign

Autobody shops pose serious health risks. They emit Particulate Matter which can cause Asthma, heart attacks, bronchitis, premature mortality; Volatile Organic Compounds which can cause Asthma and Bronchitis; Hazardous Air Pollutants which can lead to lung cancer; Diisocyanates which is the leading cause of occupational asthma; and Solvents which can cause irritation, headache, nausea, liver, kidney, nervous system damage.

To address these risks EPA has established a voluntary autobody campaign with goals to reduce and eliminate emissions produced by these shops and utilizing best practices through training and outreach. Resources and trainings are available to shops to encourage the best practices and outreach materials are available to educate autobody shop workers and neighbors about the health risks and what they can do to minimize them.

For more information: <http://epastage.epa.gov/air/toxicair/community/collision.html> or contact Ashley Zanolli at zanolli.ashley@epa.gov or 206-553-4425.

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Water Treatment System Owners and Operators

EPA is releasing the third in a series of reports on municipal wastewater collection and treatment technologies. The report, Emerging Technologies for Wastewater Treatment and In-Plant Wet Weather Management, provides municipal wastewater treatment system owners and operators with the latest information on emerging wastewater treatment and in-plant wet weather management technology options. It identifies cost effective, innovative and embryonic technologies as well as established technologies with innovative applications.

Technical and cost data for more than 60 innovative technologies and more than 25 embryonic technologies are provided. The technologies featured in the report can provide more efficient or advanced wastewater treatment or better management of wet weather flows at the treatment plant. The new report is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/owm/mtb/index.htm>

The previous two reports, Emerging Technologies for Biosolids Management, and Emerging Technologies for Conveyance Systems: New Installations and Rehabilitation Methods, are also available on the website.

Global Database for Carbon

If you are interested in learning more about the carbon being emitted into the air, there is an online database that contains information on the carbon emission of over 50,000 power plants and 4,000 power companies worldwide. Under the guise of the Carbon Monitoring for Action (CARMA), the database is alleged to be the first global inventory of a major emission-producing sector of the economy.

The information for which the database is populated comes from a number of sources including the EPA and emission reports for plants located in Canada, the European Union, and India. The website can be found at: <http://carma.org>

Radon

Radon is a cancer-causing natural radioactive gas that you can't see, smell or taste. Its presence in your home can pose a danger to your family's health. Radon is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers and the second leading cause of lung cancer in America. Breathing home indoor radon causes nearly one hundred times more deaths each year than carbon monoxide poisoning; some 20,000 people will die this year due to breathing too much radon without even knowing it.

Radon seeps into homes through foundation cracks and can reach harmful levels if trapped indoors. It travels up from underground sources of uranium in the earth's crust. EPA estimates that one in 15 homes will have a radon level of four PicoCuries per liter (pCi/L) of air or more, a level the agency considers high.

The radon threat is preventable with some simple steps. In existing homes, families can begin protecting themselves by buying an easy-to-use radon test kit to determine if a high level exists; if so, a high level might be lowered simply with a straight-forward radon venting system installed by a contractor. In new homes, builders can easily and economically include radon-resistant features during construction, and home buyers should ask for these. EPA also recommends that home buyers ask their builder to test for radon gas before they move in.

Radon preventive actions have saved an estimated 6,000 lives in the last 20 years. EPA has a goal to double that number, to 12,000 lives saved, in the next five years. As part of an effort called Radon Leaders Saving Lives, EPA is working with state and local governments, non-profit organizations, and radon professionals across the country to educate consumers about ways to reduce radon in existing and new homes. All Americans can contribute to saving someone's life by testing and reducing high levels in existing homes or testing and building radon-resistant new homes.

For more information about radon: <http://www.epa.gov/radon> or call 800-767-7236.

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Tribal Compliance Assistance Center

EPA's web-based Tribal Compliance Assistance Center is now available to provide comprehensive compliance assistance and pollution prevention information for regulated activities in Indian Country. The center is designed to help tribal environmental professionals and facility owners and operators comply with environmental regulations and get information on topics including waste management, air and water resources, drinking water, and public safety. Visitors to the site can report a complaint to EPA, find out the compliance status of facilities in Indian Country, learn how to apply for federal grants, and locate EPA personnel who can answer your environmental compliance questions. For website: <http://www.epa.gov/tribalcompliance>

If access to the Internet is limited, much of the Tribal Center's information can be found in the *Profile of Tribal Government Operations*, which can be ordered by calling 800/490-9198.

For questions about the center or *Profile of Tribal Government Operations*, contact Jonathan Binder at 202-564-2516, binder.jonathan@epa.gov, or Catherine Tunis at 202-564-0476, tunis.catherine@epa.gov.

Cell Phone Recycling

The nation's leading cell phone makers, service providers, and retailers have teamed up with the EPA to answer America's call for easy cell phone recycling. As part of EPA's Plug-In to eCycling program, partners supporting the cell phone recycling campaign include AT&T Wireless, Best Buy, LG Electronics, Motorola, Nokia, Office Depot, Samsung, Sony Ericsson, Sprint, Staples, and T-Mobile.

For information about the cell phone recycling campaign: <http://www.epa.gov/cellphone>

For information about the Plug-In to eCycling program: <http://www.epa.gov/plug-in/>

Air Toxics Rules

EPA has recently promulgated Air Toxics rules under 40 CFR Part 63 for small air pollution sources (called "Area Sources") in many categories. Some rules cover sources which are frequently found on reservations, such as autobody shops and gas stations. Sources subject to these rules will generally have to notify EPA and implement Best Management Practices. Some recently promulgated rules cover:

- Paint Stripping and Surface Coating, which applies to Autobody shops among others (Compliance January 10, 2011)
- Gasoline Dispensing Facilities, located at service stations, convenience stores, and other retail outlets (Compliance January 10, 2011)
- Bulk Gasoline Distribution Terminals, Bulk Plants, and Pipeline Facilities (Compliance January 10, 2011)
- Hospital Ethylene Oxide Sterilizers (Compliance December 29, 2008)
- Stationary Internal Combustion Engines, used for power generation (Compliance July 1, 2008)
- Wood Preserving (Compliance July 16, 2007)

EPA has developed downloadable brochures that summarize the rule and notification examples that sources can use to submit notices for some of these Area Source rules. Voluntary compliance prior to the deadline date is encouraged to reduce health and environmental risks from these sources as soon as possible. For more info about the Area Source Program and implementation materials:

<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/atw/area/arearules.html#imp>

or contact Heather Valdez at valdez.heather@epa.gov or 206-553-6220.





U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
Tribal Program
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, ETPA-085
Seattle, WA 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, EPA, 811 S.W. 6th Ave., Portland, OR 97204 or e-mail creek.don@epa.gov.

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter April 2008

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		