

# Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



## Work Shops and Conferences

**September 19-22, ATNI, 52<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference, Coeur d' Alene, ID. 503/249-5770**

**October 3-5, American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES), 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Charlotte, NC. Cristy Davies 505/765-1052 ext. 108**

**October 6-9, National Indian Education Association 36<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, Denver CO. 703/838-2870**

**October 24-26, Western Wetland Conference: Collaboration across Boundaries, Denver, CO. For additional information: [jkeigley@montana.edu](mailto:jkeigley@montana.edu)**

**Region 10 Tribal  
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### **Air Quality Forecasts**

With summer vacations in full swing, Americans are encouraged to check local air quality forecasts during Air Quality Awareness Days (June 29-July 1) and year-round as they plan their daily activities. Recently improved forecasting by National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NOAA) and EPA makes air quality forecasts more available to more people than ever before.

"Improving air quality forecasting abilities helps cities across the country provide their citizens the most accurate,

up-to-date air quality predictions available," said Brig. Gen. David L. Johnson, U.S. Air Force (Ret.), director of NOAA's National Weather Service. "These forecasts help millions of people protect their health on days when ozone levels are high."

Jeff Holmstead, EPA's assistant administrator for air and radiation, said "summer marks the heart of the ozone season. Whether living in a city, suburb or in the country, air quality forecast information can help all Americans make important health decisions."

Ozone pollution, also known as ground-level ozone or "smog," forms when pollutants from sources such as cars, power plants and industries "cook" in the sun. Ozone pollution can aggravate respiratory diseases, including asthma, and can reduce lung function.

Even healthy people can have symptoms related to ozone exposure, so everyone should pay attention to air quality forecasts. State and local agencies issue official next-day air quality forecasts for more than 300 communities across the United

States. These forecasts let citizens know what kind of air quality to expect the next day in their community.

Air quality forecasts are available online at:

<http://www.nws.noaa.gov/aq> and <http://www.epa.gov/airnow>

The AIRNow site also features additional health and safety information along with a compilation of air quality alerts issued by state and local air quality forecasters.

### **2005 Brownfield Conference**

This uniquely-designed conference sponsored by EPA Region 10 will be held November 2-4, in Denver, Co. It will feature environmental issues facing the west including tribal brownfields, mining sites, watershed issues, and rural community issues. For more information regarding conference attendance, presentation opportunities, exhibits or poster sessions, check out the 2005 website:

[www.brownfields2005.org](http://www.brownfields2005.org) or

contact the Region 8 Coordinator, Robin Coursen at [coursen.rob@epa.gov](mailto:coursen.rob@epa.gov).

### ICEHAP

Indian Country Environmental Hazard Assessment Project is a free course presented by volunteers and is available upon request. The volunteers will come to you and participants will learn methods for identifying and assessing environmental health hazards in the home, workplace and community. The goal of ICEHAP is to introduce participants to specific environmental problems that may cause harm to tribal communities. Participants will learn methods for identifying and assessing environmental health hazards in the home, workplace, and community. With the information provided, participants will be able to prioritize environmental problems and identify available resources for their resolution. A model will be presented to illustrate how a community-based approach can be taken to successfully solve a community environmental health problem. For more information, contact Harvard School of Public Health, Attn: Barbara Blanchard, 677 Hunting Ave., CCPE-Dept. A, Boston MA 02115-6096, phone 617/384-8687 or email: [bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu](mailto:bblancha@hsph.harvard.edu)

### Indoor Air Training

The American Lung Association Health House program is providing hands-on indoor air quality training for tribal professionals. There is no cost for this training. The classes

began in July 2005 and will run through 2008. Info: <http://www.healthhouse.org/TribalTraining/Index.asp>.

### \$ Indigenous Leadership \$

Ecotrust requests nominations for the Buffett Award for Indigenous Leadership. This award, funded by the Peter and Howard Buffett families, recognizes outstanding individuals in the field of conservation and community development within the Pacific salmon territory of North America. Individuals are eligible if they are First Nation or tribal members, over 35 years of age, and work or have worked with an indigenous organization or community within the Pacific salmon territory of North America. A \$25K cash award will be presented to an individual whose activities demonstrate durable qualities of leadership to improve the social, economic, political, and environmental conditions in his or her homelands. Four honorees will receive a \$2.5K cash award. Responses are due September 30, 2005. More: <http://fdncenter.org/pnd/1976/buffett>.

### Smart Growth Assistance

The Development, Community and Environment Division in EPA's Office of Policy, Economics and Innovation is seeking application from communities that want to develop in ways that meet environmental and other community goals. A team of multi-disciplinary experts will provide technical assistance to communities that are selected. For more:

[http://www.epa.gov/smarthgrowth/sg\\_implementation.htm](http://www.epa.gov/smarthgrowth/sg_implementation.htm) or call Mary Kay (Santore)Bailey, at 202/566-2859.

### DDT

A report from the Audubon Society showed that despite the ban on DDT in 1972 in the United States, DDT continues to show up in alarming levels in non-migrating song birds. In fact scientists say the DDT levels in non-migrating species are 2 to 10 times the levels of those that migrate to Latin America. "These findings are reminders that our decisions are going to affect us for decades" said Greg Butcher, a senior scientist with the Audubon Society and author of a recent "State of Birds" report that showed many North American species in decline. At least 50 countries ban DDT although it is still legally used for malaria control in 20 nations.

### Household Dust

A new nationwide study shows that household dust is a magnet for toxic household pollutants. Many homes had especially high levels of certain pesticides and toxic flame retardants in dust samples taken earlier this year.

How does ordinary dust get to be toxic? "Toxic chemicals are brought into our homes through ordinary consumer products including electronic products, vinyl flooring, plastic materials, foam cushions, pest control products and other everyday products that many people wrongfully assume are safe," said Laura Weiss, OEC program Director, "Through normal wear

and tear; the chemicals in these products escape and tend to accumulate in household dust.”

The pesticides detected by the study - permethrins - are a type of chemical widely used for fleas. Even if flea powders or ointments are applied, the chemicals do not stay on your cat and dog - they also end up on rugs, furniture and other places where dust collects.

Likewise, the flame retardants that were found are ones that are used in a wide range of household products, including electronic equipment, foam cushions and other items. They too eventually end up in household dust. Recent studies have found high levels of flame retardants in the breast milk of Northwest women; taken together, both studies suggest that dust may be one of the main avenues of exposure.

### **Pesticide Grant**

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), in coordination with the EPA Regional Offices, is soliciting applications for projects that further the goals of the **Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Program (PESP)**. Eligible applicants include the 50 States, District of Columbia, U.S. Virgin Islands, Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, any territory or possession of the United States, any agency or instrumentality of a State including State universities, and all federally recognized Tribes. Under this program, assistance agreements will provide financial support to eligible applicants to carry out projects that reduce the risks associated with pesticide use in agricultural and non-agricultural settings. The

total amount of funding available for award in FY 2005 is expected to be approximately \$470,000, with a maximum funding level of \$47,000 per project.

**DATES:** Submit your proposals in accordance with the detailed instructions in Unit IV.3. no later than August 15, 2005.

Applications must be submitted to your EPA Regional PESP Coordinator listed in Unit VII. **FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Your EPA Regional PESP Coordinator Region X (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, Washington), Sandra Halstead, (WSU-IAREC), 24106 N. Bunn Road, Prosser, WA 99350; telephone: 509/786-9225; e-mail: halstead.sandra@epa.gov

You may obtain electronic copies of this document through the EPA Internet under the Federal Register" listings at <http://www.epa.gov/fedrgstr> Applications must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service, hand delivered, or include official delivery service documentation indicating EPA Regional Office acceptance from a delivery service no later than August 15, 2005.

### **Air Toxics Grant**

EPA is soliciting grant applications for demonstration projects designed to assist state and local communities in identifying and profiling air toxics sources, characterizing the degree and extent of local-scale air toxics problems, tracking progress of air toxics reduction activities, and developing and assessing emerging measurement methods. The closing date for receipt of applications is August 22, 2005,

4:00 p.m. EDT. More: <http://www.epa.gov/oar/grants/05-16.pdf>

### **Canadian Methane**

Canada is joining 15 other nations to cut emissions of the powerful greenhouse gas, methane, by using it to generate heat and power rather than letting it escape into the atmosphere. On July 14, Canada became the 16th member of EPA's Methane to Markets Partnership, an international initiative that promotes the recovery and use of methane, prevents greenhouse gas emissions, and provides valuable sources of clean energy to communities, businesses and industry.

"An innovative program like Methane to Markets is a model for future environmental solutions because it takes a great idea, adds new technology and promotes international cooperation," said EPA Administrator Steve Johnson. "The world will benefit from Canada's expertise and participation in this program."

By 2015 the Methane to Markets Partnership has the potential to deliver annual reductions in methane emissions of up to 50 million metric tons of carbon equivalent or recovery of 500 billion cubic feet of natural gas. If these projections are achieved, they could stabilize or reduce global atmospheric concentrations of methane. This would be equivalent to cutting the greenhouse gas emissions of 33 million cars, planting 55 million acres of trees, or eliminating emissions from 50 500 megawatt coal-fired power plants; or providing enough energy to heat

approximately 7.2 million households for one year.

The Methane to Markets Partnership currently targets three major sources of methane -- landfills, underground coal mines, and natural gas and oil systems. The partnership is a collaboration between a growing number of partners in developed countries, developing countries, and countries with economies in transition. Project Network Partners come from the private sector, development banks, researchers, and other organizations.

In addition to Canada, countries participating in Methane to Markets include Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, India, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Nigeria, Russia, South Korea, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, and the United States.

To learn more about Methane to Markets, or to join as either a country Partner or as a Project Network Partner, : <http://www.epa.gov/methanetomarkets>

### **Water Security Guide**

EPA's National Homeland Security Research Center (NHSRC) has published "Security Information Collaboratives: A Guide for Water Utilities." The purpose of the guide is to inform drinking water and wastewater utilities about the benefits of establishing collaborative arrangements with other organizations to share information on water security. The guide provides step-by-step suggestions for establishing a collaborative and includes three case studies to show how utilities can

successfully coordinate with various key water security partners to enhance security and public health protection.

<http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=923>

### **Safe Drinking Water**

According to EPA's third Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, the nation's water utilities will need to make an estimated \$277 billion in investments over the next 20 years to continue to ensure safe drinking water. This report to Congress, which reflects data collected in 2003, documents anticipated costs for repairs and replacement of transmission and distribution pipes, storage and treatment equipment, and projects that are necessary to deliver safe supplies of drinking water. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/needssurvey>

### **Kudos**

First, a hearty congratulation to the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians on the very successful 7<sup>th</sup> Biannual National Tribal Conference Environmental Management and to the EPA staff who worked so hard with the Tribe. We had attendees from tribes, federal and state governments, contractors, vendors, and friends. The location was beautiful with first rate facilities, the meetings efficient, organized and topical and the daily entertainment was wonderful. The bar has been raised for our next tribal host. Once again, congratulations to everyone involved and we'll see everyone gathered together again

in 2 years. AIEO Director, Carol Jorgensen.

### **Communities Guidebook**

Smart Growth America has released "Choosing Our Community's Future," a guidebook developed to assist communities in shaping the growth and development of their neighborhoods, towns and regions. The guidebook will help readers understand the elements of community design, the planning and site approval process for development projects, and what can make a plan or project deliver on community and environmental benefits. More: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=928>

### **Water Guidance Program**

The *National Water Program Guidance for Fiscal Year 2006* is now available on EPA's website at [www.epa.gov/water/waterplan](http://www.epa.gov/water/waterplan). The Guidance describes EPA's strategies for accomplishing key environmental and public health goals. The document's Executive Summary outlines the year's top priorities. EPA regional offices will be working with States and Tribes to develop "commitments" under these measures. These final commitments are to be included in State/EPA grant agreements, performance partnership agreements, and other documents.

### **Drinking Water Standards**

Across the country about 272 million people are served by 53,000 community water systems. About ninety percent of those people received water that met health-based drinking water standards in fiscal year 2004.

EPA is working to meet its goal of having 95 percent of the population by 2008 served by community water systems in compliance with the health-based drinking water standards.

EPA is working toward this goal through effective treatment, source water protection, and state and federal cooperation. Water systems meeting the standards do not exceed the maximum allowable levels for contaminants such as nitrate. They also meet treatment technique requirements that ensure protection against microbial pathogens such as Giardia and viruses.

Each year EPA releases a Summary of Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics. The statistics in the summary are based on data from the Safe Drinking Water Information System. The system is EPA's official record of data for public water systems. The yearl Summaries of Drinking Water and Ground Water Statistics are available: [www.epa.gov/safewater/data/getdata.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/data/getdata.html).

### **Funding Directory**

EPA has updated its 52-page funding opportunities directory. This directory is designed to help readers locate financial and technical assistance for efforts that: \*reduce energy costs, \*improve air quality and public health, \*and enhance opportunities for economic development. The directory is called *Funding Opportunities: A Directory of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Environmental Protection Assistance Programs*. It lists grants available from EPA, other federal agencies, state

*governments, and private foundations*. Grants were organized by topic, with detailed descriptions and contacts. The document also provides links to online resources. State, Tribes, and local governments, businesses, public organizations (e.g., school districts), non-profits and consumers can use this publication to find potential sources of support for their activities. Visit the website at: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=811>

### **Science Web-Site**

Twelve federal agencies, including EPA, have collaborated with the Department of Energy to launch *Science.gov 2.0*. The website provides a gateway to selected science information from U.S. government agencies. It provides wide public access and a unified search for the government's vast stores of scientific and technical information. The site allows you to search across 30 databases and more than 1,700 science websites. Visit at: [www.science.gov](http://www.science.gov).

### **Stormwater Management**

A national satellite broadcast on *Stormwater Management from a Watershed Perspective* will take place in a few months. This will be the 4<sup>th</sup> in the Watershed Issues Series of Satellite Conferences. The program will be broadcast to Extension and other agency offices across the nation on October 11, 2005 from 9:00 am - 11:30 pm (PDT) See: [www.pnwwaterweb.com](http://www.pnwwaterweb.com) or call 509/574-1584 for information.

### **Sea Life in Peril**

Usual seasonal influx of cold water isn't happening Glen Martin, SF Chronicle Environment Writer July 12, 2005 Oceanic plankton have largely disappeared from the waters off Northern California, Oregon and Washington, mystifying scientists, stressing fisheries and causing widespread seabird mortality. The phenomenon could have long-term implications if it continues: a general decline in near-shore oceanic life, with far fewer fish, birds and marine mammals. No one is certain how long the condition will last. But even a short duration could severely affect seabird populations because of drastically reduced nesting success, scientists say. The plankton disappearance is caused by a slackening of what is known as "upwelling:" the seasonal movement of cold, nutrient-rich offshore water into areas near shore.

This cold water sustains vast quantities of phytoplankton and zooplankton, which are the basis of the marine food web. During periods of vigorous up-welling and consequent plankton "blooms," everything from salmon to blue whales fattens and thrives on the continental shelf of the West Coast.

The larger fish and baleen whales eat mostly krill: free-floating, shrimp-like crustaceans ranging from one to two inches, the upper size limit of the zooplankton realm. When the water is cold, krill swarm off the Northern California coast by the tens of thousands of tons. Now that they are largely absent,

fisheries and wildlife are feeling the effects. In perhaps the most ominous development, seabird nesting has dropped significantly on the Farallon Islands off San Francisco, the largest Pacific Coast seabird rookery south of Alaska.

### **Indian Clean Air Act**

The EPA published final rule on Federal Implementation Plans (FIPs) under the Clean Air Act (CAA) for Indian reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. The FIPs put in place basic air quality regulations to protect health and welfare on 39 Indian reservations located in the Pacific Northwest. EPA developed this basic set of air rules to fill regulatory gap under the Clean Air

Act with federal air rules where there are no EPA-approved tribal or state implementation plans. These rules became effective July 8, 2005.

For more information on these rules, see: <http://www.epa.gov/r10earth/FARR>.

EPA Region 10 has a hotline for callers to ask questions about these rules, to obtain materials related to these rules, and to report violations of these rules. The Federal Air Rules for Reservations in Idaho, Oregon, and Washington (FARR) hotline number is 800/424-4372. Debra Suzuki of EPA Region 10's Office of Air, Waste and Toxics can also be contacted for additional information at 206/553-0985.

### **Tribal Coal-Fired Plant**

A proposed coal-fired power plant to be built on tribal land in New Mexico would be the cleanest conventional coal facility in the country, and could set a new baseline for emission controls that other utilities would have to meet in order to obtain air permits, according to EPA, industry, and tribal officials.

The proposed power plant, known as the Desert Rock Energy Project, would be the third coal plant on Navajo land, following the San Juan Generating Station and Four Corners Power Plant, both in New Mexico. The plant would provide power to New Mexico, Arizona, Nevada, and California.