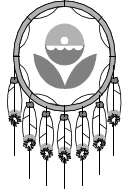


. * N E W S

EPA Homepage Website

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/tribal.NSF>

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



L E T T E R

Vol. XIII No. XII
December 1, 2004

Work Shops and Conferences

January 25-27 2005, Tribal Science Council, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, Reno, NV. See second article.
April 4-8 2005, Sustainability and Restoration: A Practical Partnership for the 21st Century. Washington State Convention and Trade Center, Seattle, WA.. <http://www.engr.washington.edu/epp/ser>
April 18-22 2005, Tribal Leaders Summit 05, Sitka, Alaska. Info: Nathan Spees 907/271-6334
June 7 - 10 2005, 7th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in Traverse City, Michigan. See first article.

*Region 10 Tribal
Newsletter is published
monthly at no charge*

To receive a copy call:

AK..Jean.....907/271-6558
ID..Arlene.....208/378-5749
OR..Don.....503/326-5015
WA..Alison.....360/753-8185
Tribal Office. Judy 800/424-
4372 ext. 4011

7th National Tribal Conference

The Grand traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa Indians (GTB) is pleased to invite you to participate in the 7th National Tribal conference on environmental Management (NTCEM) in Traverse city, Michigan June 7-10, 2005. The NTCEM is being held at the Grant Traverse Resort Spa, owned by GTB.

The NTCEM is one of the premier environmental events in Indian Country. With

approximately 1000 people expected, the conference provides an opportunity for tribal leaders. Tribal environmental managers, tribal scientists, tribal organizations, federal agencies, and other interested entities to share information about tribal environmental programs, and discuss issues of vital interest to Indian country.

The National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management has generally been on a bi-annual basis since 1992.

The GTB is actively seeking agenda suggestions on environmental issues of importance in Indian Country and will use selected ideas to shape the conference agenda. You are invited to submit your ideas on environmental activities, issues, and opportunities for participation in the event. In addition, GTB will have significant room for interested vendors at the conference.

For more information: Andy

Knott, GTB Environmental Stewardship Director at 231/271-7363 or aknott@gtbindians.com or Suzanne McSawby, GTB Natural Resource Director at 231/271-7104 or smcsawby@gtbindians.com.

Tribal Science Council

The workshop is designed for tribal or EPA person with interest or involvement in tribal environmental issues, tribal risk assessments, and Tribal Traditional Lifeways, such as ceremonial, cultural, and other daily traditional tribal activities. The workshop will be beneficial to environmental professionals working on tribal issues because risk assessments serve as the scientific basis for many environmental decisions including water, air, pesticide, and waste environmental standards and regulation development.

For additional information regarding the workshop contact: Pat Cirone, EPA, cirone.patricia@epa.gov, 206/553-1597 or John Persell,

Minnesota Chippewa Tribe,
mctwq@paulbunyan.net,
218/335-6303.

R10 Tribal Web Site

Have questions about the Region 10 tribal environmental programs? The Region 10 Tribal Web-site has been updated and is back on line: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/tribal.NSF>

Tribal Grants

State & Tribal Response Program Grant Requests are being accepted December 1, 2004 through January 31, 2005. This is a capacity building grant program for state and tribal environmental cleanup programs. These programs may already be established or you may be working to establish the programs that deal with addressing sites in your jurisdiction. This program is often referred to as the "Brownfields Program" and although addressing brownfield properties is one element, the response program can be broader and hopes to build capacity in dealing with many different site issues.

To find out more, read the guidance document for details on the types of activities that can be funded, the amount of funding available, and the minimum requirements. The national program guidance document can be found at: http://www.epa.gov/swerosps/bf/pg/fy05_state_guidelines.pdf.

Bronfields Job Training

EPA is accepting proposals for Brownfields Job Training grants for 2005. The goals of the Job Training Program are to prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field and

facilitate cleanup of Brownfields sites contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants and petroleum. Proposals are due January 14, 2005.

Applicants for the Job Training program must be located in or near, and propose to serve, a community that currently receives, or has received, financial assistance from EPA for Brownfields-related activities.

For Job Training Proposal guidelines: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/applicant.htm#jt>.

For more information about the Job Training Program please refer to the EPA Brownfields Job Training Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/job.htm>.

Filter Backwash Guidance

The EPA has issued new implementation guidance for the Filter Backwash Recycling Rule (FBRR). The document provides guidance on how EPA interprets the rule and plans to exercise its discretion in implementing the statute and regulations.

Section 6 of the guidance provides examples of language that can be used to comply with the requirements of the Public Notification Rule (PN Rule) and consumer Confidence Reporting Rule (CCR).

Solid Waste Grants

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utilities Service is accepting applications for its Solid Waste Management Grants. These grants may be used to evaluate current landfill conditions, and provide technical assistance and/or training in various areas. Applications are due December

21, 2005. For more: <http://www.usda/rus/water/SWVG.htm>.

Environmental Toolkit

The International City/county Management Association (ICMA) has released a CD-ROM called the *Local Government Environmental Toolkit*. The toolkit contains 21 publications, fact sheets, and other resources that ICMA has produced to help local government officials meet their environmental and economic development challenges.

Contents include resources on: *brownfields; *smart growth; *military base reuse; and *environmental liability.

To request a free copy of this toolkit, call 877/865-4326 or lgean@icma.org.

Teens Environmental Web Site

The EPA has unveiled a new Web site to help high school students explore and learn about their environment and ways to protect it.

For all students going back to school this will be an especially valuable environmental information resource. It can sometimes be difficult to know what to trust on the Web, but like all EPA materials, this site has been thoroughly reviewed to make sure it's accurate and educational.

A team of EPA environmental educators created the new Web site to help high school students find good environmental information, not just on EPA's Web site, but on other reliable sites as well. The team used guidelines developed by the North American Association for environmental Education to ensure that only truly educational materials were included. The site complements other EPA sites for kids and teachers.

The Web site contains easy-to-find and easy-to-understand information about air and water issues, waste and recycling, conservation, health and safety, ecosystems, and community environmental conditions. It also links interested students to internship and scholarship opportunities, environmental careers, and community involvement projects.

www.epa.gov/highschool.

Water Quality Testing

Water professionals can access up-to-the-minute developments in water quality testing standards and consult with other experts through a new site on the World Wide Web.

Three Prominent water and public health organizations, the American Public Health Association, the American Water Works Association, and the Water Environment Federation, have launched an online, subscription-based service of the popular *Standard Methods for the Examination of Water and Wastewater* at:

www.StandardMethods.org. Print versions of *Standard Methods* have served as the industry guide for water quality testing for 99 years, providing more than 350 separate methods of water quality measurements used by industry scientists, analysts and engineers.

Standard Methods Online will add the following services: *new, revised, and EPA approved methods will be continuously updated and available 24 hours a day, seven days a week; *subscribers will receive e-mail notification additions, updates, and approvals as they happen; *e-newsletter highlighting the latest

issues and trends; and *access to a community of experts through online discussion forums.

“In addition to enabling quicker dissemination of new and revised methods, adding *Standard Methods Online* will create a constant energy for new methods to be produced,” said Lernore Clesceri, chair of the *Standards Methods* joint Editorial Board.

Older methods that could not be included in revised printed editions due to space constraints will also be retained online pending review and approval by the *Standard Methods* Committee.

EPA Water Security Plan

The EPA has released a Water Security Research and Technical Action Plan that identifies critical research and technical support projects in the area of physical and cyber security; contaminant identification; monitoring and analysis; treatment; decontamination and disposal; contingency planning; infrastructure interdependencies; and risk assessment and communications.

The report is the result of a collaborative effort between EPA, federal partners, the water industry, public health organizations and the emergency response community to identify the most pressing needs related to drinking water and wastewater security. A draft of the Action Plan was peer-reviewed by the National Research Council’s Panel on Water system Security Research, which was organized in response to a request by EPA.

“The very nature of protecting the nation’s water infrastructure is a dynamic and evolving process that requires flexibility,” EPA

said. “The Action Plan will, therefore, be periodically updated to reflect new or additional information on possible threats to water infrastructure and executive legislative mandates and directives on homeland security.”

Projects described in the Action Plan are intended to improve the understanding of the public health and environmental impacts of different kinds of attacks on water infrastructure.

“This knowledge, when applied and integrated into practices of the water security sector, will lead to improved awareness, preparedness, prevention, response, and recovery from intentional acts against water systems,” EPA said.

Copies of the 56 page report may be downloaded in PDF at: www.epa.gov/safewater/watersecurity/pubs/action_plan_final.pdf.

CSO Partnership

The Combined Overflow (CSO) Partnership’s mission is to build and sustain a coalition between federal, state, and local governments and environmental organizations. It aims to promote federal legislative, regulatory, and policy initiatives and adequate funding to ensure the development and implementation of cost-effective and affordable environmental controls to abate or minimize the negative impacts of CSOs on the nation’s receiving waters. The CSO Web site: www.csop.com provides access to CSO publications and reports, description of goals and objectives, and the latest legislation involving CSO funding.

Tribal Office Changes

Lewis Mcleod joined the Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit on

October 4. Lewis is a member of the Salish & Kootenai Tribes. Since 1988 he has worked for the Tribal government in various capacities, including managing the Tribes' environmental program. Welcome Lewis!

Robin Slate is moving from the Ground Water Protection Unit to join the Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit. Katie Holt is leaving the tribal Trust Assistance Unit to take Robin's place in the Ground Water Protection Unit. Welcome back Robin!

MaryBell Austin is replacing Myrna Jamison who is on detail to the Information Resources Unit.

Drugs in Wastewater

A variety of pharmaceuticals present in raw wastewater are transformed, sometimes in unexpected ways, when exposed to chlorine during wastewater treatment, according to studies conducted at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

In recent laboratory experiments, NIST researchers found that chlorine exposure under conditions similar to those used in wastewater treatment transforms acetaminophen into multiple products, two of which are highly toxic.

All the drugs tested to date "were transformed significantly, and their products were generally more hydrophobic than the parent pharmaceuticals," according to the NIST. "Hydrophobic compounds are more likely to build up in the body. It is not known whether these reaction products pose any health or environmental hazards."

The results of some of the NIST research, as well as other studies of drugs in the environment, were presented last August in a session

at the annual meeting of the American Chemical Society.

Septic Information

The Septic Information Website www.inspect-ny.com/septbook.htm provides a wealth of information about septic systems. The site contains information on septic system design, defects, diagnosis, alternatives, maintenance, pumping schedules, and expert resources.

This site also contains several online articles, such as "Home Buyer's Guide to Septic Systems," "Septic Tank Pumping," "Alternative Designs and Consultants," and links to associations and consultants.

Save on Energy

Homeowners can save up to 20 percent on annual energy costs by making energy-efficient improvements to their heating and cooling systems. As temperatures drop this winter, EPA is encouraging Americans to save energy, reduce utility bills and protect the environment by increasing the energy efficiency of their home heating systems.

The average household spends \$1,500 a year on energy bills, nearly half of which goes to heating and cooling. EPA estimates that if one in ten U.S. households used heating and cooling equipment that has earned the ENERGY STAR label, the change would prevent an estimated 17 billion pounds of greenhouse gas emissions.

Sealing leaks that allow air to escape the home and replacing old heating equipment with high-efficiency models can significantly reduce annual energy

costs. Other steps also cut costs and improve comfort: tuning up heating and cooling equipment annually; regularly replacing the air filters; checking and sealing the duct system; and using a programmable thermostat's multiple temperature settings to get the most savings.

EPA's Guide to Energy-Efficient Cooling and Heating provides timely information and more details about how to save energy and money this winter, while helping to protect the environment. More at: <http://www.energystar.gov/hvacguide>.

When heating equipment reaches 15 or more years of age, EPA and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recommend that homeowners consider a more energy-efficient replacement. Many furnaces, heat pumps, boilers and thermostats meet ENERGY STAR's strict standards for energy efficiency set by the EPA and DOE.

More than 9,000 organizations have become ENERGY STAR partners and are committed to improving the energy efficiency of products, homes and businesses. For more information about ENERGY STAR and additional steps to save money and reduce air pollution, call 888-STAR-YES or visit: <http://www.energystar.gov>.

Pollution Prevention Projects

The EPA is interested in supporting source reduction/pollution prevention and resource conservation projects that will provide an overall benefit to the environment by preventing the generation of pollutants at the source. EPA is currently soliciting applications that achieve pollution prevention through purchasing

policies and practices and/or through the integration of pollution prevention concepts into state, regional, or tribal regulatory programs. For more:

<http://www.epa.gov/p2/grants/2004revrsolicitation.htm>.

Water Conservation Grants

The U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) is accepting proposals for its "Water 2025: Preventing Crisis and Conflict in the West" awards. The objective of these awards is to focus attention on the reality that in some areas of the West, existing water supplies are, or will be, inadequate to meet the water demands of people, cities, farms, and the environment even under normal water supply conditions. Emphasis for the grant program for Fiscal Year 2005 will be directed toward proposals that make more efficient use of existing water supplies through water conservation, efficiency, and water marketing. Applications are due January 21, 2005. More at: <http://www.doi.gov/water2025>.

Guidelines for Water Reuse

EPA's Office of Water and Office of Research and Development is now distributing a "2004 Guidelines for Water Reuse Manual," which recommends water reuse guidelines, along with supporting information, to help water and wastewater utilities and regulatory agencies. The document includes expanded coverage of water reuse issues and practices in other countries. More at: <http://www.epa.gov/tbnrmrl>.

Illicit Elimination Manual

Stormwater Illicit Discharge Detection and Now Elimination Manual Available. The Center for

Watershed Protection and the University of Alabama, under a grant from the EPA, have produced a comprehensive manual for municipalities that must develop and implement programs to find and correct illicit discharges to their storm sewer systems. The new manual includes detailed information on creating and managing a program, and a comprehensive guide to field and lab protocols. For more: http://www.cwp.org/idde_verify.htm.

Diesel Retrofit Program

"Voluntary Diesel Retrofit Program Technology Demonstration Assistance Agreements for Stationary Source Diesel Engines" This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals from state, local, multi-state, tribal agencies and non-profit public or private organizations or institutions, for partnership projects that investigate and demonstrate how to overcome structural, organizational, or technical challenges in applying EPA verified pollution control technologies (or in finding innovative ways to apply such technologies) in reducing emissions from stationary source diesel-powered internal combustion engines. RFA# OAR-AQSSD-04-15 - Closing Date: December 20, 2004

Energy Funding Opportunity

DOE's Tribal Energy Program is seeking applications for funding from Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Villages and Alaskan Native Corporations for: 1- the initial steps toward developing renewable energy and energy efficiency on Tribal Lands;

and 2- either renewable energy feasibility studies or renewable energy development projects. For more information or copies of the announcements, see "Funding Opportunities" on the Tribal Energy Website at: www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy

"Renewable Energy Development on Tribal Lands" (Reference Solicitation Number DE-PS36-04GO94003) Submission deadline February 4, 2005.

Under this announcement, DOE is soliciting applications from Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native villages and Alaskan Native Corporations (hereafter referred to as "Tribes") to either: 1- Conduct feasibility studies for the development of economically sustainable renewable energy installations; or 2 - Sustainable renewable energy development projects (20% cost share).

"First Steps Toward Developing Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency on Tribal Lands" (Reference Solicitation Number DE-PS36-04GO94004) Submission deadline January 20, 2005.

Under this announcement, DOE is soliciting applications from Federally-recognized Tribes, Alaska Native villages and Alaskan Native Corporations for strategic planning, energy options analysis or resource planning, energy organization development, and human capacity building related to sustainable energy efficiency implementation or renewable energy development. Funds for these announcements are currently not available. Awards under these solicitations are subject to the amount of

discretionary funding, if any, appropriated by Congress. DOE will only consider applications from Tribes on whose Tribal Lands the project will be located. Applications from a consortium of Tribes will be accepted but must be submitted by a single Tribe representing the consortium. More: www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy or www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/guide.

ALASKA

*The Alaska Operations Office of EPA invites Tribal leaders and staff members to assist in the early formation of a strategic alliance. This Alliance of interested agencies, organizations, and Tribes will be working together to strategically focus resources as

efforts move forward to address contaminants to subsistence foods in the Arctic.

On October 13, several agencies, Tribal representatives, and organizations came together to take some first steps toward developing a framework for actions to understand, measure, monitor and reduce the threats of contaminants to Alaskans and the environment. Since Tribal input is critical to the success of this effort, you're invited to participate in continuing discussions that will be taking place during the *Alaska Forum on the Environment, in Anchorage*, February of 7 - 11, 2005, at the Anchorage, Hilton.. Additional information will be sent to each Tribe by the end of December. Please call Jean Gamache at 907/271-6558 or

Jackie Poston at 907/271-3541, for more information. *Spirit of Youth (SOY) is dedicated to creating and promoting opportunities for youth involvement in their communities by increasing civic engagement, building leadership and providing media recognition for the positive contributions youth are making statewide. Every teenager nominated receives a letter of congratulations, a CD case and a key chain. Once a year, our (Alaska) Teen Action Council selects the top two finalists in each award category to be honored at the Annual Awards Banquet.

Nominations are made by anyone who wishes to recognize a hard-working, inspiring teenager in one of 10 award categories. For more: <http://www.spiritofyouth.org> or 907/566-7676