

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



Work Shops and Conferences

June 7-10, 2005, 7th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in Traverse City, Michigan. Info: Andy Knott 231/271-7363, aknott@gtbndians.com or Suzanne McSawby 231/271-7104, smcsawby@gtbndians.com

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

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Drinking Water Week

For more than 30 years, the American Water Works Association has celebrated Drinking Water Week, May 2-8, with its members. In 1988, AWWA brought the event to the attention of our government and formed a coalition along with the League of Women Voters, the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, and the EPA.

The Alliance has dedicated itself to public awareness and involvement in public and private drinking water issues, and continues its work to organize a

major annual education campaign built around National Drinking Water Week.

May is Wetlands Month

During May, the nation will celebrate American Wetlands Month, focusing on the many benefits wetlands provide. Also known as marshes, swamps and bogs, wetlands are important for flood control, acting as buffers to absorb and reduce damage caused by flood waters. Wetlands also help to remove pollutants from water, leaning streams and lakes, thereby reducing the cost of drinking water treatment. Wetlands are important to commercial fishing industry and provide a boost to recreation industry activities, such as fishing, birding, canoeing and hunting.

Info: www.iwla.org/sos/aswm.

Drinking Water Funds

EPA announces the availability of FY 2005 appropriations funding for the Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) programs. These programs provide states, territories, and tribes with resources to protect

the water of more than 270 million people.

States, territories, and tribes may apply for funding through their EPA Regional Offices. Additional information about the PWSS and DWSRF programs, including the amount of grant funding available to each can be found at PWSS:

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/pws/grants>,

[DWSRF: http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/allotments](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/allotments).

<http://www.epa.gov/safewater/dwsrf/allotments>.

EPA Funding Directory

The EPA's State and Local capacity Building Branch has updated its 52-page funding opportunities directory. This directory is designed to help identify financial and technical assistance opportunities for efforts that reduce energy costs, improve air quality and public health, and enhance opportunities for economic development. *Funding Opportunities: A Directory of Energy Efficiency, Renewable Energy, and Environmental Protection Assistance Programs* provides extensive lists of grants available from EPA, other federal agencies, state governments, and

private foundations.

Grants are organized by topic, with detailed descriptions and contact information for each grant. The document also provides links to online resources with more information.

State and local governments, businesses, public organizations (e.g., school districts), nonprofit organizations, and consumers can use this publication to identify potential sources of support, for their programs, projects and research and development activities. Examples include installing energy-efficient equipment in buildings, developing markets for recycled materials, and promoting renewable energy installations or purchases. Funding is also available to develop related education and outreach materials.

Directory: www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=811

Wetlands Facts Sheets

The EPA has released two new fact sheets on wetlands issues. *Constructed Treatment Wetlands* looks at how treatment wetlands work, the benefits of building them, and how they are constructed. *Wetlands & West Nile Virus* examines the possible connection between wetlands and West Nile, how the disease is transmitted and ways to protect your home and community.

Both fact sheets along with several other wetlands fact sheets produced by EPA, can be found at: www.epa.gov/owow/wetlands/facts/contents.html

Protecting Water Resources

The EPA has released a report titled *Protecting Water Resources with Smart Growth*. The report is a compilation of 75 policies

designed to protect water resources and implement smart growth. Forty-six of these policies are oriented to the watershed or regional level; the other 29 are targeted for specific development sites.

Growth and development can have adverse effects on water resources, including loss of woodlands, meadowlands, and wetlands and increased polluted run-off. Increases in impermeable cover and vehicle traffic also can negatively impact water quality and quantity. To address these and other impacts, local governments are developing smarter approaches to growth. They are looking for, and using, policies and tools that enhance existing neighborhoods, improve schools, protecting drinking water, and provide attractive housing and transportation choices. To download: www.epa.gov/livablecommunities/index.htm.

Water Reuse Guidelines

The EPA's Office of Water and Office of Research and Development, in partnership with the U. S. Agency for International Development (U.S. AID)), have approved and re now distributing a 2004 document, *Guidelines for Water Reuse Manual* (EPA 625-R-04/018), which recommends water reuse guidelines, along with supporting information, to help water and wastewater utilities and regulatory agencies particularly in the U. S.

The new document updates the 1992 guidelines by incorporating information on water reuse that has been developed since the 1992 document was issued, including expanded coverage of water reuse issues and practices in other

countries. It was developed via an EPA cooperative research and development agreement (CRADA) with Camp Dresser McKee and an interagency agreement with U. S. AID, along with extensive contributions by volunteers.

The updated guidelines document is being distributed (in both printed and CD formats) by EPA's Office of Research and Development/Technology Transfer Program as one of their manuals of practice. Copies of the updated manual can be ordered via the Web at: www.epa.gov/ttnrmrl

Illicit Discharge Detection

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 about creating and managing a program, and a comprehensive guide to field and lab protocols.

The comprehensive manual outlines practical, low cost, and effective techniques for program managers and practitioners to use. The guidelines include details on the types of testing used to detect illicit discharges, information on estimating program costs in terms of capital and personnel expenses, and timelines that estimate how long program implementation will take. To download: www.cwp.org/idde_verify.htm.

Stormwater Phase II Training

EPA has announced its stormwater training schedule for 2005. "Getting in Step with Phase

II: A Workshop for Stormwater Program Managers” provides state and local stormwater program managers with innovative tools and real-world examples that can be used to address the six minimum control measures called for by the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Permit Program Phase II requirements. Workshops will be held in Lexington, VA; Memphis, TN; Oklahoma City, OK; and Indianapolis, IN. http://cfpub.epa.gov/npdes/dates.cfm?program_id=0&outreach_id=200

Water Training Online

Online, distance-learning training module called *Growth and Water Resources* is now posed on EPA’s Watershed Academy Web. This training module explains how changes in land use affect water resources. It presents national data on trends in development patterns and activities on land that present challenges for meeting water quality standards. The module describes a combination of approaches to accommodate future growth.

These approaches can be used in a way that benefits the economy and the environment and helps meet water resource goals. The module also includes a “tools” section with links to online resources. www.epa.gov/watertrain/smartgrowth

2005-2015

The United Nations has declared the years 2005 to 2015 International Decade for Action: Water for Life: www.unesco.org/water/water_celebrations/decades/water_for_life.pdf

Water Assessment Web

EPA now offers the first-ever, interactive national database of state water quality assessment data. This Web page provides the public with easy internet access to water quality information at the state and local levels.

www.epa.gov/305b/2002report

Electronic Stormwater Permits

A new electronic permit application system is available for dischargers who need to comply with EPA’s stormwater permit for industrial facilities. Facilities requiring coverage under EPA’s “Multi Sector General Permit” can now fill out and electronically sign their applications using this system. For more www.epa.gov/npdes/enol EPA posts all industrial and construction stormwater applications on

www.epa.gov/npdes/noisearch.

Toxic Chloramine

Ann Lagoy was cleaning a shower when she began to feel dizzy. The **bleach** she was using reacted with an **ammonia** residue from a prior cleaning to produce toxic chloramine gas. This is one of the worst gases you can come in contact with.

Diesel Exhaust

The deadly effects of breathing diesel fumes came into sharp focus when the Clean Air Task Force (CATF) released a report estimating that diesel fumes kill about 21,000 U.S. citizens each year.

Furthermore, diesel fumes cause 27,000 nonfatal heart attacks and 410,000 asthma attacks in U.S. adults each year, plus roughly 12,000 cases of chronic bronchitis, 15,000 hospital admissions, 2.4

million lost-work days, and 14 million restricted activity days.

The Clean Air Task Force report cites numerous studies revealing that diesel soot: •degrades the immune system; •interferes with our hormones, reducing sperm production, masculinizing female rats, altering the development of baby rats (changing their bones, thymus, and nervous systems), modifying their adrenal and reproductive hormones; • causes serious, permanent impairment of the nervous system in diesel-exposed railroad workers; • induces allergic reactions, not limited to asthma, causing children to miss thousands upon thousands of school-days - a primary cause of school dropout, consequent low self-esteem, and subsequent life-failure.

The new report is based on the most recent available data from the federal EPA combined with EPA risk models, with calculations carried out by Abt Associates, a consulting firm that frequently performs contract studies for the EPA.

The key findings of the report should come as no surprise. The dangers of breathing diesel fumes have been known for at least two decades.

Tribal Schoolbus Grants

Congress has allocated \$7.5 million in funding to Clean School Bus USA for a cost-shared grant program to school districts to upgrade their diesel fleets for the 2005 fiscal year. School districts only can apply includes federally recognized tribes operating schools.

Visiting the Grants/Funding section of the Clean School Bus USA website at <http://www>.

[epa.gov/cleanschoolbus](http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus) regularly to get information on application requirements and due dates. School districts should begin to assess bus fleets now by gathering information on the make and age of engines and number of students riding the buses. They should plan a strategy for retrofitting or replacing older buses and/or switching to cleaner fuels and look for partners to assist with the clean school bus project. For examples of previously funded projects: http://www.epa.gov/otaq/schoolbus/demo_projects.htm.

The solicitation announcement will be posted on the Clean School Bus USA website in the spring of 2005, and will be posted for approximately 45 days. For FAQs and other information: <http://www.epa.gov/cleanschoolbus>

Cancer/Deck Fires

Raw lumber is placed in a pressure cylinder where a vacuum sucks air and water from the wood cells. The cylinder is then filled with a mix of water and pesticides and pressure is increased to refill the wood's cells with the mixture. As the wood dries, the chemicals are trapped inside.

CCA treated wood is most dangerous when it is burned and the arsenic is released into the air and it concentrates in the ashes. Just one tablespoon of ash contains a lethal dose of arsenic.

Old wood decks, play sets and picnic tables may pose a risk when they are burned. All treated wood should be disposed of properly.

Measuring Emissions

Carbon dioxide emissions worldwide increased by about a third between 1982 and 2002, with

developing nations such as China and India posting the greatest percentage increases. Russia, a former Soviet Republic showed a decrease as measured against the total for the former Soviet Union.

<u>CO² in Million Metric tons</u>		
<u>Year</u>	<u>1982</u>	<u>2002</u>
U.S.	4,390	5,749
Western Europe	3,522	3,853
Russia	3,225	1,522
China	1,500	3,322
India	345	1,026
World Totals	18,254	24,533

NOx Air Quality Standards

EPA has proposed three regulatory options to maintain air quality in areas that meet national air quality standards for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). The three proposed regulatory options are: 1- To retain the existing increments NOx measured as nitrogen dioxide (NO₂) in the ambient air as established in October 1988; 2- To allow states that choose to implement an interstate cap and trade program for sources of NOx to rely on the benefits of that program in place of the existing increments to prevent significant deterioration of NO₂ air quality; or 3- To allow states to adopt their own planning strategies and implement these in lieu of the NO₂ increment system. EPA is accepting comments on the options until April 14, 2005. <http://www.epa.gov/nsr/actions.html>

ITEP

The ITEP- sponsored National Tribal Forum Series continues with a new Forum in April 2005.

The annual event, which brings together tribal environmental professionals, EPA representatives, and others, offer tribal air quality professionals a unique opportunity to gather with their peers and

discuss environmental issues and policies that impact the tribes.

This year's Forum was held April 11-14 at the Treasure Island Casino Hotel in Minnesota.

The hotel is owned and operated by the Prairie Island Indian Community and offers a variety of amenities. Info: Lydia Scheer 928/523-6887

2005 Addiction

Percentage of population groups who smoke: American Indian/Alaskan Native 44%, African American 27%, White/Non-Hispanic 21%, Asian/Pacific Islander 14%.

Nearly half of America's smoking population - more than 20 million people - say they want to quit smoking in 2005. This year, smokers trying to quit will be able to take advantage of *Committed Quitters* (<http://www.CommittedQuitters.com>), an individualized Web-based support system that has been clinically proven to increase the chances of smoking cessation success.

When Smokers Quit: **20 minutes** After Quitting - Your blood pressure drops to a level close to that before the last cigarette. The temperature of your hands and feet increases to normal. **8 Hours** After Quitting - The carbon monoxide level in your blood drops to normal. **24 Hours** After Quitting - your chance of a heart attack decreases. **2 Weeks to 3 Months** After Quitting - your circulation improves and your lung function increase up to 30%. **1 to 9 Months** After Quitting - Coughing, sinus congestion, fatigue, and shortness of breath decreases; cilia (tiny hair like structures that move mucus out of the lung) regain normal function in

the lungs, increasing the ability to handle mucus, clean the lungs and reduce infection.

1 Year After Quitting - The excess risk of coronary heart disease is half that of smokers.

5 to 15 years After Quitting - Your stroke risk is reduced to that of nonsmokers. **10 Years After Quitting** - The lung death rate is about half that of a continuing smoker's. The risk of cancer of the mouth, throat, esophagus, bladder, kidney and pancreas decreases. **15 Years After Quitting** - The risk of coronary heart disease is that of a nonsmoker's (*American Cancer Society*).

Better to have tried and failed, than not to have tried at all.

Allstate P2

Allstate, the nation's second largest auto insurer, is asking the more than 3,200 auto body repair facilities across the country that participate in its direct repair program to complete an auto body specific environmental and safety-training program. The non-profit Coordinator Committee for Automotive Repair's Safety and Pollution Prevention (S/P2) training an online training program that focuses on safety and environmental issues specific to the repair industry, including proper material handling and disposal. According to Allstate, new environmental standards strengthen the power of its referral program for those customers that request help in choosing a repair facility.

EPA Removes Chemicals

The EPA has finalized several actions that will create incentives for industry to use solvents that are less toxic and may help decrease

the formation of ground-level ozone or smog. Each of these actions is based on extensive scientific and technical review over a period of years. These reviews concluded that the chemicals pose less risk than previously thought and that reclassifying them would not compromise public health, and may even benefit public health if they are substituted for more toxic or environmentally damaging chemicals.

Under the authority of the Clean Air Act, EPA has de-listed or exempted six chemicals; the solvent ethylene glycol mono-butyl ether (EGBE) has been removed from the list of air toxics (also known as hazardous air pollutants) and the chemical t-butyl acetate (TBAC) and four others exempted from control as volatile organic compounds (VOC). EPA last delisted an air toxic (caprolactam) in 1996.

Poison Prevention

Every 15 seconds, U.S. poison centers receive a call about someone being exposed to a poison, and 40 percent of those cases involve a child under three years old. In 2003, poison centers reported an estimated 70,000 children under the age of six were involved in common household pesticide-related poisonings or exposures in the United States.

According to the National Safety Council, more than 50 percent of over two million poisoning incidents each year involve children under six. Such figures show the need for everyone to lock up household pesticides and chemicals in a high cabinet out of the reach of children. In most poisonings, children swallow common substances found around almost

every home. In addition to pesticide products, these include: prescription drugs, nonprescription pain killers, vitamins, cosmetics, and personal care and cleaning products. Poisonings also involve house plants, tobacco products and alcohol.

EPA has educational materials available to help prevent accidental poisonings. The materials can be obtained by calling EPA's Environmental Publications line at 800/490-9198. Tips on how to protect children from pesticide and lead poisonings are available at: http://www.epa.gov/oppfead1/cb/10_tips/

Plastic Bottles

The biggest growth in bottled beverages isn't beer or soft drinks or juices. It's tasteless, colorless and sugarless water. And while that can mean fewer cavities and slimmer waistlines, it irritates Patricia Franklin, the director of a nonprofit group that promotes recycling.

The boom in plastic water bottles has Franklin frazzled because while the recycling rate is extremely low, the demand from recyclers is actually quite high. Franklin, who runs the Container Recycling Institute, doesn't blame individuals as much as what she feels is a recycling system that hasn't kept up with consumption patterns - especially when it comes to water.

Bottled water is the single largest growth area among all beverages, that includes alcohol, juices and soft drinks. Per capita consumption has more than doubled over the last decade, from 10.5 gallons in 1993 to 22.6 in 2003, according to the Beverage Marketing Corporation. The

growth has been even more impressive in terms of water bottles sold: from 3.3 billion in 1997 to 15 billion in 2002.

Only about 12 percent of “custom” plastic bottles, a category dominated by water, were recycled in 2003, according to industry consultant R. W. Beck, Inc. That’s 40 million bottles a day that went into the trash or became litter. In contrast, the recycling rate for plastic soft drink bottles is around 30 percent.

The low water bottle recycling rate also impacts the overall recycling rate of all recyclable plastic containers. That’s fallen from 53 percent in 1994 to 19 percent in 2003.

Eleven states have bottle bills

but they are a patchwork with no two alike, and only three states, California, Hawaii and Maine, include plastic water bottles in their law.

Plastics should be recycled so that less petroleum - a finite commodity - is consumed.

Perchlorate

Perchlorate inhibits iodide uptake and may impair thyroid and neurodevelopment in infants. Perchlorate in 47 dairy milk samples from 11 states and in 36 human milk samples from 18 states were measured. Iodide was also measured in a number of the samples. Perchlorate was detectable in 81 of 82 samples. The dairy and breast milk means were,

respectively, 2.0 and 10.5µg/L with the corresponding maximum values of 11 and 92µg/L. Perchlorate was present in virtually all milk samples, the average concentration in breast milk is five times higher than in dairy milk. Although the number of available measurements were few, for breast milk samples with a perchlorate content greater than 10µg/L, the iodide content and may impair thyroid development in infants. On the basis of limited available data, iodide levels in breast milk may be significantly lower than it was two decades ago. Recommended iodine intake by pregnant and lactating women may need to be revised upward. (Texas Tech University)