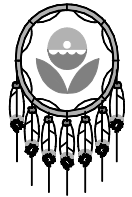


Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



LETTER

Vol. XIV No. XI
November 1, 2005

Work Shops and Conferences

November 2-3, Tribal Science Symposium, Kah-Nee-Ta, Warm Springs, OR. Canceled See below**

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

December 5-9, Alaska Regional BIA Service Provider Conference, Eagan Conference Center, Anchorage, AK. For information 800/645-8465

January 18-19, 2006, QAPPs Training, EPA Seattle, WA. See below****

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

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Tribal Science Symposium**

Cancelled November 2-3,

2005, Kah-Nee-Ta High Desert Resort and Casino, Warm Springs, OR.

Warm Springs GeoVisions proudly presents the Region 10 Tribal Science Symposium. Funded by the EPA, this gathering of northwest tribes will seek solutions to environmental challenges. In addition,

researchers and grant writers from the Oregon State University will be onsite to discuss with Tribes either joint or sole research and study grants.

The conference is free of charge. Attendees must submit a pre-registration form by 10/24/05. Onsite registration is available but will not include meals.

For additional info:

www.wsgeovisions.com or contact Susan Guerin 541/325-2058 or sguerin@wsgeovisions.com

QAPPs****

Training: to prepare and review QAPPs that are consistent with the new Uniform Federal Policy for **Quality Assurance Project Plans**, document the Systematic Planning

Process, use the graded approach, and support the generation/ collection of defensible environmental data of known and documented quality appropriate for their intended use.

The curriculum is presented through the integrated use of technical lectures, group projects, and computer exercises.

Cost: Tuition Free (each student is responsible for their own travel/per diem costs).

On-line Registration: <http://www.epa.gov/quality/gapps.html>

Ozone Standards

To continue to progress toward meeting a stronger 8-hour ozone standard, EPA has taken final action to revoke the prior, less stringent 1-hour standard. EPA

has also made exceptions for fourteen “Early Action Compact” areas, which will still be covered by the 1-hour standard as they work to meet the 8-hour standard ahead of schedule. The 8-hour ozone standard is 0.08 ppm, averaged over eight hours. The 1-hour standard was 0.12 ppm, measured in hourly readings. More: <http://www.epa.gov/ozonedesignations/documents/Jul05/factsheet.htm>

National Water Guidance

The National Water Program Guidance for FY 2006 is now available on the EPA’s Office of Water Web site at: www.epa.gov/water/waterplan. The Guidance describes strategies for accomplishing the key environmental and public health goals in the EPA strategic Plan. The executive summary of the Guidance describes top priorities for FY 2006. Included in the Guidance are measures of program activities that support each of the ten key environmental goals (i.e. Subobjectives that support the overall goals of clean and safe water). EPA regional offices will be working with states and tribes to develop “commitments” under these measures over the next several months using general “targets” in the Guidance. These final commitments are to be included in state/EPA grant agreements, performance partnership agreements, and other documents. The Guidance also includes information about the management system for assessing progress toward the environmental goals and the new agency initiative to link program grants to

support of these environmental goals.

Printed copies of the Guidance are available from EPA Regional Offices or from Elana Goldstein in the Office of Water at 202/564-1800.

TWE

Tribal Windows to the Environment (TWE). This is similar to the EPA Window to My Environment, except that it shows Envirofacts data for federally recognized tribes. Thus “tribally enabling” the EPA Envirofacts Data Warehouse. Site: <http://oaspub.epa.gov/tims/twe.html>

Tribal Contacts: This Web site provides lists and mailing labels of tribal leaders, tribal environmental managers and the tribal caucus. It is intended for official federal or tribal government use only. Site: https://oasin.rtpnc.epa.gov/TIMS/contact_ro.html

Please try them out and let EPA know how you like them. Both sites have feedback buttons for you to make comments and corrections, or you can phone Ed Liu at 202/564-0287

Water Monitoring Exchange

The EPA and the Wind River reservation are part of joint effort to pilot the **Environmental Sampling, Analysis, and Results (ESAR)** project. The ESAR pilot project will be delivering water quality monitoring data directly over the internet using secure protocols and standards developed by the EPA Office of Environmental Information. “Water monitoring data are important, and sharing it with EPA can only **help tribes**,” said Don Aragon, director of the Wind

River Environmental Quality Commission. The water monitoring data provided by Wind River were collected by the Tribal Wind River Environmental Quality Commission, using funds supplied by EPA through a Clean Water Act section 106 Water Quality Management Grant. The other participants in the ESAR pilot are the states of Michigan, Texas, and Oregon.

This data exchange activity is part of the EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) Tribal Program Enterprise Architecture (TPEA). Data flows are planned for December 2005. For more: Ed Liu at 202/564-0287 or liu.edu@epa.gov.

Operator Training

This www.educationmoney.com/prgm_66467_envirn.html Web site provides information about applying for EPA funds that are designated for onsite technical assistance to improve the skills of wastewater treatment plant operators. It describes the uses and restrictions of project grants, eligibility requirements, application process, and the criteria for selecting proposals. It also give examples of funded programs, provides information contacts, and includes a section on grant writing.

NCEH

The **National Center for Environmental Health (NCEH)** works to prevent illness, disability, and death from interaction between people and the environment. NCEH tracks and evaluates environment-related health problems through

surveillance systems and performs both laboratory and field research. The organization works with domestic and international agencies and organizations to prepare for and respond to natural technologic, humanitarian and terrorism related environmental emergencies. This site includes a wide array of fact sheet and brochures, scientific publications, employment opportunities, training, and a children's section. Site: www.cdc.gov/neh.

Free EMS CD

The International City/County Management Association (ICMA), in partnership with the American Public Works Association (APWA), hosted a webcast in April 2005 called "Environmental Management Systems: A powerful Tool to Help Local Government Managers and Public works Directors Minimize Environmental Liability, Increase Efficiency, and improve Financial Health." The webcast demonstrated how local governments have successfully implemented Environmental Management Systems (EMS), highlighted the benefits that were achieved, and identified the support that the EPA and others are providing to help local governments adopt EMSs.

EMSs are a powerful tool and are helping a growing number of local governments around the country improve their environmental performance and compliance, reduce costs, improve community relations, and build greater confidence as managers on environmental issues. EMSs provide local governments with a

flexible and proven framework for setting environmental goals and reducing environmental impact through the use of best practices, operational controls, and measurable plans for achieving goals. In certain cases, an EMS may also help reduce insurance premiums and improve bond ratings.

A multimedia CD-ROM recording of that webcast is now available for free from LGEAN. It includes a Windows Media audio/video recording of the original webcast, as well as the individual PowerPoint presentations. It also contains a number of EMS publications and internet links providing additional EMS information.

To order a free copy go to lgean@icma.org.

One Success Story

This story begins around 1985. One of approximately 71 owners decided to open a "Recycling Yard" on a jointly-owned parcel of "Public Domain individual Indian owned trust land". The recycling facility, known as Foothills Recycling, was originally designed for construction wood waste material. Over the last 20 years this facility turned into a junk yard taking in lots of waste materials, including over 1000 junk cars.

Foothills Recycling is located on a gravelly oxbow adjacent to the Nooksack River. The river has meandered back and forth over this floodplain for more years than the changes in its course have been documented. The county placed rip rap on the other side of the river to help stabilize the bank

for the adjacent farm land. During this period of time the site operator's grandmother lived on the parcel, it was constantly shrinking due to encroachment of the river.

Over the last 12 years, several attempts by EPA and IHS to address the regulation and remediation of the site failed because neither agency had direct jurisdictional authority over Public Domain Trust Land. Because the land was not part of the reservation trust land base the Tribe also had very limited opportunities to address the problem.

Last year, the site operator decided to take some of the waste and build a retaining wall approximately 6 to 8 feet above the original river bank surface on the bank of the river and scatter old vehicles and boats to slow down the process of encroachment and erosion. This proved to be completely inadequate and last fall the river cut an additional 90 feet into the property and debris began falling into the river. This debris posed a real threat to many nearby and down stream landowners and turned this longstanding problem into a real and immediate threat.

EPA's Tribal Trust and Assistance Unit worked with the Tribe and found an opportunity to solve the immediate problem with the new guidelines on eligibility for General Assistance Program Grant money that allow implementation of Solid & Hazardous Waste programs in Indian country. By employing innovative measures EPA was able to fund initial stages of a cleanup project to address debris

falling into the Nooksack River and design a bank stabilization plan to address long term solutions to aid in preventing further bank erosion during peak flow seasons.

The EPA Emergency Response Team assisted by removing all visible hazardous materials from the site and evacuated propane containers stored on site. The Nooksack Tribal Construction Company was contracted to perform the monumental task of moving waste material back from the banks of the Nooksack River and removing the old vehicles, boats and other material scattered around the land parcel away from the active channel. EPA estimated that there was approximately 14,000 cubic yards of waste material to be moved along with 82 automobiles, 21 trailers, 8 boats, 3 trucks/busses, old bee hives, stoves and refrigerators.

This task was estimated to take over two months to accomplish. Kudos' to the Construction Company for their expedient work. The task was started on August 3rd and the final step of this phase of cleanup, the hydro seeding operation, was completed on September 15th, well ahead of schedule and below budget estimates. What made this a superior challenge was the fact that extreme care had to be exercised to insure no material entered the River and the time window was short due to the start of fish spawning season. The company performed in an exemplary manner and accomplished the work well ahead of schedule. We at EPA and the BIA take our hats off in salute to the Nooksack Tribe and the

Construction Company for a Job Well Done!!!

Particle Pollution Standards

EPA has released a final staff paper on national standards for particle pollution. The paper recommends that the EPA Administrator consider strengthening and refining current standards to better protect public health and visibility. Based on the latest science, the paper does not change current air quality standards; however, it does contain EPA staff recommendations for the Administrator to consider in upcoming decisions about revising the Agency's national standards for fine (PM2.5) and coarse (PM10) particles. More: <http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/smp/index.html>

Kids Water Webpage

EPA has launched a *Kids Page* featuring a character called "Thirstin." This site contains games, activities and animated classroom experiments. Some of the new activities include an animated water cycle; word scramble; word search; water trivia and "Thirstin's Wacky Water Adventure." Teachers and students can work on-line or download some of the information for classroom use at: www.epa.gov/safewater/kids/index.html

Tribal Assistance Grants

The EPA has announced the availability of a memorandum titled *Award of Grants and Cooperative Agreements for the Special Projects and programs Authorized by the Agency's Fiscal Year 2005 Appropriations Act*.

This memorandum provides information and guidelines on how EPA will award and administer grants for the special projects and programs identified in the State and Tribal Assistance Grants (STAG) account of the agency's FY 2005 Appropriations Act.

The STAG account provides budget authority for funding identified water, wastewater, and groundwater infrastructure projects, as well as budget authority for funding the United States-Mexico Border Program, and the Long Island Sound Restoration Program. Each grant recipient will receive a copy of this document from EPA.

The memorandum may be viewed and downloaded at: www.epa.gov/owm/mab/owm0329.pdf

Effluent Blending

On May 19, 2005, Assistant Administrator Benjamin H. Grumbles announced that, based on the U. S. EPA's review of all the information received, the agency has no intention of finalizing the policy on managing peak wet weather flows at municipal wastewater treatment facilities as proposed in November 2003. EPA will continue to review policy and regulatory alternatives to develop the most feasible approaches to treat wastewater and protect communities, upstream and downstream. The agency's goal is to reduce overflows and improve treatment of wastewater to protect human health and the environment. EPA will work with Congress, communities, and citizens on effective and efficient

approaches that protect communities and ensure compliance with the Clean Water Act. For info: www.epa.gov/npdes/blending or contact Eryn Witcher at 202/564-4355.

Wastewater Contaminants

The EPA is establishing a Clean Water Act (CWA) Federal advisory committee to engage stakeholders in consultative process to help improve procedures that calculate and use detection and quantitation limits in the Clean Water Programs such as the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Permitting Program. Committee members will be appointed for a two-year term and consist of about twenty stakeholders representing the following five groups: laboratories, industry, publicly owned treatment works, states, and **tribes**, and environmental organizations.

This committee will have technical experts available to analyze, evaluate, and develop scientific and statistical approaches to improve the detection and measurement of pollutants in water samples. Formal meetings of this committee will be announced in the *Federal Register*.

For information and documents: www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods/det

EPA Wastewater Treatment

EPA recently published a comprehensive set of management practices titled *Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of*

Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems, for use by state, **tribal**, or local entities management or service providers, and owners of decentralized systems.

These guidelines are intended to improve (and monitor) the performance of onsite and clustered wastewater treatment systems through improved management programs. The underlying premise is that if onsite wastewater systems are monitored and properly maintained, they will be less prone to failure, and, therefore, reduce threats to public health or the environment.

A copy of the guidelines titled voluntary *National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems* is available on line at: www.epa.gov/owm/septic/pubs/septic_guidelines.pdf

Energy Solutions Conference

The Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT) invites you to join tribal leaders, federal government representatives and industry leaders in discussions and workshops exploring renewable energy in Indian Country. Nov. 9-10, Denver, Co.. For more: Lizana Pierce, 303/275-4717 or <http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy>

Environmental Exchange

EPA requests applications for the Environmental Information exchange Network Grant Program. The Exchange Network is an internet and standards-based, secure information network that

facilitates the electronic reporting, sharing, integration, analysis, and use of environmental data from many different sources. \$20 million is expected to be available and up to 50 awards are anticipated. Responses are due 11/21/05. For more: Rebecca Moser at 202/566-1679 or <http://www.fedgrants.gov/Applications/EPA/OGD/GAD/EPA-OEI-06-01.Grant.html>.

Field Guide

National Wildlife federation and eNature have launched a new field guide to native and invasive plants. Unlike other guides, this one focuses on plants commonly found at garden centers or in plant catalogs, so it's relevant to the home gardener. For information: http://enature.com/native_invasive/natives.asp

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<http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy>

Native Renewables

Nov. 15-17, Denver, Co. Sponsored by the Department of Energy (DOE), the core of this conference is to focus on how tribes and cities can help each other. State, local and tribal governments can support “Native Renewables” both in capital markets and local “healthy” community development. With Green Tags and Renewable Energy Credits, “Native Renewables” projects can generate immediate financial rewards to revitalize Native economies. For more: http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/tep_background.html

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