

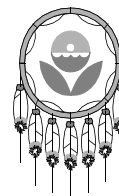
NEWS

EPA Homepage Website

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

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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



LETTER

Vol. XIV No. IX
September 1, 2005

Work Shops and Conferences

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

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

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

October 17-20, Air Toxics Summit, *Seeking Solutions for Our Rural and Urban Communities*, Portland, Oregon. For more information see article below.**

October 24-26, Western Wetland Conference: Collaboration across Boundaries, Denver, CO. For additional information: jkeigley@montana.edu

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter is published monthly at no charge

To receive a copy call:

AK..Rob.....907/271-6323

ID..Arlene.....208/378-5749

OR..Don.....503/326-5015

WA..Alison.....360/753-8185

Tribal Office. Judy..800/424-
4372 ext. 4011

EPA Tribal Water Plan

On July 8, 2005 EPA released its 2005-2008 "**Tribal Water Plan.**" It's available for viewing online at: www.epa.gov/water/waterplan/tribal/index.html.

New Region 10 Administrator

Michael Bogert was sworn in as Regional 10 Administrator on August 15. Prior to working as an attorney at the law firm of Perkins Coie, L.L.P., in Boise, Idaho, he spent much of his career in public service. Within our Region, he worked for over five years for Governor Dirk Kempthorne of

Idaho. As the Governor's principal legal advisor, he advised the executive office and agencies on legal implications of state policy and legislation, with an emphasis on environmental issues and matters within the jurisdiction of the Idaho Department of Environmental Quality and the Idaho Department of Water Resources. Beyond Region 10, Michael served as the Counsel to the Office of Governor-Elect Arnold Schwarzenegger, where he drafted the Governor's regulatory reform executive order.

New Tribal Policy Advisor

Mary Beth Clark will be joining EPA as Region 10's Tribal Policy Advisor beginning on September 19th. An enrolled member of the Nez Perce Tribe (with Klamath roots as well), Mary Beth has worked for the Colville Tribes' Planning Department for 12 years. She looks forward to the opportunity to strengthen Indian Country and EPA's relationship with Tribes for

the betterment of the environment, "the common thread that holds us together."

RTOC Updates

Information on the Region 10 Tribal Operations Committee will be available on the Region 10 website beginning in September. Look for an updated member list, notes from the July meeting, schedule of upcoming meetings, and a copy of the RTOC at: <http://yosemite.epa.gov/r10/tribal.NSF>

****Air Toxics Summit**

We are delighted to announce the EPA Region 10 Air Toxics Summit, running October 18 & 19 in Portland, Oregon, and co-hosted by Oregon Department of Environmental Quality and EPA Region 10. We would like to extend a special invitation to any tribal members or representatives that are interested in or work in the field of air toxics. Please feel free to come and participate, you were a very important part of our 2003 Air Toxics Summit, and we

hope that you will continue to play a very important role in this one. In addition, we encourage you to nominate your staff for the EPA Region 10 Air Toxics Awards.

The theme of the 2005 Summit is Seeking Solutions for Our Rural and Urban Communities, and we are offering sessions on Burning (agricultural & backyard burning), Community Involvement, Diesel, Emission Inventory, Indoor Air, Radon, Mercury, Modeling, Monitoring, and Risk.

There are four training courses being offered before and after the Summit: October 17th, (4 hours) Introduction to Risk Assessment for Air Toxics (Bruce Hope, ODEQ). October 20th, (8 hours) Fundamentals of Environmental Justice (Running Grass, EPA R10) October 20th, (8 hours) Risk Communication and Public Involvement (Captain Alvin Chun and Arnold Den, EPA R9) October 20th, (8 hours) Introduction to the 2005 National Emission Inventory (Anne Pope and Dennis Beauregard, EPA HQ)

The entire Summit is free of charge, just indicate your preference for training courses when you register. You may register through the web page www.epa.gov/region10/airsummit.htm. This site also contains the most recent agenda and information about lodging.

Thank you so much for your interest and support, we hope to see you there!

Air Awards Solicitation

2005 Region 10 Air Toxics Awards EPA Region 10 invites you to nominate candidates for awards in the field of air toxics.

The Air Toxics Award honors staff who have made outstanding accomplishments or contributions in any air toxics area of work. These areas of work include diesel, burning (woodstove, agricultural, forest), community involvement, emissions inventory, environmental justice, indoor air and radon, MACT (stationary source rules), permitting, modeling, monitoring, or risk evaluation.

Eligibility: You may nominate agency or tribal staff, whether individuals or teams, in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington who have made outstanding accomplishments that have substantially contributed to improved air quality and reduction of air toxics. Nominations may be made by an individual or an organization.

Criteria: Send a short letter or email that includes these criteria to Lisa McArthur, EPA Region 10 Air Toxics Coordinator, Friday, August 26, 2005: Person(s) or organization(s) being nominated, Nominees Organization, Address, Telephone, and Email

Nominator's Name and Affiliation, Address, Telephone

1. How did the work relate to air toxics? This includes work in fields such as diesel, mobile source, stationary source, indoor air issues, burning, monitoring, emissions inventory, modeling, or human health.
2. How did the work accomplished contribute to the available knowledge on air toxics?
3. How did the work contribute to the reduction of air toxics emissions and/or to the assessment or reduction of human

health or environmental risk from air toxics? 4. How was the work of the person or group exceptional?

Deadline: All nominations must be received by 5 pm Friday, September 9, 2005. Send nominations to Lisa McArthur at EPA Region 10, 1200 Sixth Ave, MS AWT-107, Seattle, WA 98101 or via email to mcarthur.lisa@epa.gov.

Awards Ceremony: EPA will announce the winners on October 19th, 2005, the final day of the 4th Biennial Region 10 Air Toxics Summit in Portland, Oregon. The winners will receive recognition and an engraved plaque from EPA in an awards ceremony.

Indian Air Training

More courses are offered by the American Indian Air Quality Training Program in cooperation with NAU and EPA to fulfill the mandate of the 1990 Clean Air Act to offer Native American tribes full partnership in the management of air quality on tribal lands. For more information call Lee Anderson 702/784-8264 or visit: <http://www.nau.edu/itep>

Tribal Science Symposium

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

Watershed Discussion

As part of its second Webcast, the Office of Water, launched a new on-line Watershed Discussion Board. This forum offers watershed protection practitioners and citizens a platform to exchange ideas, so the innovative solutions and ideas can be easily shared in (near) real-time cyberspace. EPA hopes to engage watershed expertise so that others can learn from your experiences. The Forum currently includes the following six categories:

1-Community Involvement, 2-Smart Growth/Low Impact Development, 3-Source Water Protection, 4-Stormwater Best Management Practices, 5-Sustainable Financing, and 6-Watershed Planning Tools.

Visit: www.epa.gov/owow/watershed/forum/forum.html and join in! Share your expertise so that others can learn from your experiences. Anyone can view the discussion, but one must register to post messages and receive customized updates.

26 Contaminants

Twenty-six unregulated contaminants will be monitored by many U.S. drinking water suppliers under a new rule

proposed by the EPA. This second cycle of the Unregulated Contaminant Rule (UCMR 2) also proposes the use of nine analytical methods to detect the contaminants.

The data collected will help EPA determine whether to regulate the contaminants, their occurrence in drinking water, the potential population exposed to each, and the levels of exposure.

The rule encompasses some contaminants that are not regulated under existing law. EPA currently has regulations for more than 90 contaminants. The Safe Drinking Water Act requires EPA to identify up to 30 contaminants for monitoring every five years. The first cycle UCMR 1, published in 1999, covered 25 chemicals and one microorganism.

New Bacteria Test

New test methods proposed recently by the EPA will lead to the detection of four types of bacteria in wastewater and sewage sludge. EPA's proposal centers on culture-based approaches to detecting enterococci and *Escherichia coli* (E. Coli) in wastewater. Additional tests will identify salmonella and fecal coliform bacteria in sewage sludge. The bacteria are seen as "health indicators" that point to possible contamination and the need for further investigation and treatment. The new tests will yield results within 24 hours and provide treatment facilities with an indication of the effectiveness of their treatment techniques.

Drinking Water Arsenic

A recent study on the effects of

environmental arsenic at the University of Oklahoma Health Sciences Center indicates that arsenic in drinking water can both stimulate the growth of cancerous tumors and cause them to spread faster.

While researchers still do not know whether arsenic in drinking water increases the overall incidence of tumors, the study shows that arsenic levels as low as 4 ppb can stimulate blood vessel growth, and levels as low as 10 ppb cause tumors to expand. Many previous studies have linked arsenic ingestion and cancer - especially skin and bladder cancers.

This report comes at a time when water systems across the United States are struggling to conform to a new current federal arsenic standard of 10 ppb by Jan 23, 2006. The previous standard had been 50 ppb. In the state of Oklahoma alone, it will cost between \$55 billion and \$163 billion to replace or upgrade the 25 systems to address the lower arsenic standard.

When water containing arsenic is ingested, the arsenic reacts with oxygen to create free radicals - highly reactive molecules - that stimulate the growth of blood vessels. More blood vessels result in an increase in blood supply to any tumors, which then grow faster and larger.

Not all parts of the country have naturally occurring arsenic in the water. Consumers should check with a water treatment specialist and/or their municipal water system operators or count extension office. WQA urges those on private wells to have

their water tested for arsenic and other possible contaminants.

Arsenic Cleanup

A household plant might be the answer to clean up local arsenic contamination. Four years ago, a Florida graduate student discovered ferns found only in China absorb arsenic right out of the soil and stores the poison in its fronds. It is easier to safely get rid of toxic ferns than contaminated dirt.

New E-mail UV Alert

E-mail has joined shade, sunblock, sunglasses, and protective clothing as the latest tool to fight skin cancer and other harmful effects of the sun's ultraviolet (UV) rays. Registering for the new UV Alert system takes just a few clicks on EPA's Web site.

EPA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's National Weather Service (NWS) developed and launched the UV Alert system -- a free service that notifies e-mail subscribers when solar UV radiation and the risk of overexposure is predicted to be unusually high. Based on the NWS's daily UV Index forecasts, the system delivers warnings directly to e-mail in-boxes across the country.

Overexposure to UV radiation from the sun is a preventable contributor to skin cancer and other serious health effects.

The UV Index is a measure of the amount of skin-damaging UV radiation reaching the earth's surface. Currently, NWS's UV Index forecasts provide information about UV intensity during the solar noon hour of the

following day. The UV Index informs people when rays will be strongest and provides suggestions on how best to protect themselves from the harmful rays.

UV Alerts are expected to be more frequent from spring through fall and in parts of the country where the amount of sunlight often varies. The NWS and EPA provide daily UV Index forecasts for 58 major metropolitan areas and by ZIP Code. The UV Index forecast is available at: <http://epa.gov/sunwise/uvindex.html>,

Brownfields Job Training

EPA's Office of Brownfields Cleanup and Redevelopment is now requesting applications for brownfields job training grants. The goals of the Job Training Program are to prepare trainees for future employment in the environmental field and facilitate cleanup of brownfield sites contaminated with hazardous substances, pollutants, or contaminants and petroleum. Applications are due September 16, 2005. If you have questions, please contact Joe Bruss 202/566-2772 or Myra Blakely 202/566-2750.

Pesticide Review

Registration review will replace the reregistration and tolerance reassessment programs which are nearing completion. As those programs, the registration review process would allow for substantial public participation, but unlike those "one-time reassessment" programs, registration review will reoccur for each pesticide ever 15 years. During the 90-day comment

period for this proposal, the EPA will hold public information meetings on the proposed rule. For additional information on the registration review rule-making: www.epa.gov/oppsrrd1/registration_review

Children and Pesticides

To protect your children from pesticides: 1-Store food and trash in closed containers to keep pests from coming into your home, 2-Use baits and traps when you can; place baits and traps where kids can't get them, 3-Read product labels and follow directions, 4-Store pesticides and toxic chemicals where kids can't reach them - never put them in other containers that kids can mistake for food or drink, 5-Keep children, toys, and pets away when pesticides are applied; don't let them play in fields, orchards, and gardens after pesticides have been used for at least the time recommended on the pesticide label, 6-Wash fruits and vegetables under running water before eating - peel them before eating, when possible.

EPA FDA Fish Contamination

Officials from EPA and the FDA will soon begin developing a strategy on how to warn the public of the health risks posed by a wide range of common toxins that can contaminate fish. A strategy that will be based on the agencies' experience in developing a controversial mercury fish warning.

The agencies published in the *Federal Register* in July a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between EPA and FDA

over how to develop future public health advisories. The agreement comes as work begins on advisories about the risk posed by polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and dioxins in seafood.

“Close cooperation, collaboration, and interaction between the two agencies will help ensure a more unified U.S. government message regarding the risks and benefits of consuming commercial and noncommercial fish and shellfish that will be clear and beneficial to people in the U.S.,” the MOU says.

Tribal Operator Certification

Guidelines to certify operators of drinking water utilities that serve Indian tribes are now available, the EPA announced in a notice published in the *Federal Register* July 29, 2005.

The guidelines are intended to increase public health protection by establishing baseline standards for non-state organizations certifying operators of systems used by Indian tribes.

The guidelines establish seven baseline standards that must be met for non-state providers of certification to obtain EPA approval. In addition, they outline a consistent method of assessing, tracking, and addressing the certification and training needs of these operators.

Water system operators may also receive certification from state or other programs that have met EPA approval.

To receive federal grants, a water system must be run by a certified operator. Indian tribes receive set-aside grants through EPA's Drinking Water State

Revolving Fund, the Public Water System Supervision Program, and the Underground Injection Control Program.

EPA will require a tribe to have, or to agree to obtain within the project grant budget period, a certified operator under an EPA-approved program.

The seven baseline standards outlined in the guidelines are: *Classification of systems, facilities, and operators; *Operator qualifications; *Program implementation; *Certification renewal; *Recertification; *Involvement by interested parties and program review; and Certification provider requirements.

The drinking water certification guidelines are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/tribal.html> or technical information from Monica Pena at 202/564-2575 or pena.monica@epa.gov

Grants and Loans

The Western Regional Office Web site includes lots of useful funding information. For monthly summaries of funding opportunities and other funding resources:

http://www.eere.energy.gov/regions/western/financial_opps.html

Tribal Waste Journal

The new issue of the *Tribal Waste Journal*: “Tribal Composting Nourishes Land and Tradition”, is now available on the Web and in printed form. The new *Tribal Waste Journal* is posted at:

<http://www.epa.gov/epaoswer/non-hw/tribal/resource.htm#twj>

or call 800/490-9198 for copies.

Job Training Grants

EPA is soliciting proposals from eligible entities for funding to provide environmental job training projects that will facilitate assessment, remediation, or preparation of brownfield sites. Eligible entities must propose to serve a community that currently receives, or has received, financial assistance from EPA for brownfields assessment, revolving loan fund or cleanup competitive grants. Applications are due by September 16, 2005. For more: http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/pg/jt_0705.pdf

Western Wetland Conference

Wetlands provide vital wildlife habitat, filter polluted water, recharge our aquifers, and afford us many recreational opportunities. Wetlands in the Western United States are special environments that are under enormous pressure. Protecting, managing, conserving, and studying wetlands in the Western United States presents unique challenges. The First Western Wetland Conference will be held in Denver CO, October 24-26th with the goal of this conference is to bring together wetland scientists, managers, conservationists and other professionals who work with wetlands to learn from these challenges and develop creative solutions. Conference topics include: wetland management in arid environments, gathering and using information, wetland protection and conservation, linking wetland science and

management. This conference is sponsored by the Montana Watercourse, EPA, and the Society for Wetland Scientists Rocky Mountain Chapter. For more information visit the website: www.mtwatercourse.org/wwc/index.htm or contact The Watercourse at 406/994-6671, mtwatercourse@montana.edu

Visibility Emissions Trading

EPA has proposed an emissions trading program to help state and tribal governments improve visibility in national parks and wilderness areas. Expanding upon the Clean Air Visibility Rule, EPA's proposal outlines an alternative emissions trading program that gives flexibility for states or tribal governments in

ways to apply Best Alternative Retrofit Technology (BART). The BART requirements would be satisfied if the trading program meets or exceeds the visibility benefits resulting from BART. <http://www.epa.gov/visibility>

9th Annual Landfill Methane

The Landfill Methane Outreach Program (LMOP) 9th Annual Conference and Project Expo will be held on January 19-20, 2006 in Baltimore, MD. This year's conference will highlight the latest projects, technologies and financial incentives, and will once again include technical presentations, exhibits, and a project expo highlighting some of the best project opportunities in the country. For more:

<http://www.epa.gov/lmop>

Military Base Closure

ICMA will host a series of webcasts on base realignment and closure (BRAC) topics for local government officials and others likely to be impacted by the 2005 BRAC round. The webcast series will help local governments and community stakeholders understand the BRAC process by sharing the successes achieved and obstacles faced by city managers, federal environmental and defense officials, and private sector experts in the cleanup and redevelopment of closed military bases. Remaining webcast date is September 13. For more: <http://www.lgean.org/html/whatsnew.cfm?id=907>