

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



LETTER

Vol. XV No. III
March 1, 2006

Work Shops and Conferences

March 10-12, AISES Region 1 Conference, PSU, Portland, OR. aises@pdx.edu

March 13-17, Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments, Washington, D.C.

For info: Linda Straka at 301/447-1162 or Linda.Straka@dhs.gov

March 29-31, 22nd AWSIEA, WSU, Pullman, WA. Info: Denise Bill @ 253/931-4999

April 11-13, National Tribal Air Forum, Seattle, WA., Darrel Harmon: harmon.darrel@epa.gov

April 10-13, Mitigation for Tribal Officials, Emmitsburg, MD. For info: Dawn Warehime 301/447-1309 or Dawn.Warehime@dgs.gov

May 1-4, 13th National Tribal Environmental Council Conference, Temecula, CA. For more information: <http://www.ntec.org> or Contact David Conrad at: dconrad@ntec.org

May 9-11, Energy Efficiency in Tribal Community, Denver, CO. National conference on energy efficiency and weatherization: More: <http://www.certreearth.com/events.php>

August 21-25, Tribal Leaders Summit, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, Pendleton, OR. For additional information: <http://www.umatilla.nsn.us/2006EPASummit.html>

September, 24-29, Tribal Science Conference, Ocean Shores, WA. <http://www.quinaultbeachresort.com>

November 2-5, 28th Annual AISES Conference, Detroit, MI. www.aiuses.org

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

To receive a copy call:

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Section 184 Indian Housing

Portland, Oregon, April 11-12. This FREE two-day

program will inform tribal government officials and mortgage lenders of all the benefits of this important housing program. Participants of this training will learn from hands-on case studies, worksheets and interactive discussions during this information packed session, taught by loan guarantee specialist for the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Native American Programs.

This will be an opportunity to share your knowledge and experience with other tribes and lenders as you work together to create more housing options for Native Americans.

For information: 800/992-4489 or: www.falmouthinstitute.com/ONAP

[falmouthinstitute.com/ONAP](http://www.falmouthinstitute.com/ONAP)

Tribal Solid Waste Grants

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits applications from eligible entities for the Tribal Solid

Waste Management Assistance Project (previously called the Open Dump Cleanup Project). The Project helps tribes close or clean up high-threat open dumps, develop alternative disposal options, and establish integrated solid waste management and enforcement programs. Eligible entities may apply for funding under one of four categories: 1-proposals to develop integrated solid waste management (ISWM) plans and tribal codes and regulations; 2-proposals to characterize/assess open dumps; 3-proposals to develop and implement alternative solid waste management activities/facilities (including equipment acquisition), 4-proposals to develop and implement cleanup, closure, and post-closure programs for open dump waste sites in Indian Country.

Closing date: April 3, 2006. The announcement is available for downloading at:

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/grants-funding.htm> or contact Caleb Shaffer at 415/972-3336 or shaffer.caleb@epa.gov

Tribal Water Council

The EPA's Office of Water is soliciting proposals for the development of a national Tribal Water Program Council (TWPC or "Council"). The TWPC will work to raise awareness of a wide variety of water related issues pertaining to the health of tribal communities and the quality of tribal aquatic resources and watersheds. The Council is intended to promote

information exchange, facilitate the exposure of tribal water program employees to best management practices for addressing water quality concerns, and encourage the enhancement of tribal water protection program development and implementation. Federally recognized tribal governments, intertribal consortia, public and private universities and colleges, other public or private nonprofit institutions, and individuals are eligible to apply for this cooperative agreement.

Applications must be received by EPA no later than 4 p.m. Eastern Standard Time, March 10, 2006.

http://www.epa.gov/water/Downloads/twpc_rfc.pdf

Air Pollution Sources

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's (NOAA) Air resources Laboratory website can be accessed by users to determine air pollution and determine which distant sources might be impacting local air quality.

With minimal training users can enter the latitude and longitude of a monitoring site as well as a date and time when a local monitoring site observed a high concentration of pollutants, and compute a backward trajectory showing the path the air took before the high concentration was observed.

When combined with pollutant source information obtained from the National Emission Inventory and integrated into GIS maps, backward trajectories help

identify sources that may be impacting local air quality.

Web-site:

www.arl.noaa.gov/ready.html.

EPA's AirData website www.epa.gov/air/data is a useful tool for accessing public data on air pollution throughout the U.S., including EPA National Emissions Inventory (NEI) and ambient air monitoring data.

For detailed monitoring data visit www.epa.gov/airexplorer. At Air Explorer you can find the actual monitoring data gathered by all state, local and tribal monitors that submit their data to AQS. Information from off-reservation monitors can also be used to better understand transport.

CARE

The Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) program that offers an innovative way for communities to take action to reduce toxic pollution. Through CARE, communities create local collaborative partnerships that implement local solutions to reduce releases of toxic pollutants and minimize exposure to toxic pollutants. CARE educates and supports communities by helping them assess the pollution risks they face while also providing funding and access to EPA's and other voluntary programs to address local environmental priorities. Grant application deadline: April 10, 2006. <http://www.nextstep.state.mn.us/res/details.cfm?id=1643>

Student Internship

ITEP/EEOP has announced a new internship program designed to introduce students to the world and work of environmental professionals. EEOP's Student Internship Program (SIP) will allow college and high school students to step outside the classroom into a tribal environmental office, where they can gain experience and insight into environmental careers. SIP also allows tribal professionals classroom opportunities where they can learn how to develop environmental education and outreach programs. SIP interns will receive a \$500/week salary.

ITEP is pleased to continue placing undergraduate and graduate students around the nation through its (SSI) Summer Student Internship program. This program allows students to complete meaningful projects, benefiting themselves, the environment, and the sponsoring agency. Projects may consist of:

- research or field operations,
- public policy or environmental education development,
- working in environmental engineering or with GIS,
- spending time in an office, or
- working in the wild.

Each project will be tailored to the skills and interests of the intern and the needs of the sponsoring agency.

Sponsoring agencies will consist of EPA as well as federal, state, tribal and other environmental organizations. A

typical ten-week SSI begins in late May to early June and runs until August. A defining aspect of the SSI program is its use of mentors to increase the learning value of the internship experiences.

Each sponsoring agency will identify an onsite mentor/s to help the intern successfully complete a project and grow in his/her ability and confidence to work as an environmental professional. Individuals selected for internships will receive a \$4,000 stipend for the summer, along with housing and travel reimbursements.

For more information, potential interns and hosts visit: www.nau.edu/eeop or contact Mathew Zierenberg at: matthew.zierenberg@nau.edu.

2006 Integrated Report

The EPA has released the *2006 Integrated Report Guidance* for states, territories, authorized tribes, and interstate commissions that help states prepare and submit Clean Water Act reports on their water quality. The document outlines development or biennial Integrated Reports (IR) that support EPA's strategy for achieving a broad-scale inventory of water quality conditions. Each IR will report on the water quality standards attainment status of all waters, document the availability of data and information for each waterbody, identify certain trends in water quality conditions and provide information to managers about setting priorities for future

actions to protect and restore the health of U.S. water resources. The fact sheet, and highlights are posted at: www.epa.gov/owow/tmdl/2006IRG

Watershed Protection Handbook

A new handbook released by the EPA addresses questions about managing pollution runoff, increasing wildlife habitat, and controlling invasive species in the nation's estuaries. *Community-based Watershed Management: Lessons from the National Estuary Program* is an update to *Saving Bays and Estuaries*, published in 1989. While the new handbook focuses on estuaries, its principles and examples are relevant to any organization involved in watershed management.

The 98-page handbook describes innovative approaches developed and conducted by the 28 National Estuary Programs, which are community-based watershed-management organizations that restore and protect coastal watersheds.

The handbook can be downloaded at: www.epa.gov/owow/estuaries/neprimer/factsheet.htm

Wetlands & Riparian Restoration

The EPA recently published *National Management Measures to Protect and Restore Wetlands and Riparian Areas for the abatement of Nonpoint Source Pollution*. This technical guidance and reference document was

developed for use by state, territory, and authorized tribal managers, as well as the public, in the implementation of nonpoint source (NPS) pollution management programs. The guidance provides background information about NPS pollution, including where it comes from and how it enters the nation's waters; discusses the broad concept of assessing and addressing water quality problems on a watershed level; and presents recent technical information about how certain types of NPS pollution can be reduced effectively through the implementation of these management measures.

The new guidance contains information on the best available, economically achievable means of reducing nonpoint source pollution through the protection and restoration of wetland and riparian areas, as well as the implementation of vegetated treatment systems. More: epa.gov/owow/nps/wetmeasures

New Wastewater Test

The EPA is proposing new test methods that 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. Information available at: www.epa.gov/waterscience/methods

NETI

The National Enforcement Training Institute (NETI) courses are for federal, state, local and tribal environmental personnel. Including attorneys, inspectors, technical staff and investigators. All courses are free. Distance learning products, such as CD-ROMs or videotapes are mailed to students at no cost; classroom courses are free – the student only pays travel costs. Check their Web site for specific information:

<http://www.netionline.com>.

Click on the NETI course Catalog and Schedule button, and find the courses which are of interest. To request a printed Catalog call 202/564-2430. For general information about NETI contact Zena Aldridge at 740/773-4039.

NEPA

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) courses provide information and skills necessary to prepare and review environmental assessments and environmental impact statements as mandated by NEPA and EPA's review and comment mandate under Section 309 of the Clean Air

Act. The courses are open to newcomers to the NEPA program, associate NEPA reviewers, environmental reviewers from other federal agencies and as a refresher course for more experience staff. If you have any questions, call Arthur Totten at 202/564-0072.

AIEO

The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) is committing funds to encourage the use of Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements (DITCAs) and to demonstrate their value to EPA's mission. Contingent on future appropriations, AIEO is providing up to \$200,000 each year for the next three years in matching funds to eligible DITCAs. The funding is to be used as a match with other EPA funding in accordance with DICTA Guidance, 70 Fed Reg 5 1440 (2004). Headquarters and regional proposals are due to AIEO by April 1. Funding decisions will be made by April 30. Offices are encouraged to work with AIEO prior to submittal date. For more: Jose Aguto at 202/564-0289 or Rodges Ankhari at 202/564-2080

CIG

The U. S. Department of Agriculture requests proposals for the Conservation Innovation Grants (CIG). The purpose of CIG is to stimulate the development and adoption of innovative conservation

approaches and technologies while leveraging Federal investment in environmental enhancement and protection, in conjunction with agricultural production. \$20 million is expected to be available and up to 50 awards are anticipated. Responses are due March 20, 2006. For more: Kari Cohen at 202/720-2335 or: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/programs/cig>

Indoor Air Grants

EPA Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington) is soliciting Initial Proposals from organizations to fund indoor air quality (IAQ) projects that address any of the five grant program priority areas: implementation of EPA's IAQ Tools for Schools program; indoor asthma trigger education and exposure reduction; environmental tobacco smoke (ETS) education and exposure reduction; general IAQ training, education, and outreach; and multi-priority IAQ projects (i.e., projects that address more than one of these priority areas). The closing date for this grant is March 24, 2006, 5:00 p.m. Pacific Standard Time (PST). For more:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/R10/AIRPAGE.NFS/webpage/Indoors+Air+Grants+Request+for+Proposals+in+EPA+Region+10>

High Density Water Resources

EPA has produced a report called "Protecting Water Resources with Higher-Density Development." Many communities are asking where

and how they can accommodate population growth while maintaining and improving their water resources. Some water-quality experts believe higher-density development may be a better way to protect water resources. For more:

http://www.epa.gov/smartgrow/h/water_density.htm

Support Tool Launched

Sustainable Management Approaches and Revitalization Tools electronic (SMARTE) is an open-source web-based decision support system for developing and evaluating future reuse scenarios for potentially contaminated land. SMARTE, which is sponsored in part by EPA, contains guidance and analysis tools for all aspects of the revitalization process including planning, environmental, economic, and social concerns. For more:

<http://www.smart.org/home/index.xml>

Environmental Education

Melinda Gray Ardia environmental Foundation is accepting applications for the development and implementation of holistic environmental curricula that incorporates basic ecological principles and field environmental activities within a primary or secondary school setting. Individual grants NTE \$1K. Responses are due April 6, 2006. For more: <http://www.mgaef.org/index.html>

EEGP

EPA request proposals for Environmental Education Grants Program. This program supports environmental education projects that promote environmental stewardship and help develop aware and responsible students, teachers, and citizens. \$3 million is expected to be available and 150 awards are anticipated. For more: Diane Berger at 202/564-0451 or http://www.epa.gov/enviroed/grants_sol2006.html

EPA Guidelines

A "how-to" guide for implementing EPA's Voluntary National Guidelines for Management of Onsite and Clustered (Decentralized) Wastewater Treatment Systems is final. The guide describes a step-by-step approach for the development of a community management program for decentralized wastewater systems. It includes specific community examples, gives an overview of the elements essential for sound management of these systems, and provides links to extensive resources. For more:

<http://cfpub.epa.gov/own/septic/guidelines.cfm#handbook>

Tribal Windows

EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) announces the release of a software application, Tribal Windows to the Environment that provides information on tribes from major EPA data sources. The Web address is:

<http://oaspub.epa.gov/tims/twe.html>. This is a temporary site

and the location may change. It has no password and is accessible to the public. If you have questions or suggestions contact: Ed Liu at 202/564-0287

EMS

EPA Encourages Environmental Management System Implementation (EMS), EPA has updated its position statement on environmental management systems. The position statement explains EPA's policy on EMSs and the Agency's intent to continue to promote the voluntary widespread use of EMSs across

a range of organizations and settings. EPA encourages organizations to implement EMSs that result in improved environmental performance and compliance, cost-savings, pollution prevention through source reduction, and continual improvement. For more: <http://www.epa.gov/ems/position/index.htm>

Gasoline Deposit

The gasoline deposit control program ensure U. S. gasoline supplies contain detergent-like additives to reduce tailpipe emissions, has been amended to improve compliance and

maintain the environmental benefits of the program. The minor revisions include clarification of maximum concentration levels of fuel deposit control additives and changes to reporting requirements. As a result of this program, vehicle emissions of carbon monoxide, hydrocarbons, and nitrogen oxides have been reduced by more than 595,000 tons annually. More: <http://epa.gov/otaq/additive.htm>