



Environmental Justice Communication Network

Environmental justice (EJ) is the fair treatment and meaningful involvement of all people regardless of race, color, national origin, or income with respect to the development, implementation, and enforcement of environmental laws, regulations, and policies. EPA has this goal for all communities and persons across this nation. It will be achieved when everyone enjoys the same degree of protection from environmental and health hazards and equal access to the decision-making process to have a healthy environment in which to live, learn, and work.

core of understanding and adequately addressing the needs of disproportionately affected communities—helping communities of concern and all communities make informed decisions about their health and well-being. ORD brings EJ concerns to bear, either directly or indirectly, through its research, expert advice, and leadership in the development of EPA science policy.

A highlight of ORD's action plan is the establishment of a network of EJ contacts across its laboratories, centers, and offices to improve organizational engagement in EJ activities. By engaging all sectors of ORD in the conversation, decision process, and ongoing development of

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NVFEL CRADAs Advance Fuel Economy and Emissions Research

OSP has been busy this spring coordinating the establishment of a number of cooperative research and development agreements (CRADAs) addressing fuel emissions and fuel economy initiated between auto manufacturers and EPA's National Vehicle and Fuel Emissions Laboratory (NVFEL) in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Through CRADAs, the EPA and its non-federal partners work to improve environmental outcomes by leveraging intellectual, laboratory, and monetary resources.

In the first set of agreements, NVFEL partnered with the United Parcel Service (UPS), Eaton Corporation, International Truck and Engine Corporation, and the U.S. Army National Automotive Center to build the world's first full hydraulic hybrid urban delivery vehicle with improved fuel economy and a reduction of the release of harmful emissions. The partnership capitalizes on two EPA breakthroughs—Full Hydraulic Hybrid and Clean Diesel Combustion, both of which were invented by NVFEL researchers. Together, these technologies work to make the world's cleanest, most fuel-efficient, and most cost-effective urban delivery vehicle,

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A Letter from the Director, Office of Science Policy

Spring is here and that means BASEBALL! Now we can enjoy both the O's and Washington's new team, the Nationals. Here at the office, there has been plenty of Office of Science Policy (OSP) action across all staffs ranging from launching the science inventory/peer review training to regional product expos to preparing our FTTA licensing exhibit for the EPA Science Forum. Our A-Team has been hard at work managing the office resources efficiently as we close out last year's funds and execute the budget for this year. We now have a journal club that meets regularly as well as a film series on environmental issues of interest. Each of these activities, as well as the many others not mentioned due to space constraints, help sustain the high level of energy and great work environment OSP is known for.

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Status on Regions' High-Priority, Short-Term Science Needs

Background

In response to recommendations in the regional 45-day study on *The Uses of Science in Regional Decision-Making* and the November 17, 2004, Region/ORD Science Summit IV, the National Regional Science Council (NRSC) recently identified 14 high-priority, cross-regional, cross-programmatic, short-term science needs. The NRSC developed a one page summary of each need and identified a regional point of contact.

The Deputy Regional Administrators (DRAs) agreed that the list represented the collective regional interests. Tom Voltaggio, DRA in Region 3 and ORD Lead Region, transmitted the 14 science needs and supporting documentation to the Deputy Assistant Administrators (DAAs), requesting that they con-

sider these needs during their evaluation of projects appropriate for the \$20M Research Pilot funds. He also urged the DAAs to continue to look for other opportunities to address these needs.

OSP prepared a chart matching the appropriate lead and supporting National Program Directors (NPDs) with each of the regions' needs. In an April 19, 2005 e-mail, Jeff Morris, Associate Director for Science/OSP/ORD, asked the lead NPDs for each need to provide information as to whether ORD has:

1. Existing data and/or products that already address any of these needs;
2. Ongoing research projects that will or can be made to be responsive to any of the needs;

3. Any other plans to address these needs.
4. The extent to which any of the unaddressed needs will be incorporated into projects identified under the Research Funding Pilot.

ORD Recommendations for Establishing a Response Process

During the April 27, 2005 conference call, the Science Council (Associate Directors for Science and NPDs) discussed how ORD should respond to the list of regional science needs. The importance of setting up mechanisms to transfer ORD information in a manner that fully meets the regions' expectations was discussed. The Council decided to establish region/ORD

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ORD Meets with Region 3

On March 29, 2005, Lek Kadeli, ORD DAA for Management, traveled to Philadelphia with David Klauder and Mike Moore to meet with Tom Voltaggio, Region 3 DRA, Randy Pomponio, Region 3 Regional Science & Technology Director, and other Region 3 staff scientists to discuss upcoming ORD-sponsored activities in Region 3 (Regional Applied Research Effort [RARE] projects and a Regional Science Topic Workshop on ephemeral streams and vernal pools), homeland security issues, actions from the November 17, 2004 Region/ORD Science Summit (program support to the regions and the regions' list of high priority short-term science needs), participation of the regions in the \$20M Research Funding Pilot, the Region 3 model for connecting ORD science to management outcomes, and the regional component to the FY2005 EPA Science Forum.

ORD and the regions are collaborating to develop the EPA component to the Homeland Security Laboratory Response Program to ensure that EPA has appropriate laboratory capability to deal with both chemical and biological incidents. A draft program design is out for comment within the Homeland Security Workgroup.

The region provided an overview of its mountain-top/valley fill issue on which ORD is providing "program support" and then described its relationship to the upcoming Region 3-hosted, OSP-sponsored workshop on ephemeral streams. To provide ORD with a set of well-characterized, high-priority, cross-regional, short-term science needs, Lek was given an overview of the ongoing efforts by the

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Region 9 Product Expo

The second Regional ORD Science and Technology Product Expo, hosted by EPA's Region 9 on February 8, 2005, was well attended by participants representing a wide range of disciplines and organizations. Representatives from EPA Region 9 staff, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Nevada Department of Health, the California Water Board (from Cal EPA) and the County Regional Park District (15-30 individuals) attended the three presentations at the Region 9 offices, and more than 90 people including representatives from other EPA regional offices, states, county health departments, the National Marine Sanctuary, consultants, state environmental protection departments, the Indian Health Service, the State Department

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BOSC Subcommittees Get to Work

The Board of Scientific Counselors (BOSC) is a Federal Advisory Committee that was established by EPA to evaluate ORD science and engineering research, programs and plans, laboratories, and research management practices and recommend actions to improve their quality and/or strengthen their relevance to EPA's mission; evaluate and provide advice concerning the utilization of peer review within ORD to sustain and enhance the quality of science in EPA; review ORD's program development and progress, ORD's research planning process and research program balance; provide peer review including evaluation of ORD's peer review policies, and review of ORD offices, national laboratories and centers, and research plans and products; and provide advice on human resource planning.

The BOSC Executive Committee currently includes 11 members, meets three to five times each year, and establishes subcommittees or workgroups for any purpose consistent with the BOSC's charter. Members of the BOSC Executive Committee

and subcommittees constitute a distinguished body of scientists and engineers drawn from academia, industry, and environmental communities who are recognized, non-governmental experts in their respective fields.

Recently, two workgroups and eight subcommittees have been formed and are in various stages of reviewing research programs, reports, or multi-year plans (MYPs). Final reports from these workgroups and subcommittees can be downloaded from the BOSC Web Site at <http://www.epa.gov/osp/bosc/reports.htm>.

- The Endocrine Disrupting Chemicals (EDC) Subcommittee reviewed ORD's EDC Research Program during three conference calls and a face-to-face meeting on December 13-15, 2004 in RTP, North Carolina. The subcommittee's draft report was vetted by the BOSC

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Environmental Justice

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our EJ Program, we will be better prepared to successfully implement the next steps in the evolution of ORD's EJ Program, which include increasing staff EJ awareness and better integrating EJ principles into the fiber of the organization.

ORD's EJ Communication Network is comprised of the following staff:

- Eric Jorgensen (NRMRL/Ada)
- Nora Savage (NCER/Headquarters)
- Kathy Nickel (NHSRC/Cincinnati)
- Barry Howard (NHEERL/RTP)
- Desmond Mayes (ORMA/Headquarters)
- Beverly Comfort (NCEA/RTP)
- George Brilis (NERL/Las Vegas)
- Dick Garnas (OSP/Headquarters)
- Jason Edwards (OSP/Headquarters)

For further information on the Environmental Justice Communication Network, please contact Dick Garnas at 202-564-6785 or garnas.richard@epa.gov. ■

NVFEL CRADAs

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achieving a 90 percent reduction in nitrogen oxide (NOx) after treatment, and 60-70 percent improved fuel economy. The application of this technology can be significant because urban delivery vehicles, such as buses, trash trucks, and package delivery vehicles often operate in stop-and-go traffic. With this technology, a typical urban delivery vehicle could save \$2,500 in fuel each year (assuming 25,000 miles per year at \$2 per gallon of fuel).

A CRADA between Ford Motor Company and NVFEL involves the second phase of a research agreement to develop clean diesel technology. Under this agreement, EPA and Ford are refining and testing the potential for the Clean Diesel Combustion technology in commercial applications, such that it meets EPA tailpipe emission standards and is more fuel-efficient than gasoline engines. In fact, this technology achieves EPA NOx standards through a newly developed diesel combustion process that does not produce NOx during fuel combustion, thereby avoiding the need for NOx controls in the exhaust system. To demonstrate the clean diesel technology, the partners installed it in a Ford Galaxy minivan and when compared with a gasoline-powered minivan, the clean diesel minivan gets 30-40 percent better mileage.

Although diesel is typically 25-40 percent more fuel efficient than gasoline, less than 1 percent of passenger vehicles in the United States currently are powered by diesel engines. In the future, through such technologies as the Clean Diesel Combustion, more Americans may benefit from diesel's performance, durability, and fuel efficiency, without producing NOx during fuel combustion.

For further information, please contact Kathleen Graham at 202-564-2678 or graham.kathleen@epa.gov. ■



Meetings of EPA and Tribal Leadership

During the week of April 11, 2005, EPA and Tribal leadership convened in a series of highly productive meetings. Senior leadership of the Tribal Caucus (TC), a group of 19 tribal representatives of environmental programs, met with each program office and region to discuss providing input for the Agency's budget planning process. On April 12, 2005, ORD representatives and the National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC) Co-Chairs, met with TC representatives. In addition, Kevin Teichman, OSP Director, represented ORD at the April 13, 2005 Indian Program Policy Council (IPPC) meeting in Washington, DC. The IPPC is an Agency body of senior managers who advise and support the Agency on major policy, science, and implementation issues affecting EPA programs and activities to enhance protection of the environment and human health in Indian country.

The joint ORD, TSC, and TC meeting, which was conducted under auspices of Goal 4 - Healthy Communities and Ecosystems included the following attendees:

- **TC Representatives**—Calvin Murphy (Chair), Nat Nutongla (Vice-Chair), Jennifer Hill-Kelley (Chair for the TC's Healthy Communities & Ecosystems Subcommittee), and Scott Sufficool (new Policy Advisor for the TC);
- **ORD Representatives**—Jeff Morris (Associate Director for Science), and Paul Zielinski (Cross Program Staff Chief).
- **TSC Representatives**—Dave Nelsonz (Tribal Co-Chair), and Roland Hemmett (Agency Co-Chair).

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Regional Needs

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discussion groups to work on three to four of the regional needs as pilots to help create an efficient and effective process. The NPDs agreed to review the applicable regional needs and, based on their knowledge of what ORD data and tools are or will soon be available, volunteer to participate in one or more of these pilot working groups.

The list of three to four pilots and working groups of region/ORD scientists should be in place soon. The regional contacts for the pilots will be responsible for creating cross-regional teams to participate in the working group discussions and disseminating the outcomes to all interested parties in the regions. Likewise, the NPDs will be responsible for bringing the ORD scientists working in and/or knowledgeable about each scientific aspect of the need(s) into the pilot working groups.

OSP, including the RSLs, is willing to help set up and/or facilitate the initial working group discussions during the month of June 2005, if requested.

Where gaps in ORD knowledge, data, and tools exist to fully respond to any of the regional needs, the ORD working group members will offer guidance to the regions on available options for getting these research needs addressed. The regional and NPD working group leads should work together to ensure that the ORD science is effectively translated and transferred to all the regions and that the regions provide feedback on how the science is used to influence environmental outcomes.

For more information, please contact Jeff Morris at 202-564-6756 or morris.jeff@epa.gov. ■

Science Policy Council Nanotechnology Effort

In December 2004, the Agency's Science Policy Council (SPC) called for the development of a framework for how EPA will address potential environmental applications and implications of nanotechnology. The SPC charged the SPC Nanotechnology Coordinating Committee to develop a framework document that will address all aspects of nanotechnology that are relevant to EPA, such as science and research needs, regulatory and policy implications, statutory authorities, EPA's unique role in the National Nanotechnology Initiative (NNI), and communication approaches. Because nanotechnology is moving at such a rapid pace, the committee is moving as expeditiously as possible and hopes to have a draft document ready for the SPC Steering Committee to review in October 2005.

Led by Jeff Morris (OSP) and Jim Willis (Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances [OPPTS]), the SPC Nanotechnology Coordinating Committee held its first meeting on February 7, 2005, to set a schedule for completing the framework document, to define the scope of the document, and to identify the workgroups needed to be formed to address specific areas (e.g., science/research needs). Currently, the committee is divided into nine subgroups with more than 70 people volunteering to participate as of the end of April. The nine workgroups are as follows:

- NNI Strategy Workgroup
- EPA Research Strategy and Coordination Workgroup
- Risk Assessment Workgroup
- Statutes, Regulations, Policies, and Media-Specific Issues Workgroup
- Risk Management Workgroup

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February thru April '05

Details/Training Assignments/ Students/Internships

Valerie Chan of OSP's Program Support Staff Water Team is serving on a rotational training assignment with the Office of Water from February 20 through June 10. This is the first of several rotational assignments Valerie will serve under EPA's Intern Program, a 2-year program of rotational assignments and training.

Greg Susanke of OSP's Research Coordination Staff is serving on a detail

assignment with the National Homeland Security Research Center from April 17 through October 16.

James Avery of OSP's Research Coordination Staff is serving on a detail assignment with the National Center for Environmental Assessment from April 17 through October 16.

Congratulations on the New Baby!

Congratulations and best wishes to Kathleen Meier and her husband Eric on the April 4th birth of their first child, a daughter named Julia Ann (8 lbs., 3 oz.)!



BOSC

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Executive Committee in January 2005, and the final report has been issued.

- The National Coastal Condition Workgroup recently reviewed EPA's Second National Coastal Condition Report in the context of other recent, related reports, such as the Pew Oceans Commission's *America's Living Oceans: Charting a Course for Sea Change*, and the Preliminary Report of the U.S. Commission on Ocean Policy. The workgroup prepared a letter report that was vetted by the BOSC Executive Committee in January 2005, and is expected to be issued soon.

GEOSS/GEO Co-Chairs Named

EPA's role in GEOSS (Global Earth Observation System of Systems) through the U.S. Group on Earth Observations (U.S. GEO) is now being coordinated by EPA GEO (the EPA GEOSS Coordinating Committee). EPA's SPC approved the creation of EPA GEO at its April 25th meeting. Ed Washburn (OSP) and Steve Young (Office of Environmental Information) were named as Co-Chairs of EPA GEO.

For further information, please contact Ed Washburn at 202-564-1134 or washburn.edward@epa.gov. ■

OSP Update Contributing Writers

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For more information on the *OSP Update*, contact Susan Peterson at 202-564-1077 or peterson.susan@epa.gov.

OMB Bulletin on Peer Review

Several OSP staff including Jeff Morris, Paul Zielinski, Connie Bosma, and Steve Watkins have been actively working on various projects to implement the new OMB Bulletin on Peer Review, which sets peer review expectations for highly influential scientific assessments and influential scientific information that federal agencies disseminate. Effective on June 16, 2005, it also requires that OSP post peer review plans on the internet and provide the public with an opportunity to comment on them.

The projects on which the OSP folks have been working include identifying the EPA products that are subject to the Bulletin, revising the Peer Review Handbook, modifying the Science Inventory, and training Peer Review Coordinators from across the Agency.

For further information, please contact Connie Bosma at 202-564-6773 or bosma.connie@epa.gov. ■

- The Risk Assessment Workgroup recently held a workshop (February 2-3, 2005, in Washington, DC) to discuss Chapter 4, "Use of Default and Extrapolation Assumptions," of EPA's white paper on "Risk Assessment Principles and Practices." The BOSC invited a number of non-EPA experts to provide constructive feedback for refining EPA's current practices or suggesting alternative approaches discussed in Chapter 4. Abstracts from the workshop will be published in the international journal *Environmental Science and Pollution Research*.
- The Mercury Subcommittee reviewed the Mercury MYP during two conference calls and a face-to-face meeting on February 23-24, 2005, in Arlington, Virginia. The BOSC Executive Committee will review the subcommittee's draft letter report at its next meeting on June 2-3, 2005.
- The Human Health Subcommittee reviewed ORD's Human Health Research Program during three conference calls and a face-to-face meeting held February 28 - March 2, 2005, in RTP, North Carolina.

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Product Expo

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of Fish and Game, universities, and an international participant tuned into the event remotely.

Morning presentations by ORD researchers covered the following three topics:

- Using Today's Data to Close the Beach Today: Quantitative Polymerase Chain Reaction Rapid Beach Closings Tool (Richard Haugland, ORD National Exposure Research Laboratory, Cincinnati).
- Small Drinking Water Treatment Technologies for Compliance with the Enhanced Surface Water Treatment Rules (Craig Patterson, ORD National Risk Management Research Laboratory, Cincinnati).
- Mercury Measurements for Solids Made Rapidly, Simply, and Inexpensively (Tom Hanners, ORD National Exposure Research Laboratory, Las Vegas).

Hands-on demonstrations and training sessions were held the second half of the day and the presenters were able to show related equipment and materials and answer questions one-on-one with interested attendees.

The Regional Expos were conceived following a successful Product Expo at the 2004 EPA Science Forum, and the first Regional Expo was held in Region 5 in October 2004. The Region 9 Product Expo even garnered media attention—a reporter from KCBS, one of the highest rated radio stations in the San Francisco Bay Area, interviewed two of the ORD presenters and staff from Region 9's Regional Science Council and posted a favorable story about the ORD research.

For further information, please contact Mike Gill at 415-972-3054 or gill.michael@epa.gov. ■

Region

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NRSC and the Lead ORD Region (Region 3) needs.

The Regional Research Coordination Team (RCT) representatives are working with the National Program Manager (NPM) contacts on the Research Funding Pilot to integrate short-term regional science needs into the selection of projects under this pilot program. Early reports suggest that some success is being made in the water and Superfund program areas.

Randy Pomponio highlighted the key points in the region's presentation and

proposal to further the kinds of ORD research and data transfer that have led to measurable environmental outcomes at the region, state, and local levels, which also was the theme of the regional component of this year's Science Forum. Region 3 and OSP staff organized a meeting of key ORD, region, and program office executives on May 16, 2005, the first day of the Science Forum, to discuss options for implementing this environmental outcomes approach.

For further information, please contact David Klauder at 202-564-6496 or klauder.david@epa.gov. ■

BOSC

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The BOSC Executive Committee reviewed the subcommittee's draft report at its meeting on June 2-3, 2005.

- The Ecological Subcommittee reviewed ORD's Ecological Research Program during three conference calls and a face-to-face meeting on March 7-9, 2005, in RTP, North Carolina. The draft report was vetted by the Executive Committee on May 5, 2005.
- The Particulate Matter (PM) and Ozone Subcommittee reviewed ORD's PM and Ozone Research Program during two conference calls and a face-to-face meeting on March 30 - April 1, 2005, in RTP, North Carolina. The BOSC Executive Committee reviewed the draft report at its meeting on June 2-3, 2005.
- The Drinking Water Subcommittee, which will review ORD's Drinking Water Research Program, is planning its face-to-face meeting on June 21-23, 2005, in Cincinnati, Ohio.

● The Global Change Subcommittee, which will review ORD's Global Change Research Program, is planning its face-to-face meeting on September 26-28, 2005, in Washington, DC.

● The Computational Toxicology Subcommittee, intended to be a standing subcommittee of the BOSC to provide advice and counsel to ORD's newly formed National Center for Computational Toxicology, held a meeting at the Center in RTP, North Carolina, on April 25-26, 2005. The BOSC Executive Committee reviewed the subcommittee's report at its meeting on June 2-3, 2005.

To learn more about the BOSC and its subcommittees, please visit www.epa.gov/osp/bosc. If you are interested in serving as a Designated Federal Officer (DFO) for the BOSC, please contact Lori Kowalski at 202-564-3408 or kowalski.lorelei@epa.gov or Heather Drumm at 202-564-8239 or drumm.heather@epa.gov. ■



New Travel Agency

Manassas Travel became EPA's new travel management company as of March 1, 2005. Due to the fact that Manassas Travel is a small company managing travel reservations for the entire Agency, staff have been experiencing difficulties in making and finalizing travel reservations. Although the travel agency has made some internal adjustments in an attempt to manage the significant amount of travel requests for EPA, travelers have still encountered some issues.

Here are some recommendations to alleviate the stress of making your travel arrangements:

- Make travel reservations well in advance.
- Make sure Manassas Travel has your travel credit card number on file (your ticket will not be issued if they do not have it).

- Make sure you receive a confirmation e-mail from Manassas Travel indicating that your ticket has been issued.

If you have had an issue with your travel in relation to Manassas Travel, please provide the following to Debbie Vanselow in an e-mail: (1) Traveler's Name, (2) Record Locator Number, and (3) Travel Agent Name (Manassas Travel) and an explanation of the travel issue. Please copy John Sykes on the e-mail. Manassas Travel can be reached at 1-866-614-0615. Your patience is appreciated during this transition.

For further information, please contact Tia Rush at 202-564-5709 or rush.tia@epa.gov. Debbie Vanselow can be reached at vanselow.deborah@epa.gov. John Sykes can be reached at sykes.john@epa.gov. ■

Nanotechnology

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- Converging Technologies Workgroup
- P2: Pollution Prevention and Life Cycles Analysis Workgroup
- P3: Sustainability and Society Workgroup
- Public Communication and Outreach Workgroup.

OSP's Dennis Utterback and Anita Street are leads for the NNI Strategy Workgroup and the Public Communication and Outreach Workgroup, respectively.

For further information, please contact Anita Street at 202-564-3626 or street.anita@epa.gov. ■

Leadership

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- **The American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)**—Gary Hudiburgh (Deputy Director).

The TC informed the group of the reorganization of the Tribal Caucus and provided an overview of the new subcommittee structure; presented its Indian Country Policy priorities (consultation, Direct Implementation Assessment and Action Plan, and strategic plan revisions); and the FY2007 Indian Country budget development. The group also discussed the TSC's tribal science priorities that were developed at the November 2004 TSC meeting, the risk assessment effort to develop recommendations for incorporating tribal traditional lifeways into EPA's risk assessment policies and practices, and how the TSC and TC can work closer together. Also discussed were the development of the Tribal Portal Web Site and how the TSC

might be involved in the discussions on the future of the Environmental Monitoring and Assessment (EMAP) program. ORD explained to the group that the new NPDs are the leads for various parts of ORD's research program.

The EPA managers at the IPPC meeting discussed the FY2007 Regional Tribal Budget Priorities, National Snapshot of the Tribal Program, and Implementation Barriers and Solutions (of environmental programs). They were joined by the TC in a discussion of their programmatic and budget priorities and how to enhance the partnership between the TC and IPPC. In addition, information was provided on Overcoming a Barrier: Leaking Underground Storage Tanks in Indian Country, Tribal Portal, Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements (DITCAs) and the TSC's January 2005 workshop. The

group tried to determine how to communicate accomplishments in Indian Country to OMB to restore some of the General Assistance Program (GAP) funding. Recognizing the importance and complementary nature of the National Snapshot and the regional approach of barriers and solutions, the IPPC identified recommendations and potential action items for all the topics and intends to continue the discussion at its next meeting scheduled in conjunction with the National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in June 2005. As part of the meeting, the TSC has been asked to present the risk assessment issues and recommendations resulting from the multi-workshop effort for consideration.

For further information, please contact Claudia Walters at 202-564-6762 or walters.claudia@epa.gov. ■

