

Menu Item for Conducting a *Basic Air Quality Assessment*

TRIBAL AIR WORK PLAN OBJECTIVE: To identify the existence of and possible sources of air pollution that may be of concern to the tribe and reservation communities, identifying any need for and nature of further air quality work.

Background: Conducting a *Basic Air Quality Assessment* is an early step to understanding what air quality issues may be of most concern. This is typically undertaken by a Tribe to determine the amount and nature of air pollution that exists within its community or reservation in order to provide information upon which decisions about what further monitoring, inventory, or air quality management work the Tribe may choose to pursue.

Funding Mechanism: This objective and supporting activities typically would qualify for consideration by EPA of financial support through the grant authority of either the Indian General Assistance Program (IGAP) or Clean Air Act §103 project grant. Contact your nearest Regional EPA Tribal or Program Office for further information.

ACTIVITIES / TASKS: The following *tasks* or *activities* are options for a grant applicant to consider in developing a work plan that includes basic air quality assessment. Adapting these needs to respond to those of a specific reservation or tribal community is encouraged, taking into consideration for what purpose the assessment will be used. EPA Regional Offices are available to provide technical advice on what a particular tribe may require to adequately support their proposed workplan activities. A *timeline* is then created by estimating the dates by which each task, and sub-task, will be completed in order to accomplish the objective by the planned date.

Conduct source inventory and categorization:

- Training: Obtain training related to basic air quality assessment issues.
- Identify *stationary sources* through such activities as:
 - Phone book review of businesses operating on the reservation.
 - “Windshield survey” of businesses operating and activities on the reservation and other reservation characteristics that influence air quality.
 - Contact neighboring jurisdictions for relevant information.
- Area and mobile sources: Identify the major types of area and mobile sources, such as agricultural practices, forestry burning, wood stoves, vehicle counts, unpaved roads, etc.
- Smoke management issues: Is there agricultural or forestry burning on or near the reservation that impacts the reservation communities? Is there a smoke management program for agricultural or forestry burning? If so, contact managers and determine what procedures and equipment are used in the management.
- Contact surrounding jurisdictions: For sources off reservation that may impact air quality on the reservation. [Are there common air quality issues that should be addressed with any of the surrounding jurisdictions?]

ACTIVITIES / TASKS cont.

Track and evaluate air quality complaints:

- Research past history of air quality complaints: Contact relevant tribal and local offices (e.g. environmental or resource management, public health, hospitals, neighboring state/local/tribal air quality offices) that may have received complaints about air quality problems. Identify how many over what period of time, time of year, possible causes that may be generating the problem.
- Establish a system for tracking air quality complaints that will provide ongoing information on the type and severity of air quality problems of greatest concern to the residents of the reservation.
- Indoor Air Quality: Contact housing, health and other relevant tribal departments to document whether there has been a history of complaints associated with indoor air. Contact EPA Regional IAQ for information on available assistance for such complaints and training that may be available.

Evaluate Monitoring Needs:

- Existing or past monitoring: Determine whether there has been or is currently any air quality monitoring conducted on the reservation, its type and what the data collected has shown about air quality.
- Off reservation monitoring: Identify any off reservation air quality or meteorological data monitoring that may be collecting useful information for the reservation and arrange to meet with the responsible agency to learn and establish an information sharing agreement, as appropriate.

WORK PLAN RESULTS: Results from EPA grant funded activities (also known as “deliverables”) are characterized as either *outputs* or *outcomes*. Both are important means of documenting grant accomplishments. For explanation of *outputs* and *outcomes* see the Menu Item for *Air Quality Administration Infrastructure*

Possible Outputs: [These are examples of *outputs* for this objective; there may be others.]

- Report identifying: number and type of businesses, their locations, potential air pollution produced, and the significant characteristics of the reservation that should be considered in evaluating air pollution issues. Report should include a map, if possible, with significant sources, population centers, and relevant reservation characteristics annotated.
- Identify need for additional air quality activities such as a smoke management plan for agricultural or forestry burning, regulatory development, education and outreach, indoor air quality assessments, or other targeted projects.
- Report of history and nature of air quality related complaints identified through tribal agencies and other contacts.
- Written evaluation of additional data that would assist in more completely evaluating air quality problems, such as emission inventory or monitoring, including the type and how such additional data would be used to inform air quality management decisions.

Possible Outcomes: [These are examples of *outcomes* for this objective; there may be others]

Expressed as a result of an individual Tribal grant:

- Tribe has identified any major sources or areas of concern
- Tribe has completed an air quality assessment for its reservation.
- Tribe has assessed the existence and nature of its indoor air quality problems.

Expressed as a measure of overall Tribal program performance (over a stated baseline or cumulative total):

- Increase in the number of tribes who have completed a basic evaluation of all sources of air pollution on the reservation supported by a report summarizing these and identifying what the tribe considers may be the major sources of concern, if any.
- Increase in the number of reservations for which an air quality assessment has been completed.
- Increase in the number of tribes that have assessed existence and nature of IAQ problems.

FY 2006 NATIONAL EPA PERFORMANCE MEASURE(S):

No factor has been established to measure EPA's progress in this area during fiscal year 2006. The following would be an example of such a future measure.

- Number of reservations for which a basic air quality assessment report has been completed and submitted to EPA.