



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

FEB 29 2012

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Dear Honorable Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is initiating consultation and coordination with federally-recognized Indian Tribes on the draft Quality Standard for Environmental Data Collection, Production and Use by Non-EPA (External) Organizations, and the draft Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans. The draft standard defines the appropriate quality requirements that pertain to the acquisition and use of environmental data. The draft guidance documents provide information to assist organizations in the development of essential QA documents for environmental data projects.

This consultation and coordination process will be conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* (www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm). EPA invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process. EPA's anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination period is expected to extend from March 5-30, 2012.

Enclosed is a consultation and coordination plan for this action that includes a description of the action under consultation and the process EPA intends to follow, including a timeline for the consultation and coordination period and information on how you can provide input on this action. *This information is also available on EPA's Tribal Portal* <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation>

The official EPA contact person for this consultation and coordination process is Elizabeth Jackson, OEI Tribal Coordinator. Please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth at jackson.elizabeth@epa.gov or (202) 566-0626 should you have any questions regarding this action.

I look forward to hearing from you on this important process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Monica D. Jones".

Monica D. Jones
Acting Director, Quality Staff

cc: Tribal Environmental Directors
US EPA Regional Indian Program Coordinators
US EPA American Indian Environmental Office

Enclosures

Tribal Consultation and Coordination Process and Timeline
Background Information