



At a Glance

Catalyst for Improving the Environment

Why We Did This Review

We conducted this examination to determine whether reported incurred costs for three U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) cooperative agreements awarded to the National Tribal Environmental Council (recipient) were reasonable, allocable, and allowable in accordance with the terms and conditions of the agreements and applicable regulations.

Background

EPA awarded one agreement to the recipient to facilitate the participation of Western Indian Tribes in the Western Regional Air Partnership. EPA also awarded two agreements for the continued support of the National Tribal Air Association program.

For further information, contact our Office of Congressional, Public Affairs and Management (202) 566-2391.

To view the full report, click on the following link:
www.epa.gov/oig/reports/2010/20100217-10-4-0067.pdf

Incurred Cost Audit of Three EPA Cooperative Agreements Awarded to National Tribal Environmental Council, Inc.

What We Found

We questioned \$2,802,222 of the \$3,586,445 reported because the recipient claimed unsupported costs of \$2,768,490 and ineligible costs of \$33,732 that did not comply with the financial and program management standards of Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart B, Part 30.

While the recipient's work plans describe activities and planned deliverables, they do not include a description of the recipient's goals or objectives for its participation in the Western Regional Air Partnership and National Tribal Air Association. Without the goals and objectives, the annual reports could not include a comparison of accomplishments with the objectives for the period, as required by Title 40, Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart B, Part 30.51. As a result, EPA cannot determine whether the funds EPA provided the recipient achieved their intended purpose.

What We Recommend

We recommend that EPA's Director for Grants and Interagency Agreements Management Division and the Region 9 Regional Administrator require the recipient to provide adequate support for the \$2,768,490 questioned as unsupported, and disallow and recover any costs that the recipient cannot support; and recover the \$33,732 in ineligible costs.

In its response, the recipient provided explanations for the costs we questioned as unsupported and ineligible, but did not provide information sufficient to revise our conclusion. The recipient did describe the actions it was taking to address the questioned costs.

We also recommend that EPA work with the recipient to develop (a) work plans that identify goals and objectives for the recipient's activities to support the Western Regional Air Partnership and National Tribal Air Association, and (b) performance reports that include a comparison of accomplishments with goals and objectives in the work plan. EPA concurred with the recommendation.