

## Munitions and Explosives of Concern

FFRRO's commitment to tribal involvement is further illustrated by its collaboration with tribes on several munitions-related projects.

- *EPA Munitions Response Guidelines* assist EPA staff, tribes and states overseeing munitions response cleanups. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/munitions\\_response\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/production/files/documents/munitions_response_guidelines.pdf)
- The *Handbook on the Management of Munitions Response Actions* and the *Munitions and Explosives of Concern Hazard Assessment (MEC HA) Methodology* offer technical tools to assist tribes with munitions concerns. <http://www2.epa.gov/fedfac/military-munitionsunexploded-ordnance>
- Training courses assist personnel overseeing munitions response site cleanups. Upcoming courses are posted at <http://www.clu-in.org>.

## Federal Resources

### Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office

FFRRO works with other federal entities to help them develop creative, cost-effective solutions to their environmental problems. <http://www2.epa.gov/fedfac/tribes-and-federal-facilities>

### American Indian Environmental Office

(Office of International and Tribal Affairs) This office coordinates the EPA-wide effort to strengthen health and environmental protection in Indian Country. <http://www.epa.gov/indian>

### Department of Agriculture

USDA is committed to serving tribal organizations and individual American Indians and Alaska Natives. <http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations>

## Federal Resources (cont.)

### Department of Defense

The Native American Management System for Environmental Impacts tracks and maintains information on potential impacts on tribal lands from past DoD activities. <https://www.namsei.com>

### Department of Energy

The Office of Environmental Management is committed to cleaning up sites that were once part of the nation's nuclear weapons complex. Several of these areas are close or adjacent to tribal nations and impact Indian lands and resources. <http://energy.gov/em/services/communication-engagement/em-tribal-programs-indian-country>

### Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry

The Office of Tribal Affairs assists with tribal-specific environmental health needs resulting from exposure to hazardous waste sites and pollution. <http://www.atsdr.cdc.gov>

### Department of the Interior

The Department of the Interior places a high priority on respecting the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. <http://www.doi.gov/tribes>

For more information about FFRRO's tribal activities, please visit our website at <http://www.epa.gov/fedfac> or contact FFRRO's Tribal Coordinator:

Mary T. Cooke  
EPA Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office  
Email: [cooke.maryt@epa.gov](mailto:cooke.maryt@epa.gov)

July 2018 EPA-505-F18-001



## EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO) and the FFRRO Tribal Program

There are thousands of current and former federal facilities across the United States. Some of them are contaminated with hazardous wastes and may be located on or near American Indian or Alaska Native lands.

To address contamination issues at these facilities, EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office works closely with other federal agencies to develop creative, cost-effective solutions.



## FFRRO Background

FFRRO's mission is to facilitate effective cleanup solutions at federal facility sites. By focusing on partnering and public involvement, FFRRO and its partners have made great strides in improving federal facility cleanups.

## FFRRO's Tribal Program

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with American Indian tribal governments, established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, executive orders and judicial decisions. Accordingly, EPA works in partnership with tribal governments, both at the facility and national policy-making levels.

FFRRO's Tribal Program protects the health of American Indians and Alaskan Native Villagers at and near federal facilities. FFRRO's goals are to:

- Develop partnerships that will enhance participation and the environmental decision-making process at federal facilities through meaningful coordination that respects the unique needs of each tribal community.
- Provide technical and regulatory oversight at NPL sites to ensure protection of human health, effective program implementation and meaningful public involvement.
- Identify contaminated sites on or near tribal lands, as well as site property that may be transferred to tribes.

## Federal Land Transfer to Tribes

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) base closures can often lead to land transfers to tribes, held in trust by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribes may have opportunities for economic development as well as access to archeological sites and other cultural resources.

## Outreach and Technical Assistance

The Federal Facility Cleanup Dialogue meetings in October 2010 and September 2011 brought together federal agencies, tribal, state and local governments, communities, environmental groups and academia to discuss progress, achievements and challenges. Several federal agencies – the Departments of Defense, Energy, Agriculture and Interior – participated in the two-day forums. EPA will continue to solicit tribal participation for the next phase of the Dialogue – federal agencies working together to address issues raised by stakeholders.

EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites to help them better understand and become involved in the cleanup process for contaminated sites. TASC's website provides more information: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>.

Through EPA Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs), communities can access the services of independent technical advisors to help them understand technical information and decisions at eligible Superfund sites. The advisors can help communities interpret technical reports, site conditions and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions. For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>.

## Tribal Community Involvement Opportunities

In addition to EPA's government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes, advisory boards and community groups are key elements of outreach to tribal communities. FFRRO works with DoD and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and their stakeholders by providing technical and regulatory input at advisory board meetings and by developing national policies for advisory boards.

There are several types of advisory boards:

*Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs)* provide a forum through which community members can provide input to DoD's Restoration Program. RABs operate at functional, closing or realigning installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites where there is sufficient and sustained community interest.

*Site-Specific Advisory Boards* involve stakeholders more directly in DOE cleanup decisions.

*Superfund Community Advisory Groups* facilitate the exchange of cleanup information among stakeholders at Superfund sites.

