

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

The Tribal Newsletter is issued free each month

To receive a copy, call: 503-326-5015.

Vol. 26 No. 3 March 2017

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Top News

Scott Pruitt Assumes Role as EPA Administrator



Oklahoma Attorney General Scott Pruitt was confirmed and sworn in as EPA's 14th Administrator on February 17. Administrator Pruitt believes promoting and protecting a strong and healthy environment is one of the lifeblood priorities of the government, and EPA is a vital part of that mission. As Administrator, Pruitt will lead EPA in a way that our future generations inherit a better and healthier environment while advancing America's economic interests. He is committed to working with the thousands of dedicated public servants at EPA who have devoted their careers to helping realize this shared vision, while faithfully administering environmental laws.

To learn more about Administrator Pruitt, go to https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/scott-pruitt-confirmed-and-sworn-epa-administrator.

To watch Administrator Pruitt's first address to EPA staff, go to https://bit.ly/2mmfSNw.

Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke

Communities are beginning to prepare for next summer's wildfire season and how to protect the health of their residents.

Let's Clear the Air – Protect Yourself from Wildfire Smoke is an educational video that offers simple steps for protecting yourself from wildfire smoke. The video was created by the Aleknagik Traditional Council and was funded

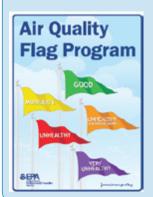


by the EPA through the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium's Air Quality Mini-Grant program with support from Bristol Bay Native Association and other partners.

To learn more about how to protect your health during a smoke event, go to https://airnow.gov/index.cfm?action=smoke.index.

The video is available online at https://vimeo.com/196352282. EXIT When you click this link, you will be leaving the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) website and entering an external link or a third-party site.

Join EPA's Air Quality Flag Program



The EPA's Air Quality Flag Program alerts organizations to the local air quality forecast and **helps you take action to protect your health.** Participating organizations or schools raise a flag that corresponds to the pollution level in the air each day.

The color of the flag matches EPA's Air Quality Index: green, yellow, orange, red, and purple. On unhealthy days, you can use this information to adjust activities to help reduce exposure to air pollution. To learn how to participate, go to http://go.usa.gov/x9hRT.



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Alaska Operations Office

Alaska News

Ruby AK Cleans Up Diesel Contamination

The former Headstart building in Ruby, Alaska, along the Yukon River, is a favorite community gathering place used for ceremonies, an Iditarod checkpoint, and a playfield. People noticed a diesel smell and became concerned about possible hazards in the building. Tests showed that the soil was contaminated in two places and the building required a better vapor barrier.

Rhizoremediation -using the roots of densely planted native vegetation to clean up contamination- was the perfect way to affordably clean up the problem. About 430 cubic yards of contaminated soil was moved to a remote site and densely planted with native plants. Progress was monitored while the plants' roots accomplished the cleanup.

This successful cleanup project was done in partnership with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation Brownfield Assessment & Cleanup program and received funding from EPA's Brownfield State Tribal Response Program.

To learn more about the EPA's Brownfield State Tribal Response Program and state cleanup programs in Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington, go to http://go.usa.gov/x9hRb.





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Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration

Online Training

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals is offering a free online training course to provide tribal environmental professionals in rural Alaska with an introduction to landfills, administration, and operations, solid waste administration, planning and budget basics, and resources for minimizing waste in landfills. Although the course has been developed for rural Alaska, tribal professionals in rural and remote areas in the lower 48 may also be interested. The development of this short course was a collaborative effort between the Alaska Chapter of the Solid Waste Association of North America, Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation, the Alaska Forum, Inc., Green Star, and ITEP. To access the online Introduction to Rural Alaska Landfill Administration training, go to http://bit.ly/2liZRHA. EXIT

Other online ITEP courses include Introduction to Brownfields, Brownfields Tribal Response Program Fundamentals, Radon Fundamentals, Quality Assurance Fundamentals, Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates, and Emissions Inventory Fundamentals. To access all of ITEP's online training courses, go to http://itep.scholarlms.com/catalog EXIT

CONTACT: Jennifer Williams • 928-523-0673 • Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu EXIT

7 Generations Environmental Planning

April 18-20, Anchorage, AK

During this interactive workshop, participants will learn a community-based approach for developing local environmental plans. The training focuses on team building, community involvement, identifying environmental concerns that can impact health, and learning about ways to address local issues. The workshop is for new tribal environmental program staff, tribal environmental committee members, tribal council members and tribal administrators. For more information, go to EXIT>http://bit.ly/2iBcTSK. EXIT

CONTACT: Oxcenia O'Domin ● 907-729-3492 ● <u>orodomin@anthc.org</u>
Holly Reimer ● 907-729-4043 ● holly.reimer@anthc.org

Qualifier Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling)

May 3-5, Dillingham, AK

This Zender Environmental training will cover taking water and soil samples to send for laboratory contaminant testing, how to test on-site for surface water fecal coliform, and how to sample and monitor for the basic water quality parameters using a YSI probe and turbidity meter. Passing this course satisfies the State of Alaska training requirements to become a qualified sampler. For more information, go to

http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html . EXIT

CONTACT: Simone Sebalo • 907-277-2111 • ssebalo@zendergroup.org

RTOC News





2017 Tribal Leaders Summit

March 29 – 31 ● Suquamish, WA

For more information or to register, go to http://region10rtoc.net/index.php/sample-page EXIT

Remember to register for the 2017 Tribal Leaders Summit, which is fast approaching! The summit includes three days of discussions, presentations and storytelling. The goal of the summit is to provide tribal council members and staff the opportunity to meet and share environmental concerns from their geographic areas with other tribes in Region 10 and with the EPA.

The agenda highlights two tracks. One track is for tribal leaders to openly discuss guided topics. The other track is for technical sessions for environmental workers. We will have breakout sessions with tribal presenters from our region and facilitated discussions. This year we are also bringing new ways to communicate through crafting, sharing and delivering our stories. You won't want to miss this conference!

Stay in the Loop!

- ▶ RTOC posts meeting minutes online at http://region10rtoc.net/index.php/meetings. EXIT
- ► Follow RTOC on Facebook for the latest news, training and funding opportunities from EPA at https://www.facebook.com/Region10RTOC. EXIT
- ▶ Submit meeting discussion topics at http://region10rtoc.net. EXIT

NOTE: The old RTOC website at www.rtocregion10.org will expire in April. Please bookmark the new website at http://region10rtoc.net. EXIT

Upcoming RTOC Events

NEXT R10 RTOC CONFERENCE CALL, March 16 ● 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time

NEXT R10 RTOC IN-PERSON MEETING, March 27-28
Hosted by Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe, WA

Save the Date!

2018 Tribal Leaders Summit • March 2018

Contact **Randi Madison**, RTOC R10 Communications Specialist at **509-703-4219** if you wish to join our monthly teleconference and/or have environmental topics to raise.

EMAIL communications@region10rtoc.net ● WEB PAGE http://region10rtoc.net EXIT

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EPA Tribal Consultation Opportunities

The following tribal consultation opportunities may be of interest to tribes in Region 10. A full list of consultation opportunities is available at https://tcots.epa.gov.

Toxic Substances Control Act

FND DATF: March 14.

The EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes on three proposed actions under the **Toxic Substances Control Act**. The proposed rules include:

- 1. The EPA's process for prioritizing chemicals for further evaluation.
- 2. The EPA's process for conducting risk evaluations on priority chemicals.
- 3. Requirements for a one-time notification to EPA by manufacturers that will allow EPA to label active and inactive chemicals in the TSCA Inventory.

To learn more about the proposed rules, go to http://go.usa.gov/x9hRV.

CONTACT: Irina Myers ● 202-564-8822 ● myers.irina@epa.gov

Safe Handling, Storage, and Treatment of Waste Fireworks

END DATE: March 17.

Numerous accidents involving waste fireworks have occurred over the years resulting in loss of life. As a result of these accidents, the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board conducted an investigation and issued recommendations to EPA. The memo, when finalized, will fulfill EPA's commitment to CSB to develop and disseminate information on safety concerns and best management practices for waste fireworks. This will ensure entities handling, storing, and/or treating waste fireworks adhere to safe waste management practices.

To view the *Safe Handling, Storage, and Treatment of Waste Fireworks* tribal consultation letter, go to http://go.usa.gov/x9hRd.

CONTACT: Ken Shuster ● 703-308-8759 ● shuster.kenneth@epa.gov

FY 2018-2019 National Program Manager Guidance

END DATE: June 30.

The NPM Guidances provide direction to EPA Regions on where the EPA will focus its work with tribal and state governments to ensure implementation of and compliance with environmental laws and regulations. The NPM Guidances are not budget decision-making documents though they do provide a roadmap for the activities that support the priorities identified in the President's Budget.

The NPM Guidances are developed in three stages:

- 1. NPMs receive input from tribes and states during the early engagement stage, which is now underway.
- 2. NPMs prepare draft guidances for review and comment.
- 3. NPMs issue final NPM Guidances.

CONTACT: Emily Heller ● 202-564-0000 ● heller.emily@epa.gov

Joseph Greenblott ● 202-564-4250 ● greenblott.joseph@epa.gov

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Grants

FY 17 EPA Region 10 Tribal Clean Air Act Grants

DUE DATE: March 15.

Applications from current grantees due April 3.

The EPA anticipates that there will be Clean Air Act grant funding made available in FY 17 for federally recognized tribes and tribal consortia within Region 10. It is the EPA's policy to work with tribes on a government-to-government basis to enhance environmental protection in Indian Country and tribal communities. The 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments included several provisions authorizing tribal governments to develop federally-enforceable programs to manage air quality in Indian Country. While the Tribal Authority Rule (40 CFR 49.1, et seq.) of 1998 created the mechanism for tribes to establish eligibility for "treatment in the same manner as a state" for several portions of the CAA, EPA continues to have the responsibility to implement the CAA throughout Indian Country. EPA awards financial support and encourages tribes to partner with EPA to carry out CAA protections within reservations and tribal communities.

CONTACT: Mehrdad Khatibi ● 206-553-1603 ● khatibi.mehrdad@epa.gov

EPA Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grants

DUE DATE: March 28.

Wetland Program Development Grants assist state, tribal, local government agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in building programs to protect, manage and restore wetlands. States, tribes, local governments, interstate associations, and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply for the Regional WPDG Request for Proposals.

Nonprofits, interstate associations and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply for the National WPDG RFPs. WPDGs provide eligible applicants an opportunity to conduct projects that promote the coordination and acceleration of research, investigations, experiments, training, demonstrations, surveys and studies relating to the causes, effects, extent, prevention, reduction and elimination of water pollution.

The WPDG solicitation is held on a biennial cycle for multiple years of funding. This means a grant solicitation will go out once every two years. Please take note of this and plan your upcoming project budgets accordingly.

For more information, go to

https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/wetland-program-development-grants.

Please contact one of the below listed state or program coordinator:

Regional WPDG Coordinator:

Yvonne Vallette ● 503-326-2716 ● vallette.yvonne@epa.gov

Regional/Tribal Set-Aside: Linda Storm ● 206-553-6384 ● storm.linda@epa.gov

Alaska: Mark Douglas: ● 907-271-1217 ● douglas.mark@epa.gov

Idaho: Charissa Bujak ● 208-378-5754 ● bujak.charissa@epa.gov

Oregon: **Yvonne Vallette** ● 503-326-2716 ● vallette.yvonne@epa.gov

Washington: Annie Whitley ● 206-553-0058 ● whitley.annie@epa.gov

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EPA Community-Scale Air Toxics Ambient Monitoring Grant

DUE DATE: March 22.

The EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards issued a **R**equest for **P**roposals for air toxics monitoring. The RFP is for projects designed to assist state, local and tribal communities in identifying and profiling air toxics sources, assessing emerging measurement methods, characterizing the degree and extent of local air toxics problems, and tracking progress of air toxics reduction activities. The total available is about \$4 million and information is available online at http://go.usa.gov/x9hRf.

Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act Credit Assistance

DUE DATE: April 10.

The **W**ater Infrastructure **F**inance and Innovation **A**ct of 2014 established the WIFIA program, a federal credit program administered by the EPA for eligible water and wastewater infrastructure projects. Eligible borrowers are:

- Local, state, tribal, and federal government entities
- Partnerships and joint ventures
- Corporations and trusts
- ▶ Clean Water and Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (SRF) programs

For more information, visit www.epa.gov/wifia.

Training & Scholarships

Tribal Air Monitoring Technical Needs Assessment

DUE DATE: March 10.

The Tribal Air Monitoring center was created through a partnership between tribes, ITEP and the EPA. The TAMS Center provides technical training of tribal environmental professionals and technical assistance in obtaining and analyzing air quality data.

The TAMS center steering committee is conducting a technical needs assessment to better understand air quality technical support needs and priorities of tribes. The results will be shared at the 2017 National Tribal Forum. The link to the questionnaire is available online at: http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tamsNA. EXIT

CONTACT: **TAMS Center** ● 702-784-8278

Composting Programs and Tribal Food Sovereignty

March 21-23, Tucson, AZ

This ITEP course is designed for tribes looking to divert food waste from their communities or facilities and who may that want to use compost to grow food or traditional plants. For more information, go to http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste. EXIT

CONTACT: Julie Jurkowski ● 928-523-9404 ● Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu

- 7

Air Pollution Technology (Level 2)

March 13-17, Flagstaff, AZ

This ITEP course provides an overview of the science of air pollution and techniques of air quality management. It is an intensive training course with large-group lectures and discussions, laboratory activities and demonstrations, computer and problem-solving exercises, and small-group work. The pre-requisites or equivalent training/experience for this course are Introduction to Tribal Air Quality and Air Quality Computations.

Topics include: Emissions inventory, basic statistics and data analysis, air pollution meteorology, ambient air sampling and monitoring, basic dispersion modeling, air pollution control technology, air monitoring data management, and internet resources.

CONTACT: Pat Ellsworth ● 928-523-6721 ● Patricia. Ellsworth@nau.edu

Climate Change Adaptation Planning

March 14-16, Spokane, WA

This ITEP course will provide an introduction to planning for climate change impacts, highlighting the work of several tribes. The course is intended for tribal environmental and natural resource professionals who expect to be involved in climate change adaptation planning. ITEP will pay lodging costs and reimburse per diem for selected tribal participants. All participants are responsible for their own transportation costs. For more information, go to http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events. EXIT

CONTACT: Colleen Davis ● 928-523-6327 ● Colleen.Davis@nau.edu

Fundamentals of Air Monitoring

(For tribes in the lower 48)

April 4-6, Las Vegas, NV

This course will provide tribal environmental professionals with a basic understanding of how to develop and conduct an air monitoring project. It is designed as an overview and will not include exhaustive detail of each topic. The course will focus on criteria air pollutants, as well as monitoring requirements for those seeking National Ambient Air Quality Standard designations from their monitoring projects. It will also include information about meteorological monitoring and air toxics. Air monitoring equipment will be available for hands-on activities.

For more information, visit https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_aq_fam. EXIT



EPA air monitoring station near Harrah, WA

Tribal Underground Storage Tank 'Boot Camp'

April 25-27, Pala, CA

ITEP is pleased to announce a special training for tribal staff working on Underground Storage Tank issues that will be conducted by the Oneida Nation and other entities. Appropriate, effective responses to releases from UST systems are essential to protect valuable natural resources of a tribal nation. The course will provide an overview of federal regulatory requirements for operating and maintaining a UST system, leak detection methodologies, reporting requirements, selecting contractors and implementing appropriate response actions. A field exercise will be used to demonstrate the functional components of a UST system, various release scenarios and identifying appropriate release responses. For more information, go to www.nau.edu/itep. EXIT

CONTACT: Todd Barnell • 928-523-3840 • Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

May 1-4, Tucson, AZ

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality provides environmental professionals from tribes, EPA, and other organizations an opportunity to meet exchange ideas, and discuss current policies, regulatory initiatives, technical and outreach topics on air quality. The conference is coordinated by ITEP and the National Tribal Air Association through funding from EPA. For more information, go to http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf. EXIT

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CONTACT: **TAMS Center** ● 702-784-8278



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Climate Change

Regional Sea Level Rise Scenarios Help Communities Prepare for Risks

Sea level rise is occurring worldwide, but not at the same rate everywhere. New U.S. regional sea level rise scenarios developed by NOAA and partners (including EPA) will give coastal communities better, more localized data to help them plan for and adapt to the risk of rising sea levels to their economies and infrastructure.

NOAA researchers relied on the latest published and peer reviewed science to refine six global sea level rise scenarios, decade by decade for this century. The six scenarios are Low, Intermediate Low, Intermediate, Intermediate High, High, and Extreme.

Along much of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska coasts, sea level rise is projected to be less than the global average under the low-to-intermediate scenarios. For example, the rise would be 0.3 to 3.3 feet lower than the global rise under the intermediate scenario.

To view the full report, go to http://go.usa.gov/x9hRH.

Looking Forward: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate

The National Action Plan: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate was published in 2011 as the product of a federal interagency Water Resources and Climate Change Workgroup. Since then, member agencies (including EPA) have worked together to make notable progress in advancing understanding of climate change impacts on water resources and developing information and new approaches to adapt to these changes.

Interest in building resilience to extreme weather phenomena and other impacts of a changing climate has grown among state, tribal, and local communities. A new report, titled Looking Forward: Priorities for Managing Freshwater Resources in a Changing Climate, updates the 2011 National Action Plan. The participating federal agencies are reaffirming the importance of continuing to improve the Nation's ability to respond to the impacts of climate change on water resources.

The updated document includes three themes for priority action by federal agencies that are consistent with an October 2016 report by the White House, *Opportunities to Enhance the Nation's Resilience to Climate Change*. The themes are as follows:

- 1. Advancing and applying science-based information, technology and tools to address climate change risk.
- 2. Integrating climate resilience into federal agency missions, operations and culture.
- 3. Supporting community efforts to enhance resilience.

To view the full report, go to http://go.usa.gov/x9hR6.

Climate Change Webinars, Conferences and Trainings

For a calendar of climate change and water-related trainings, conferences and webinars, visit http://go.usa.gov/xg84F.

Calendar of Events

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March

- **7 9** Rural Alaska Landfill Operator. Anchorage, AK. http://bit.ly/2ic8Xox
- **13 17** Air Pollution Technology (Level 2). Flagstaff, AZ.
 - Pat Ellsworth 928-523-6721 Patricia. Ellsworth@nau.edu
- **14 16 Climate Change Adaptation Planning.** Spokane, WA. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/tcc/Home/Events
- **16** RTOC Conference Call. 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time. http://region10rtoc.net/
- 21 23 Composting Programs and Tribal Food Sovereignty. Tucson, AZ. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training waste
- **27 28** RTOC In-Person Meeting. Port Gamble, WA. http://region10rtoc.net
- 29 31 Tribal Leaders Summit. Suquamish, WA.
 - http://region10rtoc.net/index.php/sample-page

April

- **4 6 Fundamentals of Air Monitoring.** TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV. https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_aq_fam
- **11 13** Rural Alaska Landfill Operator. Anchorage, AK. http://bit.ly/2ic8Xox
- **18 20 7 Generations Environmental Planning**. Anchorage, AK. http://bit.ly/2iBcTSK
- **25 27 Tribal Underground Storage Tank "Boot Camp.**" Pala, CA. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste

May

- 1 4 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality. Tucson, AZ. http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_ntf
- 3 5 Qualifier Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling Training). Dillingham, AK. http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html





Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

Vol. 26 No. 3 – March 2017





Region 10 Tribal Program

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900, RAD-202 Seattle, WA 98101-3140

Got News?

The Region 10 Tribal Newsletter invites you, our readers, to submit ideas and articles for consideration and to share your successes and challenges. Photographs are also welcome as separate files in jpeg or other graphic format. Please submit articles and pictures to:

Don Creek

EPA, 805 SW Broadway, Suite 500 Portland, Oregon 97205

3 503-326-5015

email creek.don@epa.gov

Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:

http://go.usa.gov/xkdMv

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Kristine Carre, Tribal Coordinator...... 503-326-7024 Don Creek, SEE 503-326-5015

NORTHWEST WASHINGTON

REPORT SPILLS AND ACCIDENTS

NOTE THESE EMERGENCY NUMBERS TO CALL IN THE EVENT OF HAZARDOUS MATERIAL SPILLS OR ACCIDENTS:

ALASKA	800-478-9300
IDAHO	800-632-8000
OREGON	800-452-0311
WASHINGTON	
NATIONAL (EPA)	800-424-8802



To report environmental violation tips and Complaints to the EPA: www.epa.gov/tips.