

December 2024



U.S. EPA Office of Water

National Tribal Water Program Updates

News & Announcements

EPA Releases a Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Guide

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with coordinating support from the Federal Water Sub Cabinet Tribal Team, released a [Tribal Water & Natural Resources Conservation Guide](#) for Tribal environmental program managers and staff. This guide aims to provide resources to Tribal environmental programs about federal assistance opportunities that can support Tribally led efforts to protect and restore waters, protect air quality, protect wildlife and habitat, prepare for climate change and natural hazards, steward lands, and support and engage Tribal communities. This comprehensive resource guide includes:

- An introduction to federal assistance for new Tribal staff,
- Quick reference tables highlighting Tribal-specific funding and technical assistance programs,
- 10+ Tribal case studies highlighting how Tribal programs have completed conservation projects with federal assistance.
- Examples of federal planning frameworks and tools.

The EPA also published a [federal funding program inventory](#) as a supplement to the guide, available as a downloadable Excel Workbook that contains basic information about 150+ federal funding programs that can support Tribal conservation work.

The EPA is hosting a webinar, with presentations from federal and Tribal programs featured throughout the guide, on December 17, 2024 at 2:30 pm ET. [Register here.](#)

New Report Highlights Key EPA Accomplishments under National Strategy to Confront PFAS “Forever Chemicals” in Communities across the Country

The EPA has delivered bold and concrete actions to protect people from PFAS, or per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances, in their water and everyday lives while dramatically increasing investments in research and solutions. Specific actions and progress are detailed in [EPA’s third annual progress report](#), highlighting the significant achievements the agency has made under its PFAS Strategic Roadmap and the Biden-Harris Administration’s whole-of-government strategy to protect communities from the impacts of forever chemicals.

PFAS are an urgent threat to public health and the environment. Communities across the nation are discovering these chemicals in their air, land, and water. The science is clear: exposure to certain PFAS poses significant risks to human health, including cancer, even at very low levels. In 2021, the EPA Administrator Michael S. Regan established the EPA Council on PFAS and charged the group to develop the agency’s strategic roadmap. The roadmap is EPA’s commitment to confront PFAS contamination head on – by following the

science, leveraging all available tools and authorities, holding polluters accountable, and investing historic levels of resources to protect communities.

Progress on PFAS

- Protecting drinking water: In 2024, EPA announced the first-ever, nationwide, legally enforceable [drinking water standards](#) for PFAS. The final rule will reduce PFAS exposure for approximately 100 million people, prevent thousands of deaths, and reduce tens of thousands of serious illnesses. Since early 2021, EPA has also been undertaking the largest nationwide effort to understand the frequency that PFAS is found in drinking water, and at what levels. Under this program, EPA is collecting, and making publicly available, data on 29 different PFAS in drinking water at approximately 10,000 water systems nationwide.
- Investing in projects to address PFAS contamination in water: Through President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law, EPA is investing \$10 billion for removal of PFAS and other emerging contaminants from water. Most of this funding is helping communities to install new infrastructure and treatment technologies to address PFAS in drinking water. EPA also announced its [Fiscal Year 2024 funding allocations \(pdf\)](#) for EPA's Tribal infrastructure financing programs for PFAS and other emerging contaminants, including more than \$35 million for drinking water and \$4.5 million for clean water.
- Cleaning up PFAS contamination on lands: EPA is making sure that polluters pay for the cleanup of PFAS contamination. In 2024, EPA finalized a [critical rule designating PFOA and PFOS as hazardous substances](#) under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), also known as Superfund, to compel those most responsible for PFAS contamination to pay for cleanup, rather than taxpayers.
- Advancing chemical safety: EPA has taken action to harness the authorities of the Toxic Substances Control Act and other laws to protect people from PFAS and account for risks to vulnerable subpopulations. For example, EPA finalized a [rule to prevent inactive PFAS from reentering commerce](#). This stops companies from starting or resuming the manufacture or processing of 329 PFAS that have not been made or used for many years without a complete EPA review and risk determination. For PFAS that were previously reviewed, EPA has issued rules to ensure any protective restrictions are more broadly applicable to all manufacturers and processors of those chemicals.
- Safeguarding our waterways: EPA put critical building blocks in place for understanding and addressing PFAS in our nation's waters. EPA finalized the development of two critical methods for measuring PFAS in air, water, soil, and other environmental media. The agency finalized water quality criteria for PFOA and PFOS as well as benchmarks for other PFAS to protect aquatic life. EPA also released a recommended list of PFAS to monitor for state and Tribal fish and shellfish advisory programs.
- Pursuing enforcement and compliance: EPA established a clear PFAS Enforcement Discretion and Settlement Policy Under CERCLA to reinforce the agency's focus on significant contributors to the PFAS contamination challenge – and not on entities like farms or water utilities. EPA also instituted a new National Enforcement and Compliance Initiative, [Addressing Exposure to PFAS](#), to focus its resources and attention on enforcement actions that protect public health.
- Advancing our understanding of PFAS: EPA catalyzed numerous research and regulatory programs to collect and generate data on PFAS that will improve scientific understanding of this large and diverse class of chemicals. EPA also developed, implemented, and refined the agency's [National PFAS Testing Strategy](#), which is building information on categories of PFAS to inform future decisions. These efforts complement an ongoing and rigorous research agenda.
- Reducing PFAS in products and purchasing: EPA has taken significant action to reduce PFAS uses in commerce through efforts to remove PFAS as a class of chemicals rather than only a few chemicals at a time. Additionally, EPA has ensured that PFAS are not intentionally added to Safer Choice-certified products and has removed PFAS from the list of inert ingredients approved for use in nonfood pesticide products. The agency also joined the General Services Administration (GSA) in taking action to [cut PFAS from U.S. government custodial contracts](#).

[Read the PFAS Strategic Roadmap - EPA's Commitments to Action 2021-2024.](#)

EPA Releases A Compendium of Tools and Methods to Estimate Environmental Benefits for Nature-Based Solutions

The EPA released [A Compendium of Tools and Methods to Estimate Environmental Benefits for Nature-Based Solutions](#). The EPA defines nature-based solutions as actions that protect, conserve, restore and sustainably manage natural or modified ecosystems. They use natural features or processes to address public health and environmental challenges while providing multiple benefits to people and nature.

Nature-based solutions may include protecting natural features to preserve ecosystem function (e.g., wetlands, forest, riparian areas and coral reefs) or planning, design and maintenance of engineering practices that restore, use or enhance natural processes (e.g., green infrastructure, agricultural conservation practices and coastal restoration). The environmental benefits of nature-based solutions may be of particular interest when considering hazard mitigation and offsetting the impacts of land use change. The compendium identifies open-source tools and methods that can be used to estimate and communicate environmental benefits related to water quantity, climate mitigation, air quality, ambient air temperature reduction and habitat management.

Grantees and sub-grantees of the *Clean Water Act* [Section 319 Grant Program](#) and the *Bipartisan Infrastructure Law* [Gulf Hypoxia Program](#) and others can use this resource to estimate and communicate environmental benefits for planning level activities. Planning activities may include watershed-based planning, decision making, grant writing, and the communication of environmental benefits to other stakeholders. The compendium highlights tools for both restoration and protection nature-based solutions implemented in urban and agricultural settings.

EPA Releases Climate Change Considerations When Prioritizing, Development, and Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads

The EPA released the document titled [Climate Change Considerations When Prioritizing, Developing, and Implementing Total Maximum Daily Loads](#) to support states, territories and Tribes as they work to protect and restore their waters. The document provides examples and a selection of approaches for incorporating climate change considerations into TMDL processes that can be used individually or in combination, depending on each TMDL's circumstances.

Under Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act, states, territories and authorized Tribes develop lists of impaired waters, are required to establish priority rankings and develop total maximum daily loads. A TMDL includes a calculation of the maximum amount of a pollutant that a waterbody can receive and still meet applicable WQS, and an allocation of that amount to the pollutant's sources. Climate change impacts affect water quality pollutants, attainment of water quality standards and the processes involved in establishing TMDLs. For more information, see [EPA's website for Section 303\(d\) Lists and TMDLs](#).

EPA's Watershed Academy Releases a New Learning Module - the Clean Water Act through an Environmental Justice Lens

The EPA released a new learning module that looks at the [Clean Water Act through an environmental justice lens](#). Developed by the EPA's Watershed Academy, the module explores the CWA as a guiding framework to highlight water equity challenges and watershed management opportunities. It explains the basics of environmental justice, provides a brief overview of 10 cornerstone CWA programs that drive surface-water quality protection and outlines clear opportunities for the public to engage in the CWA process.

For more than 25 years, the Watershed Academy platform has provided free webinars,

tools, training and information on a comprehensive range of topics including watershed ecology, watershed change, analysis and planning, management practices, watershed law and the human element of watershed management. Visit the [Watershed Academy website](#) learn more about this new module and other resources.

EPA releases National Strategy to Prevent Plastic Pollution: Part Three in a Series on Building a Circular Economy for All

In the **Strategy**, the EPA identifies actions that businesses; academia; industry; nongovernmental organizations; federal, Tribal, state, local and territorial governments; and consumers can take in the United States to eliminate the release of plastic waste into the environment, including our waterways and the ocean. The EPA also outlines interventions across the entire plastic life cycle to reduce the U.S. contribution to plastic pollution, including actions that stakeholders safeguarding water resources can help implement.

Public Engagement Opportunities

EPA Issues Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Protect Salmon from 6PPD-Quinone, a Chemical Used in Rubber Products

The EPA issued an advance notice of proposed rulemaking (ANPRM) under Section 6 of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to gather information on the potential risks associated with N-(1,3-Dimethylbutyl)-N'-phenyl-p-phenylenediamine (6PPD) and its transformation product, 6PPD-quinone. In August 2023, the Yurok Tribe, the Port Gamble S'Klallam Tribe and the Puyallup Tribe of Indians submitted a [petition under TSCA Section 21 asking EPA to establish regulations \(pdf\)](#) under TSCA Section 6 prohibiting the manufacturing, processing, use and distribution of 6PPD in tires. [EPA granted this petition in November 2023](#) and committed to publishing an ANPRM by Fall 2024 in order to gather more information that could be used to inform a subsequent regulatory action.

The chemical 6PPD has been used in motor vehicle tires for more than six decades to make them more durable. It can also be found in other rubber products such as footwear, synthetic turf infill and playgrounds. 6PPD reacts with ozone pollution in the air to form a transformation product called 6PPD-quinone, which may be present in stormwater runoff from parking lots and streets due to the presence of tire wear particles. Runoff may be washed into streams and other bodies of water during rain events. As a result, aquatic organisms can be exposed to 6PPD-quinone. Concentrations of 6PPD-quinone in stormwater in the Pacific Northwest were found to be lethal to coho salmon after only a few hours of exposure.

The EPA is issuing an ANPRM to solicit information on the chemicals, including but not limited to: environmental effects on aquatic and terrestrial ecosystems, potential human health effects, environmental fate and transport, exposure pathways, persistence and bioaccumulation, additional uses of 6PPD, and releases from consumer products such as sneakers, playgrounds, rubber-modified asphalt, reused tire or other rubber products. EPA is also seeking comment and information related to alternatives to 6PPD, as well as potential chemical transformation products associated with potential alternatives. For example, there are data showing that 6PPD-quinone is toxic to fish, with coho salmon being the most sensitive species studied to date. However, there are still uncertainties about the potential impacts of 6PPD-quinone on human health, as well as the potential for exposure from other sources of 6PPD-quinone.

The EPA has also developed a webpage on [6PPD and 6PPD-quinone](#) to keep the public and stakeholders updated as research progresses, alternatives are identified, and ways to mitigate the effects of the chemicals on the environment are implemented.

The EPA will accept written comments on the ANPRM for 60 days following publication on November 19, 2024 via [docket EPA-HQ-OPPT-2024-0403 at Regulations.gov](#).

Learn more and read the [Advanced Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for 6PPD](#).

National Tribal Water Council Seeks New Members to Represent Region 6 and At-Large

The [National Tribal Water Council](#) is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water. The Council is currently accepting applications from Tribal water professionals to fill open positions for Region 6 and At-Large. Applications will be accepted until the positions are filled.

Region 6 Representative

This position is open to Tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or Tribally authorized organization from Region 6 (Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas).

Member duties include, but not limited, to:

- Participating in monthly virtual calls;
- Attending semi-annual in-person meetings; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

At-Large

The position is open to Tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or Tribally authorized organization from the United States (Regions 1 through 10).

The NTWC is seeking individuals that are passionate and vocal about Tribal water issues. Interested applicants must submit the following: application form, letter of interest, and professional resumé.

Please refer to the Council's [membership application information packet](#) for additional details. To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu.

Funding & Technical Assistance Opportunities

The FY2025 Tribal Nonpoint Source Management NOFO is Still Open! Applications are Due December 11, 2024

The EPA issued the [FY2025 Funding Opportunity for Indian Tribes and Intertribal Consortia for Nonpoint Source Management Grants Under Clean Water Act Section 319](#) on September 23, 2024. Federally recognized Tribes with treatment-as-a-state approval under Clean Water Act Section 319 are eligible to apply; eligibility information and additional information on this competition is available on the [EPA Tribal NPS website](#). As in past years, the funding available through this funding opportunity is to support Tribal projects focused on implementing on-the-ground best management practices that will help protect or restore waters from nonpoint sources of pollution. Applicants may request up to \$125,000 in federal 319 funds through this solicitation. As part of the EPA's effort to increase equity within the NPS program, a portion of competitive grant funding will be reserved for Tribal competitive grant applicants that have not been awarded a competitive grant under this solicitation in the past 5 years. Applications are due December 11, 2024.

Key Dates:

- **December 11, 2024: *Application Deadline*** Applications must be submitted electronically to the EPA through [Grants.gov](#) by 11:59pm EST in order to be considered for funding. Late applications will not be considered for funding.
- **February/March 2025:** The EPA anticipates announcing final selections under this competition in late winter 2025.

Answers to [frequency asked questions](#) for this grant are available on the [EPA's Tribal NPS website](#); additional questions may be submitted to tribal319grants@epa.gov.

EPA Accepting Letters of Interest for WIFIA and SWIFIA Loans

On September 6, the EPA announced the availability of [\\$7.5 billion of Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act \(WIFIA\) funding](#). The WIFIA program offers long-term loans to help communities implement critical water infrastructure projects, which protect public health, deliver environmental benefits, create over 60,000 good-paying jobs, protect waterways including drinking water sources, and support local economies, at a lower cost.

The WIFIA program provides its borrowers with creative, affordable financing options. It can fund the planning, design, and construction of a wide range of water infrastructure projects and offers the ability to combine multiple projects into a single loan. By streamlining the funding process, communities can accelerate their infrastructure projects. The WIFIA program offers interest rate resets, debt structuring, and fast disbursements, benefits not traditionally offered with other financing sources. For example, borrowers may defer repayment for up to five years following construction completion, and then customize their repayment schedule through the 35-year loan term. This flexibility provides borrowers with immediate funding to implement projects while helping to keep rates more affordable.

This is the eighth round of funding available, and it includes \$6.5 billion available through WIFIA and \$1 billion available through the State Water Infrastructure Financing Authority, known as SWIFIA. **EPA is now accepting [letters of interest](#) for WIFIA and SWIFIA loans.**

For this round of funding, EPA has identified the following priority areas:

- Increasing investment in disadvantaged communities and improving health and livability.
- Making rapid progress on lead service line replacement.
- Addressing PFAS – known as “forever chemicals” – and emerging contaminants.
- Strengthening climate resilience in the water sector.
- Supporting water innovation and resilience.

To learn more about how to apply, please see the [EPA's Getting Started with the WIFIA Program website](#). Learn more about the [WIFIA program](#) and this [funding announcement](#).

EPA Funding Opportunities and Information

Check out available EPA funding opportunities on [Grants.gov](#).

Information about other EPA funding opportunities can be found at the links below:

- [EPA Grants](#)
- [Tribal Drinking Water Grants](#)
- [Federal Water and Wastewater Resources for Tribes](#)
- [Water Finance Clearing House](#)
- [Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center](#)
- [Water Research Grants](#)
- [Drinking Water Grants](#)
- [Funding Sources for Small and Rural Water Systems](#)
- [Green Infrastructure Funding Opportunities](#)
- [Federal Funding for Water and Wastewater Utilities in National Disasters](#)

Trainings, Tools, Workshops & Webinars



Environmental Finance Center Network Webinar Series: Getting Grant Ready for Tribes

This 6-part series is designed to equip Tribal Nations with essential tools and insights needed to navigate the complex world of grant writing and funding. From identifying the right funding opportunities to developing a budget narrative, each webinar will guide you step-by-step through the critical processes for securing federal and other types of funding. Whether you're new to grant writing or looking to refine your skills, this series will provide the insights, strategies, and guidance you need to enhance your funding success.

- October 29, 2024: [Identifying Funding Needs and Finding Opportunities](#)
- November 5, 2024: [Cracking the Code: Navigating RFAs, NOFOs, and Federal Forms](#)
- November 14, 2024: [Crafting Powerful Logic Models for Project Success](#)
- December 3, 2024: [Strengthening Proposals with the Right Data](#)
- December 10, 2024: [Milestones, Metrics, and Measurements](#)
- December 17, 2024: [Developing a Budget and Budget Narrative](#)

Monthly Exchange Network Forum

The [Exchange Network Forum](#) is a monthly online venue to discuss how to improve and better use the Exchange Network's services and partnerships to share information among EPA, States, Tribes, and Territories. The Forum will convene on the second Thursday of each month from 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern. The minutes and recording from previous EN Forum webinars are [available online](#).

These gatherings will provide an opportunity for Exchange Network partners to:

- Learn about important Exchange Network information and updates;
- Share challenges and opportunities to improve the Exchange Network's collaborative model, communication channels, and technical framework; and
- Learn about innovative ways EPA, States and Tribes are using the Exchange Network.

Webinar Details

- Date: Thursday, January 9, 2025
- Time: 1:00-2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
- Registration: Please note that starting in September 2024, the EN Forum has moved from Zoom to MS Teams. To request a calendar invitation for the monthly EN Forum with the new MS Teams information, please send an email to ExchangeNetwork@epa.gov.

For more information about the Exchange Network Forum, please contact Alex O'Neill with EPA's Office of Information Management at Oneill.Alexander@epa.gov.

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series: Participatory Science Resources & Opportunities at EPA

The EPA's Office of Research and Development hosts this free monthly public webinar series to translate EPA research and share research resources and information that are useful, practical/applied and available to meet stakeholders' research needs. In addition, the EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series provides in-depth overviews and step-by-step tutorials on popular EPA science-based models and tools. Webinar dates and topics are subject to change. For more information, please see the [EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Wednesday, December 11, 2024
 - Time: 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 - [Registration](#)
-

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series: Lead Chemistry, Communication, and Local Engagement

The EPA's Office of Research and Development and Office of Water, in collaboration with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators, host this free webinar series to communicate the latest information on solutions for challenges facing small drinking water systems. The series topics vary each month and are primarily designed for state, territory, and tribal staff responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting. Others may also benefit from the webinars, including water system operators, technical assistance providers, NGOs, local government personnel, academia, and private sector.

Webinars are typically held on the last Tuesday of the month from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. ET with an optional Q&A session from 3:00 to 3:30 p.m. ET. For more information, please see the [Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Tuesday, January 28, 2025
 - Time: 1:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 - Registration will be posted on the website.
-

EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series: ECOTOX Knowledgebase and PFAS Updates

The EPA's Office of Research and Development hosts this free bimonthly public webinar series to provide in-depth overviews and step-by-step tutorials on popular EPA science-based models and tools. Webinars are typically held bimonthly on the first Thursday from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. (ET). For more information, please see the [EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series website](#).

Webinar Details

- Date: Thursday, December 5, 2024
 - Time: 3:00-4:00 p.m. Eastern Time
 - Registration: Registration information will be available on the [EPA Tools and Resources Training Webinar Series website](#) at a later date.
-

EPA Creating Resilient Water Utilities (CRWU) Initiative's National Webinar Series on Climate Impacts and Solutions for the Water Sector

US EPA's CRWU Initiative is excited to offer a new webinar series focusing on the real experiences of drinking water and wastewater utilities dealing with climate- and weather-related impacts and vulnerabilities, funding challenges and workable solutions. Hear how other utilities are using CRWU's tools and information. The webinar series is FREE. Participants have the option of attending all four sessions, or just the ones most relevant to their situation.

Please note that continuing education units (CEUs) are not available for this webinar series, but supporting documentation can be provided to attendees choosing to approach their state organizations.

Session 1: Utility Success Stories Roundtable, Tue, Dec 3 @ 1-3 PM ET

Session 2: Climate Impacts Panel, Thu, Dec 5 @ 1-3 PM ET

- [Register Here](#)

- [Register Here](#)

Tribal Consultation Opportunities

Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts

The EPA is initiating a 90-day consultation and coordination process with federally recognized Tribes and Indian Nations on the EPA's Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts (Framework), released in draft form. This draft Framework is a foundation for EPA to develop consistent approaches for incorporating cumulative impacts into EPA's programs. The purpose of this Framework is to inform EPA staff and decision-makers to improve how the Agency protects human health and environment to prevent future harm by identifying, analyzing, and addressing cumulative impacts. EPA is building on significant experience at the Agency and across the country as Tribes, Indian Nations, communities, municipalities, states, and federal programs devise methods and employ fit-for-purpose approaches consistent with existing information and data availability to analyze and consider cumulative impacts in actions or decisions that directly affect peoples' lives.

EPA anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination period is expected to extend from Thursday, November 21 to Friday, February 21, 2025. During this period, three identical, 90-minute informational sessions will be conducted.

- Monday, December 9, 2024, 3:00pm-4:30pm ET. Join the first informational session at this zoom link:
https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_03uUBByPTSC2bIRtAKiedA
- Wednesday, January 15, 2025, 1:00pm-2:30pm ET. Join the second informational session at this zoom link:
https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_eR21zX0aTIqP_bfjahQxIQ
- Thursday, January 30, 2025, 2:00pm-3:30pm ET. Join the third information session at this zoom link:
https://usepa.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_EccClx90TsSEKJ7-rF54PA

The notification letter is available on [EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System \(TCOTS\)](#) at <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

You can [visit EPA's website](#) to access the Interim Framework, a fact sheet, and additional information on providing public comments on the Framework.

<https://www.epa.gov/cumulative-impacts>

Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Proposed Revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts

The EPA is [initiating consultation](#) with federally recognized Tribes to obtain input on the agency's forthcoming Proposed Revisions to National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts, in accordance with the requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act and other applicable statutes. The EPA is developing proposed revisions to these National Primary Drinking Water Regulations to improve public health protection by reducing drinking water exposure to microbial contaminants and disinfection byproducts.

Under the Safe Drinking Water Act, the EPA sets public health goals and enforceable

standards for drinking water quality. [National Primary Drinking Water Regulations](#) include legally enforceable maximum contaminant levels or treatment techniques that apply to public water systems. Maximum contaminant levels or treatment techniques are established to protect public health by limiting the levels of contaminants in drinking water to the extent feasible. The agency is in the process of evaluating potential regulatory options to develop proposed revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts, including potential revisions to treatment techniques, monitoring, and public notification requirements. The Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts rules currently require some water systems to conduct monitoring, implement treatment, or take other actions to reduce microbial and DBP risks and communicate with customers. The proposed revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts may adjust how some public water systems conduct monitoring to determine the level of disinfectant residual and/or disinfection byproducts in their drinking water. Further, some water systems may have to implement new or additional treatment or other actions to reduce microbe and/or disinfection byproducts levels in their drinking water and to communicate with their customers about levels of microbes and disinfection byproducts in their drinking water. The EPA is requesting your input on considerations to inform the development of proposed revisions to these National Primary Drinking Water Regulations and potential regulatory requirements. Additional information can be found on the [EPA's Potential Revisions of Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts Rules website](#).

This consultation process will be conducted consistent with the [EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes](#) and the [Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights](#). The EPA's anticipated timeline for the consultation period is expected to extend from **November 1, 2024 to December 31, 2024**.

Questions about proposed revisions to the National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for Microbial and Disinfection Byproducts can be directed to Rachel Gonsenhauser, U.S. EPA, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water at 202-564-3256, or email at gonsenhauser.rachel@epa.gov. Please submit written comments to MDBPRevisions@epa.gov. More information can be found on the [Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System \(TCOTS\) website](#).

- [Notification of Consultation Letter](#)
- [Consultation and Coordination Plan](#)

All EPA Tribal consultation materials including letters and consultation plans are available on EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS).

To search information on a consultation action [click here](#).

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ABOUT

The National Tribal Water Program Updates is a monthly e-newsletter created to provide time-sensitive information and important engagement opportunities and activities of interest for Tribes related to the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act. Included information may pertain to: Tribal consultations, funding announcements, training opportunities, future meetings and conferences, and recent news and announcements from the Agency.

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