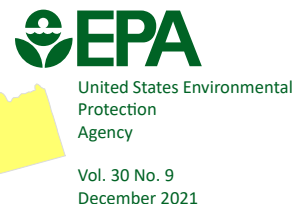


The Tribal Newsletter is
issued free each month.
[https://go.usa.gov/
xXNnW](https://go.usa.gov/xXNnW)

Region 10 Tribal Newsletter



EPA provides some external links in this newsletter for informational purposes only. EPA cannot attest to the accuracy of non-EPA information provided by any third-party sites or any other linked site. EPA does not endorse any non-government websites, companies, internet applications or any policies or information expressed therein.

Top News

Outcomes from White House Tribal Nations Summit

In November, alongside national tribal leaders and federal partners at the 2021 White House Tribal Nations Summit, EPA announced a renewal of its commitment to the Tribal Treaty Rights Memorandum of Understanding and the renewed Sacred Sites Memorandum of Understanding.

The [MOU](#) calls for early consideration of tribal treaty and reserved rights in agency decision-making, for tribal treaty and reserved rights to be integrated in agencies' ongoing work to address the climate crisis, and for strengthening agency tribal consultation policies. The revised Tribal Treaty Rights MOU replaces the current MOU, which is set to expire in December 2021. This revised MOU will expire in 2031.

Also highlighted at the panel discussion was the expansion of signatories and renewal of the Sacred Sites MOU, of which EPA is now a signatory. This MOU is a result of interest in proactive work by federal agencies to protect tribal sacred places, and allows signatories to leverage each other's resources, expertise, and products. This MOU was first executed in 2012, renewed in 2016, and now expires in 2024.

Under the White House Council on Native American Affairs, EPA serves as the co-lead for both the Climate Change, Tribal Homelands, and Treaties Committee and the International Indigenous Issues Committee. As part of EPA's deliverables on the Climate Change, Tribal Homelands, and Treaties Committee, EPA is consulting and partnering with tribes on our Climate Adaptation Plan. Read the full [press release](#) for more details about the outcomes of the White House Tribal Nations Summit.

Pop Quiz

How can you reduce waste and energy during the holiday season?

- a. Use reusable cloth shopping bags.
- b. Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper.
- c. Send recycled content greeting cards or electronic greetings.
- d. Make homemade goods or bake cookies and package them in recycled or reusable containers.
- e. Give Energy Star certified products as gifts.
- f. All of the above.



See the answer on [page 18](#).

EPA and Army Take Action to Provide Certainty for the Definition of WOTUS

Last month, EPA and U.S. Department of the Army announced a proposed rule to re-establish the pre-2015 definition of “**Waters Of The United States**” which had been in place for decades, updated to reflect consideration of Supreme Court decisions. This action advances the agencies’ goal of establishing a durable definition of WOTUS that protects public health, the environment, and downstream communities while supporting economic opportunity, agriculture, and other industries that depend on clean water.

This proposed rule would support a stable implementation of “waters of the United States” while the agencies continue to consult with states, tribes, local governments, and a broad array of stakeholders in both the implementation of WOTUS and future regulatory actions.

Recent court decisions have reinforced the need for a stable and certain definition of WOTUS. The U.S. District Courts for both Arizona and New Mexico have vacated the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. In light of the court actions, the agencies have been implementing the pre-2015 regulatory regime nationwide since early September 2021. This action is an important step because it would solidify the rules of the road for a stable implementation of “waters of the United States” while the agencies continue to consult with stakeholders to refine the definition of WOTUS in both implementation and future regulatory actions.

The proposed rule would maintain the longstanding exclusions of the pre-2015 regulations as well as the exemptions and exclusions in the Clean Water Act on which the agricultural community has come to rely.

EPA and the Army conducted extensive pre-proposal engagement, including federalism and tribal consultation, to help inform the content of the proposed rule. The agencies are taking comment on this proposed rule for 60 days beginning on the date it is published in the Federal Register.

Congress enacted the Clean Water Act in 1972 with the statutory objective “to restore and maintain the chemical, physical, and biological integrity of the Nation’s waters.” One of the Act’s principal tools in achieving that objective is a prohibition on the discharge of pollutants from a point source to “navigable waters” unless otherwise authorized under the Act.

“Navigable waters” are defined in the Act as “the waters of the United States, including the territorial seas.” Thus, “waters of the United States” (WOTUS) is a threshold term establishing the geographic scope of federal jurisdiction under the Clean Water Act. The term “waters of the United States” is not defined by the Act but has been defined by EPA and the Army in regulations since the 1970s and jointly implemented in the agencies’ respective programmatic activities.

On July 30, 2021, the agencies announced stakeholder engagement opportunities, including the agencies’ intent to host ten regionally focused roundtables. The agencies are hosting virtual public hearings on the following dates and times. Please click on the link for the respective date to register in advance:

- [January 12](#) at 7 a.m. Pacific Time
- [January 13](#) at 11 a.m. Pacific Time
- [January 18](#) at 2 p.m. Pacific Time

For more information on submitting written comment on the proposal or participating in the virtual public hearings, visit the [Waters of the United States](#) website or read the [press release](#).

Next Steps in Process to Protect Bristol Bay Watershed

EPA announced a timeframe for the agency to consider new information available to determine next steps in the Bristol Bay Clean Water Act Section 404(c) process for the Pebble Deposit (Pebble Mine) in Southwest Alaska. If a CWA 404(c) determination is finalized, it would help protect waters over the long term that are essential to commercial, subsistence, recreational fisheries and other activities that support Alaska Natives and communities in the state.



On October 29, the Alaska District court ruled in favor of EPA's request to remand and vacate the agency's August 30, 2019 withdrawal of its [2014 Bristol Bay Proposed Determination](#) issued under CWA Section 404(c) (2014 PD). This ruling reinstated the 2014 PD, reinitiated the CWA Section 404(c) process, and triggered regulatory deadlines.

CWA 404(c) regulations require EPA to either withdraw the 2014 PD or prepare a Recommended Determination "within 30 days after the conclusion of the public hearing." Upon a showing of "good cause," EPA can extend the regulatory deadline through a notice in the Federal Register. EPA's [Federal Register Notice](#) extends this timeline until May 31, 2022. An extension of the regulatory timeline will allow EPA to consider available information, including the substantial volume of new information that has become available since the agency issued the 2014 PD, to determine appropriate next steps in the 404(c) process. EPA will provide notice of any public review and comment opportunity that may be determined to be appropriate as part of next steps in this process.

Bristol Bay supports commercial, subsistence, and recreational fisheries that are worth hundreds of millions of dollars each year and create thousands of jobs. Bristol Bay's fishery resources have supported a subsistence-based way of life for Alaska Natives for more than 4,000 years. The Bristol Bay watershed is an area of exceptional ecological value with salmon fisheries unrivaled anywhere in North America. The region's streams, wetlands, lakes, and ponds provide essential habitat that support all five species of Pacific salmon found in North America: coho, chinook, sockeye, chum, and pink. The salmon populations are critical to the health of the entire ecosystem, which is home to more than 20 fish species, 190 bird species, and more than 40 terrestrial mammal species, including bears, moose, and caribou.

The CWA generally requires a Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to authorize a discharge of dredged or fill material into certain streams, wetlands, lakes, and ponds. Section 404 directs EPA to develop the environmental criteria used to make permit decisions. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers authorizes thousands of Section 404 permits every year, and EPA works with the Corps and developers to resolve environmental concerns so that projects can move forward. Section 404(c) also authorizes EPA to prohibit or restrict fill activities if EPA determines a discharge would have an unacceptable adverse effect on certain resources.

EPA has used its Section 404(c) authority sparingly, issuing final determinations only 13 times in the CWA's 50-year history. The agency's use of the authority has typically involved major projects with significant impacts on some of America's most ecologically valuable waters. To learn more, check out EPA's [Bristol Bay](#) website or read the [news release](#).

Funds Awarded to Two Tribal Organizations to Test for Lead in Drinking Water

EPA granted the [Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium](#) \$184,000 and the [Northwest Portland Area Indian Health Board](#) \$445,000 from the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to identify sources of lead in drinking water in tribally operated schools and childcare facilities. Lead is particularly dangerous to children because their growing bodies absorb more lead than adults, and their brains and nervous systems are more sensitive to the damaging effects of lead.

ANTHC's approach in assisting rural schools and childcare facilities to combat lead exposure will be multifaceted. To start, they plan to test drinking water in rural school districts and childcare facilities, where most Alaska Native student populations live. ANTHC will provide education about lead exposure to the participating rural school districts and childcare facilities.

The NPAIHB is a non-profit tribal advisory organization serving the forty-three federally recognized tribes of Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. WIIN Act funds will support drinking water lead testing in tribally operated schools and childcare centers across the three states as part of the Board's comprehensive outreach and community engagement effort to reduce childhood lead exposure. These facilities also include the Native American Indian Head Start and Early Head Start Centers, which serve thousands of children.

Participating schools and childcare facilities in both the ANTHC and NPAIHB projects will use EPA's [3Ts \(Training, Testing, and Taking Action\) for Reducing Lead in Drinking Water in Schools](#) to implement lead in drinking water testing programs to include identifying sources of lead such as fountains.

Under EPA's Voluntary Lead Testing in Schools and Child Care grant program, the agency is providing approximately \$4.3 million to participating tribes and tribal consortia nationwide. The funding supports the creation or expansion of programs to test for lead in drinking water at schools and child-care programs in tribal communities and states. Learn more about this grant and EPA's [drinking water grant programs](#) on the Ground Water and Drinking Water website. To learn more about lead and resources to help prevent exposure, check out EPA's [Lead](#) website.

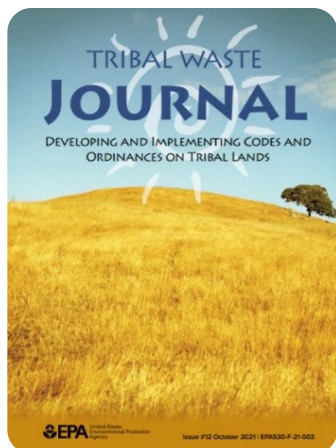
New Region 10 Tribal Grant Closeout Webpage

A new webpage was recently added to the EPA Region 10 Tribal website that covers grant closeout requirements – [Tribal Grant Closeouts in Region 10](#). EPA determines that projects funded by a grant or cooperative agreement are completed through a closeout.

Closeouts are due for completion within 120 of the end of the grant's project period. For many grant recipients on a fiscal year calendar, that means the closeout will be due by January 30, 2022. Please note that closeouts are only due for Indian Environmental General Assistance Program or Performance Partnership Grants at the end of the multi-year grant period (not annually).

The new webpage covers a description of the reports that Region 10 tribal grant recipients need to submit and best practices to complete the process. Please check with your [project officer](#) if you have questions about closeout requirements or deadlines.

EPA's Tribal Waste Journal Features Two Alaska Tribes



Developing and Implementing Codes and Ordinances on Tribal Lands is the title of the October 2021 issue of EPA's [Tribal Waste Journal](#). The issue discusses why waste codes are important and provides examples from tribes who have developed them, including two tribes from EPA's Region 10.

The issue features the Pueblo of Jemez's Successful Code Development Process (New Mexico); the Ekwok Village Council's Waste and Construction Debris Codes (Alaska); Plastic Bag Ban of Metlakatla Indian Community (Alaska); Preserving Tribal Traditions: Addressing Automobile Abandonment in the Yurok Tribe (California); and Solid Waste Act of the Santee Sioux Nation (Nebraska).

National Tribal Water Council Seeks Applications for New Members

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 two open membership positions which includes a Region 10 representative. This is open to tribal water professionals from Region 10, which includes the following states: Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington. Please note: the NTWC currently has two representatives from the State of Alaska, thus seeking applicants primarily from Idaho, Oregon, or Washington.



Member duties include reviewing and discussing water-related issues in Indian country, assisting the NTWC in informing tribes on a wide variety of water issues, participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rule making actions, and participating in monthly conference calls and attending bi-annual meetings. The Council is seeking individuals that are passionate and vocal about tribal water issues.

Application deadline is **December 31**. Interested applicants must submit an application form, letter of interest, and professional resume. Please refer to the Council's [membership application information packet](#) for additional details. For more information, please contact **Elaine Wilson** at 480-452-6774 or elaine.wilson@nau.edu.

Clean Air Act 50th Anniversary Workgroup Report

In October, the Clean Air Act Advisory Committee submitted to EPA a report from the Clean Air Act's 50th Anniversary Workgroup. The [Clean Air Act Advisory Committee](#) is a Federal Advisory Committee of senior managers and experts from state, tribal, and local government, environmental and public interest groups, academics, industry, and others that advise the EPA on issues related to implementing the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

The report includes sections on Tribal and Environmental Justice. Each of these sections covers challenges, successes, opportunities, and recommendations. The tribal section recommendations include tribal capacity and improving government-to-government consultation with tribes. Check out the full report on the [Final CAA 50th Anniversary Workgroup Report](#) website.

Wildfire Smoke Monitoring Loan Program



EPA's Office of Research and Development has three different air monitoring technologies available for loan to state, local, and tribal air organizations to support supplemental air monitoring in areas affected by wildfire smoke and with observational data coverage gaps.

The equipment available for loan include PurpleAir Sensors, ThingyAQ Sensor System, and the Vehicle Add-on Mobile Monitoring System. EPA will provide technical support information along with the loaned air monitors and provide remote troubleshooting support.

Details are available on EPA's [Wildfire Smoke Air Monitoring Response Technology Pilot](#) website. To participate, please complete the [online request form](#). If you have questions, please contact **Will Wallace** at 206-553-2495 or Wallace.will@epa.gov.

Apply for a Presidential Student or Teacher Environmental Award

EPA is accepting applications for the 2022 President's Environmental Youth Awards and Presidential Innovation Awards for Environmental Educators. Applications are due **February 18**.

PEYA recognizes outstanding environmental stewardship projects from students in grades K-12, by promoting environmental awareness and encouraging community involvement. PIAEE recognizes outstanding K-12 grade educators who integrate environmental, place-based experiential learning into school curricula and school facility management across the country. The White House Council on Environmental Quality, in partnership with EPA, administers the PIAEE awards program.

EPA is seeking applications for projects on a variety of environmental topics, including climate change, water infrastructure, lead in drinking water, projects that reduce food waste in school cafeterias, environmentally friendly agriculture practices, reducing and preventing human contributions to ocean litter, school gardens, recycling, and using STEM to teach environmental education. Details on how to apply are on the EPA's [President's Environmental Youth Award](#) and [Presidential Innovation Award for Environmental Educators](#) websites.

EJ Video Challenge for Students



EPA and co-sponsors launched the Environmental Justice Video Challenge for Students to enhance communities' capacity to address environmental inequities. The goals of the challenge are to inspire students at accredited colleges and universities in the U.S. and its territories to work directly with communities in the identification and characterization of EJ challenges using data and publicly available tools, and help communities address EJ challenges and/or vulnerabilities to environmental and public health hazards using data and publicly available tools.

In Phase 1, students will submit a video that demonstrates innovative approaches to identify and characterize an EJ issue in a community using data and publicly available tools. Challenge participants will have a chance to win up to \$20,000, as well as other additional benefits. Phase 1 submissions are due **April 1, 2022**. To learn more about how to apply to the challenge, check out EPA's [Environmental Justice Video Challenge for Students](#) website.

RTOC



R
T
O
C

The Region 10 **R**egional **T**ribal **O**perations **C**ommittee is a partnership between EPA and elected tribal representatives to further tribal environmental objectives at the regional level, serve as a liaison between the EPA and tribes regarding information exchange, and provide assistance to the National Tribal Operations Committee.

Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit

Virtual Event

Rescheduled for March 2-4

Registration open!

For speaker bios, a tentative agenda, or submit a presentation at R10tels.com



The Region 10 RTOC has a great line-up for the rescheduled virtual Tribal Environmental Leaders Summit this spring! The event will be broadcast from a new venue at the Northwest Museum of Arts and Culture with exhibit *Awakenings: Traditional Canoes and Calling the Salmon Home*. The MAC, in collaboration with the United Tribes of the Upper Columbia tells the story of the annual Columbia River Canoe Journey – from the purchase of old growth cedar logs and carving the dugouts to the annual launch and landing at Kettle Falls - through contemporary and historic canoes supported by the words of those who have experienced it.

Register on the [TELS website](https://R10tels.com). If you register by **February 4**, you will receive a cultural project and conference materials by mail. The RTOC is excited to see you at the summit!

Summary of Town Hall Meetings with Region 10 Tribes

The Region 10 RTOC has conducted five of seven Town Hall meetings with tribes in EPA's Region 10. The RTOC is grateful to the individuals who attended for providing insight on the priorities and environmental concerns across this vast region. To see meeting summaries, please visit the [Region 10 RTOC](https://R10tels.com) website. These priorities will help guide RTOC meeting agendas. As always, the RTOC welcomes continued and ongoing input from our tribes. If you have priorities to add, or wish to support any that are listed, email or call any RTOC representative or the RTOC Executive Director.

Stay Engaged with RTOC

- [Follow us on Facebook](#), [Twitter](#) and [Instagram](#) for the most up to date news and opportunities.
- If you wish to attend or add an item to a monthly meeting agenda, or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for how RTOC can better serve your community — please contact the [RTOC representative for your area](#).

CONTACT: **Randi Madison**, RTOC Administrator • randi@region10rtoc.net

Tribal Consultation

*A full list of consultation opportunities is available in
[EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#)*

Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review

END DATE: **January 14.**

The oil and natural gas sector is the nation's largest source of methane, a potent greenhouse gas, and is a leading source of smog-forming volatile organic compounds and air toxics such as benzene. The EPA's proposal would secure major climate and health benefits for all Americans by leveraging innovative technologies and proven, cost-effective solutions that major oil and gas-producing states and leading companies are already using to minimize or eliminate this harmful pollution.

EPA is proposing to expand and strengthen New Source Performance Standards for methane and VOCs from new, modified, and reconstructed oil and natural gas sources, and to establish the first Emission Guidelines requiring regulation of methane from hundreds of thousands of existing sources nationwide. If finalized as proposed, the EPA's rule would sharply reduce this pollution through rigorous requirements for pollution sources at new and existing facilities, including facilities that can be near the places where people live, work, and go to school.

An EPA analysis found that 112 unique tribal lands are located within 50 miles of an affected oil and natural gas source, and 32 tribes have one or more oil or natural gas sources on their lands. If you believe your tribe could be affected by these proposed actions, the EPA invites you to consult with the EPA prior to the agency issuing the final rule.

This proposal was published in the [Federal Register](#) on November 15. For more information about this proposed rule, check out EPA's [Controlling Air Pollution from the Oil and Natural Gas Industry](#) website.

CONTACT: **Toni Colon** • 919-541-0069 • colon.toni@epa.gov

Grants

WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

APPLICATIONS DUE: **December 9.**

The objective of WaterSMART's Environmental Water Resources Projects to invite eligible applicants to leverage their money and resources by cost sharing with Bureau of Reclamation on Environmental Water Resources Projects, including water conservation and efficiency projects that result in quantifiable and sustained water savings and benefit ecological values; water management or infrastructure improvements to mitigate drought-related impacts to ecological values; and watershed management or restoration projects benefitting ecological values that have a nexus to water resources or water resources management.

All applicants must be located in the Western United States or United States Territories (includes Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington). States, tribes, irrigation districts, and water districts; state, regional, or local authorities, the members of which include one or more

Continued ➡

⇒ Continued

Grants: WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects

organizations with water or power delivery authority; other organizations with water or power delivery authority; and nonprofit conservation organizations.

Funding of up to \$2,000,000 per agreement for a project completed within three years is available. Further details are available on the

[WaterSMART Environmental Water Resources Projects](#) website.

Brownfields State and Tribal Response Programs Fiscal Year 2022

FUNDING REQUESTS DUE: **December 17.**

Section 128(a) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA), as amended, authorizes a noncompetitive \$50 million grant program to establish or enhance state and tribal response programs. Generally, these response programs address the assessment, cleanup, and redevelopment of brownfields and other sites with actual or perceived contamination. State and tribal response programs oversee assessment and cleanup activities at brownfield sites across the country.

The four elements of a response program are as follows:

1. Timely survey and inventory of brownfield sites in state or tribal land.
2. Oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms and resources.
3. Mechanisms and resources to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation.
4. Mechanisms for approval of cleanup plans and verification and certification that cleanup is complete.

Details are available on EPA's [Funding Guidance for State and Tribal Response Programs Fiscal Year 2022](#) website. For information on how to submit your funding request, please contact **Madison Sanders-Curry** at 206-553-1889 or sanders-curry.madison@epa.gov.

USDA Solid Waste Management Grants

APPLICATIONS DUE: **December 31.**

This program reduces or eliminates pollution of water resources by providing funding for organizations that provide technical assistance or training to improve the planning and management of solid waste sites. Funds may be used to evaluate current landfill conditions to identify threats to water resources, provide technical assistance or training to enhance the operation and maintenance of active landfills, provide technical assistance or training to help communities reduce the amount of solid waste coming into a landfill, provide technical assistance or training to prepare for closure and future use of a landfill site.

Public bodies, nonprofits, tribes, and academic institutions may apply. Eligible areas are rural areas and towns with a population of 10,000 or less. Special consideration may be given for projects serving an area with fewer than 5,500 or fewer than 2,500 people; regional, multi-state or national areas; or lower-income populations. Details are available on the USDA Rural Development [Solid Waste Management Grants](#) website.

EPA Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grants – Mini Competition

GRANTS

APPLICATIONS DUE: **January 18.**

Wetland Program Development Grants assist state, territorial, tribal, local government agencies, and interstate/intertribal entities in developing or refining state, territorial, tribal, local programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands.

States, territories, tribes, local government agencies, interstate agencies, and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply. Colleges and universities that are agencies of a state government are eligible but must include documentation demonstrating that they are chartered as part of a state government in the application submission.

There will be two separate applicant tracks for eligible applicants. Eligible states, territories, and tribes can submit applications under either Track One or Track Two. Under Track One, states and tribes must submit applications for either: 1. carrying out grant-eligible actions from a current EPA-approved WPP or 2. developing or updating a WPP.

If a state or tribe submits any other type of application, they will be included and evaluated under Track Two. Eligible local governments, interstate agencies, intertribal consortia, and eligible colleges and universities that are agencies of a state government can only submit applications under Track Two. Applicants may submit more than one application under this Request for Applications. Each application must be separately submitted and be for a different project.

It is anticipated that approximately two to three awards will be made under Track One and approximately one to two awards will be made under Track Two. Awards will likely range from \$25,000 to \$200,000 in federal funds. Details will soon be available on EPA's [Region 10 Wetland Program Development Grant RFA](#) website.

Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program

APPLICATIONS DUE: **January 25.**

The National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and the Wildlife Habitat Council, in cooperation with EPA, USDA Forest Service, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FedEx and Southern Company are pleased to solicit applications for the 2022 Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration program.

The [Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#) seeks to develop community capacity to sustain local natural resources for future generations by providing modest financial assistance to diverse local partnerships focused on improving water quality, watersheds and the species and habitats they support.

Funding priorities include on-the-ground wetland, riparian, in-stream and/or coastal habitat restoration; meaningful education and training activities, either through community outreach, participation and/or integration with K-12 environmental curriculum; measurable ecological, educational and community benefits; and partnerships. Five Star projects should engage a diverse group of community partners to achieve ecological and educational outcomes.

Eligible applicants include non-profit 501(c) organizations, state government agencies, local governments, municipal governments, tribal governments and organizations and educational institutions. The request for proposals is available on the [NFWF Five Star and Urban Waters Restoration Grant Program](#) website *[Link opens a PDF]*.

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities

APPLICATIONS DUE: **January 28.**

FEMA's **Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities** program makes federal funds available to states, U.S territories, federally recognized tribal governments, and local communities for hazard mitigation activities. It does so with a recognition of the growing hazards associated with climate change, and of the need for natural hazard risk mitigation activities that promote climate adaptation and resilience with respect to those hazards.

FEMA will provide financial assistance to eligible BRIC applicants for capability and capacity building activities which enhance the knowledge, skills, expertise, etc. of the current workforce; mitigation projects; and management costs. Details are available on FEMA's [Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities](#) website.

Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program

APPLICATIONS DUE: **February 8.**

EPA has issued two requests for applications for the second round of Clean Water Act Section 123 Columbia River Basin Restoration Program grants. For basin-wide projects, applicants may apply under **both** the Lower Columbia River Estuary Request for Applications and the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin RFA.

Lower Columbia River Estuary:

EPA is issuing a Request for Applications from eligible entities to improve water quality in the Lower Columbia River Estuary, through specific actions to reduce toxics, increase monitoring, and/or increase public education and outreach. The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program will assist tribal, state, and local governments; nongovernmental entities, and others as they implement the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Plan - Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and conduct activities to support EPA national goals for the Columbia River Basin.

Eligible projects must address at least one of the following project categories: eliminating or reducing pollution; cleaning up contaminated sites; improving water quality; monitoring to evaluate trends; reducing runoff; protecting habitat; or promoting citizen engagement or knowledge.

EPA anticipates awarding about 15 cooperative agreements, ranging from \$75,000 to \$350,000 for the Lower Columbia River Estuary portion of the Basin. Eligible entities include state governments, tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts. The work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin and may include programs, projects, and studies.

Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin:

EPA is issuing a Request for Applications from eligible entities to improve water quality in the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin, through specific actions to reduce toxics, increase monitoring, and/or increase public education and outreach. The Columbia River Basin Restoration Program will assist tribal, state, and local governments; nongovernmental entities, and others as they implement the Columbia River Basin Toxics Reduction Action Plan and the Lower Columbia River Estuary Plan - Comprehensive Conservation and Management Plan and conduct activities to support EPA national goals for the Columbia River Basin.

Continued ➡

⇒ Continued

Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program

Eligible projects must address at least one of the following project categories: eliminating or reducing pollution; cleaning up contaminated sites; improving water quality; monitoring to evaluate trends; reducing runoff; protecting habitat; or promoting citizen engagement or knowledge.

EPA anticipates awarding about 15 cooperative agreements, ranging from \$75,000 to \$350,000 for the Middle and Upper Columbia River Basin portion of the Basin. Eligible entities include state governments, tribal governments, regional water pollution control agencies and entities, local government entities, nongovernmental entities, or soil and water conservation districts. The work must be for the purpose of environmental protection and restoration activities within the Columbia River Basin and may include programs, projects, and studies.

Both of the Requests for Applications and further details are available on EPA's [Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program](#) website.

An informational webinar will be offered on **December 14** at 9:30 a.m. Pacific Time. The webinar link will be posted on the [Columbia River Basin Restoration Funding Assistance Program](#) website.

Alaska Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup Service

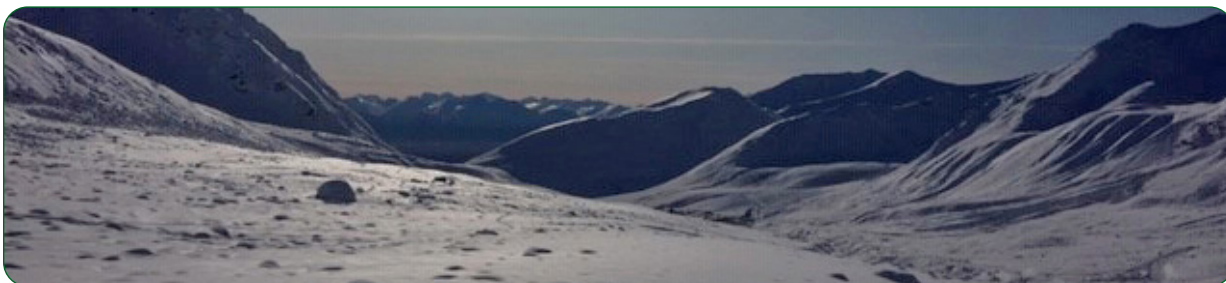
APPLICATIONS DUE: **February 11.**

The Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation works closely with communities across Alaska to identify, assess, and cleanup brownfields to put those properties back into productive use. By assisting Alaskan tribes, native corporations, municipalities, and non-profits in conducting environmental site assessments and cleanups at brownfield sites, **DEC Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup** services help identify and reduce the environmental uncertainties or improve actual conditions.



Using funds from the EPA, DEC will conduct Brownfields Assessment and Cleanup projects at eligible properties in Alaska. The DBAC is competitive statewide (instead of nationwide like the competitive EPA grants) and is a service provided by DEC and not a grant program. The good news is that this means project work is completed by DEC and its contractors, and you wouldn't have to worry about completing required paperwork or manage a grant!

Details on the application process are available on the [DEC Brownfields Technical Support](#) website. If you have a site in mind and have questions about eligibility, or if you would like DEC to review your application before you submit a final version, please contact **Marc Thomas** at 907-465-0571 or marc.thomas@alaska.gov.



FY 2023 Indian Environmental General Assistance Program (GAP)

PROPOSALS DUE: **February 18.**

EPA provides Indian Environmental General Assistance Program funds to tribal governments and intertribal consortia to assist in planning, developing, and establishing the capacity to implement federal environmental programs administered by EPA and to assist in implementation of tribal solid and hazardous waste programs that are consistent with applicable provisions of law, including the Solid Waste Disposal Act (which was amended by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or RCRA). EPA administers this program in accordance with the *Indian Environmental General Assistance Program Act of 1992*.

Applicants may request funding between \$75,000 and \$125,000 for FY 2023, depending on program need and existing balances. Tribes with large reservations may request a higher level of funding. For Umatilla, Spokane, and Quinault, funding may be up to \$150,000. For Coeur d'Alene, Nez Perce, Shoshone Bannock, and Warm Springs, funding may be up to \$160,000. For Colville and Yakama, funding may be up to \$170,000.

Applicants who cannot meet the February 18 deadline because of COVID-19 impacts must email an extension request to their EPA Tribal Coordinator no later than **February 7**, describing their situation and to establish a submission date.

Details and the FY 2023 Notice of Funding Availability is available on the EPA [Region 10 Tribal Environmental GAP Funding](#) website. If you have questions or concerns, please contact your EPA [Tribal Coordinator](#).

Clean Water Act Water Pollution Control Program Section 106 and Nonpoint Source Program Section 319

PROPOSALS DUE: **February 18.**

The Clean Water Act authorizes the EPA to provide financial assistance to tribes under the Water Pollution Control Program, Section 106 - and the **Nonpoint Source Program**, Section 319. EPA Region 10 is announcing the availability of grant funds to support 2023 activities.

Section 106 Tribal Program

The CWA Section 106 program provides financial assistance for maintaining adequate measures for prevention and control of surface and ground water pollution from point and nonpoint sources. The program funds water quality management program activities including watershed assessments, water quality planning, standards development, monitoring and assessments, inspections and enforcement, permitting, training, advice and assistance to local agencies, and public information. It also funds participation in program activities related to the restoration of impaired watersheds.

The CWA Section 106 program can only fund activities within the reservation or on lands held in trust for the tribe (tribal trust lands), or that impact waters upstream of these areas. If you are proposing to use funds outside of these areas, you must explain in your work plan the relationship of these activities to waters on the Reservation or tribal trust lands.

Currently 40 tribes within EPA Region 10 are eligible to receive CWA Section 106 funds. Region 10 anticipates awarding approximately \$3.5 million to up to 40 tribes.

Continued ➡

Clean Water Act Water Pollution Control Program Section 106 and Nonpoint Source Program Section 319

⇒ Continued

Details, including the Funding Announcement are available on the [Region 10 Clean Water Act Section 106 Tribal Program Funding](#) website.

Section 319 Tribal Program

EPA provides grants and technical assistance to support tribal environmental programs in assessing and managing nonpoint source pollution problems and threats. A wide range of activities are eligible for funding under §319, including but not limited to: NPS training for tribal staff, developing watershed-based plans, riparian planting, livestock exclusion fencing, lake protection and restoration activities, NPS ordinance development, outreach and education, and many more.

Tribes and intertribal consortia must meet the following four conditions to be eligible to apply for CWA section 319 funding:

1. Be federally recognized by the Secretary of the Interior.
2. Have an approved NPS assessment report in accordance with CWA section 319(a).
3. Have an approved NPS management program in accordance with CWA section 319(b).
4. Be approved for treatment in a similar manner as a state in accordance with CWA section 518(e).

Base Funding:

Base funding amounts are the same as previous years at either \$30,000 or \$50,000 depending on the size of your reservation and trust lands. Your work plan must align with and flow from your tribe's approved NPS Assessment Report and NPS Management Program. If these documents are more than five years old, include a task in your work plan to update the schedule of milestones at a minimum.

Competitive Funding:

If your tribe is eligible for base funding, then it is eligible to submit a proposal for up to \$100,000 in competitive funding.

Details and related documents are available on the [Region 10 Clean Water Act Section 319 Tribal Program Funding](#) website.

CONTACT: **Krista Mendelman** • 206-553-1571 • mendelman.krista@epa.gov



Training & Technical Assistance

T R A I N I N G

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with EPA. Any links to websites outside of EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.

Alaska IGAP Grant Training

December 7-10, Virtual

A virtual Indian Environmental General Assistance Program grant workshop for Alaska Tribes will be conducted by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. The workshop will focus on mentor networking, IGAP workplan and budget development for FY 2023, strong management practices, strategic planning, and advanced program development, including new and sustainable approaches during COVID-19. Register on the [Alaska IGAP Training](https://app.inevent.com/ANTHC/2021IGAPTraining) website.



EPA Office of Water Tribal Data Webinars

December 13-17, Virtual

Water quality data is a powerful tool for understanding and communicating the quality of waters in Indian Country. EPA's Water Data Integration Branch is hosting a week of webinars highlighting various tools and techniques for processing, analyzing, and communicating tribal data. See the details below for each and email [Laura Shumway](mailto:laura.shumway@epa.gov) to sign up.

How to Own and Simplify Your Data Process for Clean Water Act 106 Requirements

December 13 at 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time

This session will focus on ways to make data management and publishing a part of your water quality program process. It will include preparing for data before you receive it, how to organize it once you have it, working with your labs to receive formats you need and how to meet 106 requirements for loading data to the Water Quality Exchange).

Preparing Data for Analysis

December 13 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

This session will provide an overview of **Water Quality Portal** data discovery, cleaning, and exploration. For data discovery, we will cover how to find relevant WQP data profiles and we will then discuss data cleaning steps to consider when preparing data for inclusion in analysis – such as joining data profiles, filtering, unit/speciation conversions, outlier detection, location accuracy, and other quality control checks.

Article continues on next page ➡

[↪ Continued](#)

EPA Office of Water Tribal Data Webinars

Using Microsoft Access to Query/Manipulate Data

December 14 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

This session will provide an overview of Microsoft Access. Access is a relational database that can be used through a Microsoft license and it can be leveraged for data management, query, and data manipulation. The session will focus on how to bring data into Access and answer common question tribes have about their data such as: What are the summary statics for each of my waterbodies; explore relationships between data; make data corrections, translations, and conversions; and find and flag erroneous data.

Presenting Data Using Google Data Studio

December 15 at 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time

Google Data Studio is a free program that can be used to display and visualize water quality data. The session will demonstrate how to get started using the platform, how to import data, and how to get started doing visualizations with tribal water quality data.

How's My Waterway for the Classroom (for Tribal Youth in Classrooms)

December 16 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

How's My Waterway is an application meant to inspire people to act to protect and restore their waters, while communicating the progress states, territories, tribes, and EPA. The goal of this session is to demo the application to a tribal classroom, walk through an exercise to better understand water quality on their tribal lands and finish with a question and answer session with the tool developers. This session is limited to one tribal classroom – first come, first served.

Utilizing a Common Hydrography for Water Quality Programs

December 17 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time

This session will provide an overview of what a common hydrography is, the types of hydrography you can use for your program, examples of why we want to use a common hydrography and applications developed using common hydrography.

To sign up for any of the above webinars, please email **Laura Shumway** at Shumway.laura@epa.gov and identify the webinar titles you are interested in attending.

ITEP 2022 Student Summer Internship

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University offers Student Summer Internships for Native American students, and the opportunity for tribal environmental offices, EPA offices, and other tribal environmental organizations to host a college student.

The purpose of the internship programs is for students to gain hands-on skills with EPA or other governmental and tribal environmental offices. The 8-week, paid internships have an air quality research, technical, educational, or policy focus. Some internships will be local, and some may be virtual. The internship programs are funded by a grant from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

Details are on ITEP's [Student Summer Internship](#) website. The deadline is **February 1**.

Drone Pilot Training

February 1-3, Anchorage, AK or Virtual

This class, hosted by the Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council will prepare you to take the FAA Part 107 exam to become a certified drone pilot. The class is geared towards people who are serious about using a drone professionally, instead of flying drones recreationally.

If you would like to use a drone for your GAP program, or any other federally funded grant program, this certification is required. In order to fly a drone professionally you need to pass the FAA test to demonstrate you know the 'rules of the sky', similar to a pilot's ground school. This class will cover what you need to know to take that test. You will need to make arrangements on your own to take the test at an approved FAA testing center.

Study manuals will be provided. We will discuss what to expect and how to get registered for the test. Additionally, we will provide a flying demonstration to show how to set up the drone for flight and how the controllers work. If attendees are able to join in person, we will practice flying drones in a nearby park.

YRITWC member tribes will be given priority for attendance.

To sign up, contact **Maryann Fidel** at 907-258-3337 or mfidel@yritwc.org.

Alaska Forum on the Environment

February 7-10, Virtual

The 2022 [Alaska Forum on the Environment \(AFE\) Conference](#) will feature more than 40 technical sessions, 4 keynote speakers, virtual exhibitor booths, daily films, and an after-hours meet and greet. Topics will include climate change, science, contaminated sites, cleanup and remediation, emergency preparedness, marine debris, and more. AFE 2022 will be a virtual event, hosted on the Alaska Connect online training platform in partnership with Knik Tribe. Included with registration are biweekly virtual technical sessions through December 2022.

Developing and Implementing Tribal Solid Waste Codes and Ordinances Training

February 7-10, Virtual

March 9, Virtual

April 18-21, Virtual

This Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals virtual course with online assignments and follow-up workshop will focus on the writing and implementation of effective tribal solid waste codes. It has been developed for tribal environmental professionals without law experience, yet all level of experience, other tribal staff, and council members are welcome.

Each tribe that completes the training will receive legal and technical staff support via phone, email and/or web-based meeting communication and shall include one-on-one assistance in developing their codes and ordinances through April 23, 2022. Complete attendance is required to receive legal and technical staff support and a certificate.

The course will be limited to twenty-five participants and is competitive. A notice of confirmation and fact sheet with additional course details will be sent to those who are selected to attend the course. An [application form](#) is available online. Applications are due by **January 14**. If you have questions, please contact **Julie Jurkowski** at 928-523-9404 or Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu.

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

May 2-5, Tulsa, OK

The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality brings together environmental professionals from tribes, EPA, and other agencies and organizations to:

- Discuss current policy initiatives;
- Explore up-to-date technology solutions; and
- Share practical knowledge and experiences from tribal air quality programs nationwide.

Hosted by the Muscogee Nation, a national conversation on how tribes are implementing the Clean Air Act in partnership with EPA to improve air quality in communities.

The planning committee is actively seeking proposals for presentations. Deadline for submissions is **January 15**.

Visit <https://bit.ly/3dchmWj> for information and instructions to submit an abstract proposal. To learn more and take a pre-registration survey concerning in-person or virtual participation, check out the [National Tribal Forum on Air Quality](#) website.



SAVE THE DATE!
MAY 2ND - 5TH, 2022
TULSA, OK

22ND CONFERENCE

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

Hosted by the Muscogee Nation, a national conversation on how Tribes are implementing the Clean Air Act in partnership with the US EPA to improve air quality for our communities.

Take the pre-registration survey [here!](#)

- Tribal Professional Development
- Information -sharing
- Networking opportunities
- Current regulatory initiatives
- Technical information
- Share practical knowledge relevant to Tribal programs

www.nau.edu/ntfaq

The NTFAQ is a cooperative endeavor co-sponsored by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) with funding made available by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the generous contributions of our sponsors.

NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION
THE MUSCOGEE NATION
Support Center

T
R
A
I
N
I
N
G

Pop Quiz Answer from Page 1

How can you reduce waste and energy during the holiday season?

- Use reusable cloth shopping bags.
- Wrap gifts in recycled or reused wrapping paper.
- Send recycled content greeting cards or electronic greetings.
- Make homemade goods or bake cookies and package them in recycled or reusable containers.
- Give Energy Star certified products as gifts.
- All of the above.**



For ideas on reducing waste, check out EPA's [Reducing Waste: What You Can Do, Tips for the Holidays](#) website or the [Energy Star Holiday Gift Guide](#).

Calendar of Events

December

- 7** **National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call.**
11:00 a.m. Pacific Time <https://www.epa.gov/environmentaljustice/national-environmental-justice-community-engagement-calls>
- 7-10** **Alaska IGAP Grant Training.**
<https://app.inevent.com/ANTHC/2021IGAPTraining>
- 8** **EJSCREEN Tool Office Hours.** 9:00 a.m. Pacific Time
<https://www.epa.gov/ejscreen/ejscreen-office-hours>
- 8** **EPA's Section 128(a) State and Tribal Funding Program's Tribal Listening Session on the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.** 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
<https://www.epa.gov/tribal-lands>
- 13** **How to Own and Simplify Your Data Process for Clean Water Act 106 Requirements**
9:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Email **Laura Shumway** to sign up at Shumway.laura@epa.gov
- 13** **Preparing Water Quality Data for Analysis.** 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.
Email **Laura Shumway** to sign up at Shumway.laura@epa.gov
- 14** **Columbia River Basin Restoration Program Funding Informational Webinar.**
9:30 a.m. Pacific Time • <https://www.epa.gov/columbiariver/columbia-river-basin-restoration-funding-assistance-program>
- 14** **Using Microsoft Access to Query/Manipulate Water Quality Data.**
11:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Email **Laura Shumway** to sign up at Shumway.laura@epa.gov
- 15** **Presenting Water Quality Data Using Google Data Studio.** 10:00 a.m. Pacific Time
Email **Laura Shumway** to sign up at Shumway.laura@epa.gov
- 16** **How's My Waterway for the Classroom (for Tribal Youth in Classrooms).**
11:00 a.m. Pacific Time. Email **Laura Shumway** to sign up at Shumway.laura@epa.gov
- 17** **Utilizing a Common Hydrography for Water Quality Programs.** 11:00 a.m. Pacific Time.
Email **Laura Shumway** to sign up at Shumway.laura@epa.gov
- 22** **How to Make an ASAP.gov Payment Request.**
11:00 a.m. Pacific Time • <https://fiscal.treasury.gov/asap>

Continued next page with January and February ⇨

⇒ Continued

Calendar of Events

January

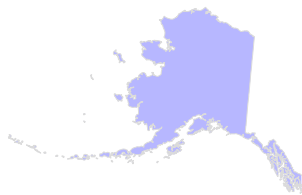
- 12** **Waters of the United States Public Hearing.**
7:00 a.m. Pacific Time • <https://bit.ly/3rvwGpl>
- 13** **Waters of the United States Public Hearing.**
11:00 a.m. Pacific Time • <https://bit.ly/3ltDXSQ>
- 18** **Waters of the United States Public Hearing.**
2:00 p.m. Pacific Time • <https://bit.ly/3luwj12>
- 24-27** **Alaska Marine Science Symposium**
<https://alaskamarinescience.org>
- 25** **LEO Network Alaska Winter Webinar.**
2:00 p.m. Alaska Time • <http://www.leonetwork.org>
- 26** **Superfund Redevelopment Mapper Training.**
10:00 a.m. Pacific Time • <https://clu-in.org/conf/tio/superfund-redevelopment>

February

- 1-3** **Drone Pilot Training.** CONTACT: Maryann Fidel at 907-258-3337 or mfidel@yritwc.org
- 7-10** **Alaska Forum on the Environment** • <https://akforum.org>
- 7-10** **Development and Implementation of Tribal Solid Waste Codes and Ordinances Training.** <https://bit.ly/3pozgec>

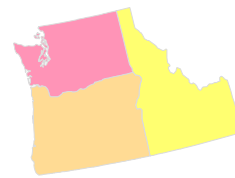
Links to websites outside of EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. We cannot attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites, nor does EPA endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.





Region 10 Tribal Newsletter


Vol. 30 No. 9 –December 2021



Region 10 Tribal Program

1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 155, Mail Stop 12-D12
Seattle, WA 98101

Got News?

Got News? Please send submission ideas to
 R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov

For Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance

ALASKA: **Jim Penor** • 907-500-4963

IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON:
Rick McMonagle • 503-326-6363

Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:
<http://go.usa.gov/xkdMv>

**Smoke Communications and burn bans on
NW Reservations under Federal Air Rules
for Reservations**
<https://bit.ly/EPA-FARR>

EPA on Facebook:
<https://www.facebook.com/EPARegion10>

Follow us @EPAnorthwest on Twitter!
<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>

Tribal Trust and Assistance Branch Staff

Adam Baron, Manager (206) 553-6361

ALASKA

Tia Allen, Tribal Coordinator..... (206) 553-1815

Todd Bender, Tribal Coordinator (206) 553-0344

Katherine Brown, Tribal Coordinator (206) 553-7263

Susan Conbere, Tribal Coordinator (206) 553-6243

Michelle Davis, Tribal Coordinator (907) 271-3434

Sherry Davis, Tribal Coordinator (907) 271-6322

Kristy Fry, Tribal Coordinator (206) 553-1085

Santina Gay, Tribal Coordinator..... (907) 271-3413

Sophie Manaster, Tribal Coordinator (206) 553-1965

Catherine Vila, Grants Coordinator (206) 553-1544

Cathy Villa, Tribal Coordinator..... (907) 271-1270

Jim Zokan, Tribal Coordinator..... (208) 378-5772

IDAHO, OREGON, and WASHINGTON

Kristine Carre, Tribal Coordinator..... (503) 326-7024

Mahri Lowinger, Tribal Coordinator (907) 271-6334

Michael Ortiz, Tribal Coordinator..... (206) 553-6234

Lucas DuSablón, Tribal Coordinator (206) 553-2987

Report Spills and Violations

In the event of an oil spill, release of hazardous materials, or accident that may lead to an immediate threat to human health or the environment, please call **911**. Then, report it to EPA's **National Response Center** by calling **1-800-424-8802**.

To report a possible environmental violation, submit information online to the EPA at <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>.

