

Form for Evaluation of a Tribe's Solid Waste Management Program Capacity for Open Dump Cleanup (Closure) and Solid Waste Projects

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency - Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery
September 2023

Purpose: This Solid Waste Program Capacity Evaluation Form will be used by a tribe, with EPA support, to evaluate tribal waste management program capacity relevant to Indian Health Service criteria. The Indian Health Service will use information provided in this form to determine if a solid waste project is eligible for IHS funding.

Background: In 2017, the Department of Health and Human Services (represented by the Indian Health Service (IHS)) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) signed a [Memorandum of Understanding](#) (MOU) to “Improve Open Dump, Solid Waste Projects and Programs in Indian Country.” In this MOU, EPA committed to conducting “regular assessments, evaluations and reporting on tribal government solid waste management programs, including effectiveness to reduce open dumping activities in Indian country.”

To meet this commitment to support IHS projects to address open dumps, EPA has used a tribal program assessment process centered on the form below. EPA has revised this form to update the Capacity Indicators so they are based on the September 2022 Capacity Indicators for EPA's Indian Environmental General Assistance Program <https://www.epa.gov/system/files/documents/2022-09/GAP%20Capacity%20Indicators%202022.pdf>. IHS has also expanded the scope of projects for which they seek collaboration with EPA to provide a tribal waste management program capacity evaluation (consistent with the September 2019 IHS [Sanitation Deficiency System \(SDS\): A Guide for Reporting Sanitation Deficiency for American Indian and Alaska Native Homes and Communities](#)).

Process Steps:

1. If the IHS Area Office determines that a tribal waste management program capacity evaluation is necessary, IHS Area staff will contact the tribe when an SDS project is being considered for funding to initiate the evaluation form process. IHS will briefly describe the SDS project and contact the appropriate EPA regional staff for awareness.
2. The tribe then completes the Capacity Indicator Evaluation Description column on Page 2 of the Form. After the tribe completes the Capacity Indicator Evaluation Description and indicates whether the Capacity Indicator has been met, the tribe will send the form to their EPA Regional office for review and completion of the evaluation. If the Tribe has completed the Capacity Indicators, IHS may choose to request these documents be sent to the relevant IHS Area Office directly.
3. The EPA Region sends the completed evaluation form to IHS Area Office.

TRIBAL WASTE MANAGEMENT PROGRAM EVALUATION FORM

IHS Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS) Project Description:		
To be completed by the Tribe and/or EPA Regional Office		
<p>EPA Contact's Name and Region:</p> <p>Tribe's Name:</p> <p>Tribal Contact Person (if available):</p> <p>Name of Project and Brief Description:</p>		
<p>Instructions:</p> <p>For each Capacity Indicator provide a brief description of relevant tribal activities and confirm whether the tribe meets the completed Capacity Indicator (Yes or No). It is recommended that the tribe complete both Capacity Indicators.</p>		
Capacity Indicators (CI)	Status of Action/Relevant Tribal Activities	Capacity Indicator Met
Based on GAP-RCRA 01.02 Tribe has completed an Integrated Waste Management Plan (IWMP ¹) (required for IHS funding eligibility)		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No
Based on GAP-RCRA 01.04 Tribe has established waste management laws, codes, and/or regulations.		<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No

¹ Also referred to as an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan (ISWMP)

Statement from EPA Region (__) to IHS Regarding Verification of a Tribal Solid Waste Management Program Capacity Evaluation

Instructions: After a tribe or EPA Region completes the evaluation form above, the EPA Region will use the message language below to summarize findings by filling in the Region number above, and the blanks below. Please include the tribe's name in the subject line. When complete, the EPA regional office will send the statement and the completed form (page 2) as an attachment to the IHS area office that corresponds to the location of the tribe and copy the tribal contact.

Date:

To: Indian Health Service (Name of) Area Office

Attention, IHS Staff Contact:

RE: Verification of Tribal Solid Waste Management Program Evaluation for (Tribe's Name)

In accordance with the requirements of the *Sanitation Deficiency System (SDS), A Guide for Reporting Sanitation Deficiencies for American Indian and Alaska Native Homes and Communities*, this memorandum confirms that EPA has verified that the Tribal Waste Program Capacity Evaluation Form for the Tribe has been completed.

From: (EPA Region and Branch):

Name of EPA Regional Staff: