

Tribal Infrastructure Task Force (ITF) Principals Meeting
Primary Topics Discussed
December 17, 2024

Topics Discussed

- Welcoming Remarks & Introductions (ITF Co-Chairs)
- Background of the National Tribal Water Council and its work to identify and address the needs of Tribal utilities (NTWC Chairman)
- ITF Agency Updates
 - Indian Health Service (IHS)
 - Sanitary Deficiency System (SDS) data
 - Budget Levels
 - Increased project costs due to inflation
 - Number of tribal homes with increased water services
 - Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
 - Drinking water compliance
 - Recent funded projects
 - Drinking water operator knowledge and skills
 - U.S. Dept. of Agriculture (USDA)
 - Budget levels
 - Technical assistance
 - Outreach
 - Housing and Urban Development (HUD)
 - Streamlining environmental reviews for tribal homes
 - Recent tribal consultation
 - HUD/IHS engagement
 - Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
 - Budget levels
 - Recent BOR/IHS MOU
 - BOR's WaterSMART program
 - Native American water rights settlements
 - Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)
 - Minimal budget for water infrastructure construction
 - Technical assistance support services
 - Recent Legionella efforts
 - Household cistern surveys
 - U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
 - Budget levels
 - Funding for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) & lead service lines (LSL) replacements
 - Technical assistance
 - Drinking water compliance
 - Solid waste and recycling infrastructure activities
- Discussion and Next Steps (Action Item Topics)
 - EPA's anticipated 8th Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey

- NTWC's upcoming proposed white paper on the challenges facing Tribally owned water utilities

Participants

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)

- Judith Wilson, Director, Office of Facilities, Property and Safety Management
- Scott Sufficool, Program Chief, IA Public Health and Safety Program

Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)

- Jeffrey Morris, Program Manager, Native American and International Affairs Office
- Kelly Titensor, Native American Affairs Advisor
- Courtney Mathews, Native American Affairs Advisor

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

- CAPT Troy Ritter, Environmental Health Officer
- Erik Svendsen, Director, Division of Environmental Health Science and Practice
- Brian Hubbard, Researcher, Division of Emergency and Environmental Health Services

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)

- Yu-Ting Guilaran, Deputy Director, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water (OGWDW)
- CAPT Samuel Russell, Tribal Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Coordinator and Tribal Lead and ITF Coordinator
- Wynne Miller, Deputy Director, Office of Wastewater Management (OWM)
- Matthew Richardson, Tribal Lead and ITF Coordinator, OWM
- Carolyn Hoskinson, Director, Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery (ORCR)

U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)

- Amber Hunter, Division Director, Grants Evaluation, Northern Plains Office of Native American Programs (Northern Plains ONAP).
- Danielle Schopp, ONAP Environmental Clearance Officer

Indian Health Service (IHS)

- RADM Mark Calkins, Director, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

National Tribal Water Council (NTWC)

- Ken Norton, Chairman
- Shaun Livermore, Member

U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA)

- Steven Polacek, Water Programs Director, Water Programs Division