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U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

Strengthening Partnerships to Improve Tribal Waste Management

Dolly Tong

U.S. EPA Region 5 Tribal Solid Waste Coordinator

tong.dolly@epa.gov

312-886-1019



Overview

- Problem Statement
- Elements of Waste Management
- EPA Tribal Waste Priorities
- Federal Coordination
- Meeting Outcomes



Problem Statement

- **Chronic lack of funding to build tribal capacity**
- **Rural challenges**
- **Jurisdictional issues**
- **Lack of EPA enforcement authority under RCRA**



What is Integrated Waste Management?

The practice of using several alternative waste management techniques to manage and dispose of specific components of the waste stream.



Common Elements in Tribal Waste Management Capacity

- Long-term waste management plan
- Waste ordinance enforced
- Infrastructure for waste reduction, collection, recycling, storage, cleanup, disposal



Tribal Integrated Waste Management Planning

- Think long-term
- Interface with other tribal planning
- Encourage partnerships and community involvement in the planning process



EPA Region 5 Priorities

- **Build tribal capacity for waste management**
- **Reduce waste generated on tribal lands**
- **Ensure tribal compliance with RCRA and other regulations**



Midwest MOU Workgroup

- Includes staff from EPA, BIA, IHS, USDA, USGS, ACE, FEMA
- MOU workgroup encourages tribal feedback
- USDA an important partner in tribal waste management



Partnerships are Key

- **BIA – Incorporate waste management into Tribal Integrated Resource Management Plans, NEPA training**
- **HUD – Bridge Tribal Designated Housing Entities with tribal environmental departments to address waste issues with housing and community planning and development**
- **IHS – Inventory open dumps and compile GPS and environmental health information**
- **USFS – Coordinate illegal dumping enforcement/prevention strategies and other waste issues on FS/tribal shared boundaries**
- **USDA – Provide support for waste infrastructure, training, and other capacity building**



Summary

- Many challenges in sustaining effective tribal waste management programs.
- A long term integrated waste management plan can help guide the path towards building a tribe's waste management capacity.
- Coordinating efforts among federal partners can enhance tribal waste management.

