

EPA Report for November 26, 2012 RTOC

Communities and Ecosystems Division

Tribal Program Office

Consultation on GAP Guidebook

On November 16, 2012 the U.S. EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) opened the consultation period for the revised "Guidance on the Award and Management of General Assistance Agreements for Tribes and Intertribal Consortia" or GAP Guidebook. Tribes will have until February 22, 2013 to participate in consultation with the OITA. Interested Tribes can submit comments through the "submit comments" link on the webpage or in writing to the identified point of contact. For more information, please see the following web page:

<http://yosemite.epa.gov/oita/tconsultation.nsf/x/E3A0E8CB47255AD585257A8600606C3D?opendocument>.

GAP Solicitation Announcement

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, invites Indian Environmental General Assistance Program grant proposals from federally recognized tribal governments and eligible intertribal consortia for FY2014 work plan program development activities. The goal of the GAP is to assist tribes in developing the capacity to plan and establish environmental protection programs and to develop and implement solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with their individual needs. Please find the full text announcement at this link:

<http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/pdfs/tribal-gap/2013GapNotification.pdf>

Pesticides Office

IPM in Schools Workshop for Tribes in Region 9:

The Region 9 Pesticides Office is sponsoring an IPM in Schools Workshop for Tribes in Region 9. The workshop is scheduled for June 25-27, 2013 and will be held in the Phoenix area. The three-day workshop will include classroom instruction, exercises and a field trip to a school. We are checking into whether we can reimburse tribal attendees for qualifying travel expenses. For more information, contact: Marcy Katzin, (415) 947-4215 or katzin.marcy@epa.gov.

New Draft Policy from Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP):

In September, 2012, the EPA Office of Pesticide Programs issued a Draft Policy Statement on Pesticide Use Limitations in Indian Country. In the draft policy, OPP suggests three ways that tribes can influence pesticide registration and regulate pesticides on their Tribal lands. The document was provided to the Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) for feedback and is available for tribal review. To request a copy of the draft policy, contact: Marcy Katzin at (415) 947-4215 or katzin.marcy@epa.gov or Nina Hapner at Kashia Band of Pomo Indians, Stewarts Point Rancheria at (707) 591-0580 X107 or nina@stewartspoint.org.

Toxics Office

Children's Environmental Health

In FY13 our school environmental health team is prioritizing work to build capacity to improve environmental conditions in tribal schools. There are many simple, easy, low cost things that can be done. These are identified in the brochure "Sensible Steps to Healthier School Environments" (<http://www.epa.gov/region8/humanhealth/children/SensibleSteps.pdf>.) We plan to provide these brochures to tribal schools this year. At the back is a great checklist that you could work with your schools to go through. Talk to your EPA PO about using your GAP grants for these types of activities.

Air Division

Clean Air Act Funding

For FY 13, Region 9 awarded 31 Clean Air Act (CAA) grants for a total of \$3,097,475. Funding announcement for FY 14 will be posted in November, with proposals due in February 2013. Tribal CAA funding may decrease for FY 14.

Particulate Matter Standards

EPA proposed revisions to the particulate matter (PM) standards in June 2012. Under this proposal, the primary annual PM_{2.5} standard would be strengthened to 12-13 µg/m³ and a separate secondary 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard, 28 or 30 deciviews, would be created to improve visibility. The current primary 24-hour PM_{2.5} standard, 35 µg/m³ and primary PM₁₀ 24-hr standard, 150 µg/m³, will be retained. The existing secondary PM_{2.5} and secondary PM₁₀ standard will be retained.

The public comment period on the standards has closed. Final standards are expected December 2012. State and tribal recommendations will be due in December 2013. <http://www.epa.gov/pm/actions.html#jun12>

Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂) Air Quality Designations

Designations for the 2010 primary SO₂ standard are ongoing. EPA plans to complete Group 1, areas with monitors showing violations, by December 2012, and Group 2, all other areas, by June 2013.

<http://www.epa.gov/so2designations/regs.html>

Tribal New Source Review (NSR) Rule

The Tribal NSR rule creates pre construction air permitting programs for new minor sources and modifications in Indian country, and for new major sources and modifications in Indian country in nonattainment areas. EPA will continue to regulate major sources and modifications on Tribal Land in attainment areas under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) Program.

Although the rule became effective on August 30, 2011, it has phased implementation dates: new true minor sources will have until September 2, 2014 before having to obtain pre-construction permits; existing true minor sources will not be subject to the requirements of the minor NSR program until they propose a modification. Existing true minor sources are required to register by March 1, 2013. New and modified major sources are required to obtain pre-construction permits.

If you have questions about facilities on your reservation that may need permits, please contact Geoffery Glass, Air Permits Office, glass.geoffrey@epa.gov, 415-972-3498.

School Bus Replacement Rebate Program

From November 13, 2012 through December 14, 2012, EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) Program will accept applications for a new DERA National Clean Diesel School Bus Rebate Program. Tribes and tribal school districts are eligible. Applicants must own their own buses. Only buses with 1994-2003 model year engines are eligible. New replacement buses must be 2012 or newer. Replaced school bus engines must be scrapped.

Rebate amounts will vary from \$20,000 to \$30,000 per school bus depending on the type of bus replaced. Eligible applicants will be selected randomly. See <http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/dera-rebate.htm> for full rebate program rules, restrictions, and application instructions.

Upcoming Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Training

- December 4-7, 2012—Tribal Participation in the SIP Process—Flagstaff, AZ
- January 8-11, 2012—Treatment as a State (TAS) and Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP)—Seattle, WA
- January 14-18, 2013—Air Quality Computations—Flagstaff, AZ
- January 29-31, 2013—GIS for Air Quality—Las Vegas, NV
- February 25-March 1, 2012—Air Pollution Technology—Las Vegas, NV
http://www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training_aq.asp

Waste Management Division

ABANDONED MOBILE HOME TOOLKIT NOW ONLINE at: <http://www.epa.gov/abandonedmobilehomes>

US EPA has prepared a toolkit to demonstrate the recovery of the many valuable resources typically contained within an abandoned unit. The toolkit includes a video that demonstrates the step by step process for mobile home deconstruction, a reconstruction project demonstration using recovered resources, as well as a best management practices document, case studies, etc. The Toolkit was developed by EPA Region 2 in response to concerns expressed by representatives from several Indian Nations about health, safety and environmental issues associated with abandoned units. The video sequences demonstrate the steps required to deconstruct mobile home units including assessment of structural integrity, safety, tools and methods. Also included is a video that shows the re-purposing of the recovered materials to construct a tool shed. All filming was done on site at the Cattaraugus Reservation at the invitation of the Seneca Nation of Indians.

For many communities, tribal and non-tribal, mobile homes are the easiest form of housing to buy and install. However these structures don't have a long lifespan. When residents move, they often abandon mobile homes to decay. Once abandoned, these homes present the following economic, environmental, and safety issues to the community:

- Decreasing aesthetics as they continue to deteriorate, devaluing surrounding properties
- Providing unsafe places for children to play
- Introducing infestations of vermin and other disease vectors
- Encouraging gatherings for consumption of drugs/alcohol
- Encouraging illegal dumping, often hidden within the walls of the unit

For additional information, please contact Lorraine Graves at graves.lorraine@epa.gov or 212-637-4099.

FUTURE TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

The EPA Region 9 Tribal Solid Waste (TSW) Team is looking for tribes to host solid waste training in FY13.

The TSW Team will work with a contractor to conduct 2-3 FREE trainings in the topic areas included below. If your tribe is interested in hosting a workshop, please contact the TSW Team. Potential topic areas include:

- How to Write an Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan
- How to Develop Recycling Strategies for Tribes
- How to Develop Source Reduction Strategies for Tribes
- Developing Tribal Solid Waste, Recycling Codes and Ordinances
- How to Develop and Operate a Tribal Transfer Station
- Developing a Tribal Zero Waste Program

If interested, respond to the TSW Team by January 18, 2012 to host a workshop in FY13. Contact Nancy Sockabasin, sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov or 415-972-3772 for more information or to be a host.

TRIBAL BUSINESS PLANNING

During the 2012 EPA/Tribal Conference representatives from the Environmental Finance Center West (EFCWest) will be available to meet with tribes to consult one-on-one on tribal business ideas. EFCWest has published a recent guide, "Planning for a Sustainable Tribal Business." Three key aspects of this tool are:

- Financial spreadsheet template
- Evaluating business concept viability
- Engaging your community in vetting the business concept

EFC West will also present this tool during the conference on November 29 in a two-part session, "Land: Sustainable Tribal Business Planning," from 11am – 12pm and 1:45pm to 2:45pm. The tool will be featured during the second session.

Sign up during RTOC for meeting times with representatives from EFCWest; contact Nova Blazej, blazej.nova@epa.gov or 415-972-38346 for more information.

Water Division

CWA Section 319 FY2013 Funding Availability

The FY2013 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 - Tribal Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Control grant program solicitation for competitive-funded proposals has been posted and can be accessed via the following link: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/tribal/funding13.cfm>.

All questions must be submitted in writing and received by December 7, 2012. Please submit your questions to Tiffany Eastman, EPA Region 9 Tribal NPS Coordinator at eastman.tiffany@epa.gov. EPA will host two national Information Sessions regarding this announcement via webinar. The dates/times for the two webinars are to be determined and will be posted on <http://www.epa.gov/nps/tribal>. **Materials must be submitted by** December 14, 2012 by 5:00pm (PST) for hard copy and by 8:59pm (PST) via grants.gov.

The FY2013 Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 319 - Tribal Nonpoint Source (NPS) Pollution Control grant program funding requests for base funds are due to your CWA Grants Project Officer by March 1, 2013. The guidelines for base funds can be accessed via the following link: <http://water.epa.gov/polwaste/nps/tribal/funding13.cfm>. If you have any questions, please contact your CWA Grants Project Officer or Audrey L. Johnson at johnson.audreyl@epa.gov for more information.

CWA Section 106 FY2013 Funding Availability

The FY 2013 Region 9 due date to receive CWA 106 funding is February 1, 2013. Please submit a draft, proposed workplan and budget to your CWA Project Officer. If you have any questions about the CWA Section 106 program or funding process, please contact your CWA Project Officer, Danielle Angeles at (415) 972-3441 or angeles.danielle@epa.gov or Wendell Smith at (415) 972-3421 or smith.wendell@epa.gov

Management and Technical Services Division

Quality Assurance Office

The QA Office is meeting with the Tribal Water Office and interested Tribes to develop an active bioassessment workgroup. We have two bioassessment related sessions at the Annual Conference (Wednesday 3-4 in the Sutter Room, and 4:15 - 5:15 in Intercontinental C). Our next conference call will be in February. Please contact Christopher Chen (415) 972- 3442 or Eugenia McNaughton (415) 972-3411, if you want to join.

National Tribal Science Council

The next National Tribal Science Council business meeting will be hosted by the Tulalip Tribes of Washington in Seattle from December 4-6, 2012. Please look out for an announcement regarding a national Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) Workshop to be held in June 2013. The goal of the workshop is to obtain expertise that brings the science around TEK back for EPA staff to utilize while working with tribes.

Superfund Division

Brownfields Grants

The 128(a) Brownfields State and Tribal Response program grants were announced on November 21, 2012, applicants can find more information at the following site:

http://www.epa.gov/brownfields/state_tribal/index.html