

**REGION IX**  
**RTOC WORKGROUP REPORTS**  
**January – March 2009**

**Tribal Science Council Workgroup:**

No report submitted

**Water Quality Standards Workgroup:**

In President Obama's 2010 proposed budget, he has identified the highest level of support to EPA given in the past 39 years. The president's commitment to EPA is seen as welcome relief from the past eight years of inadequate funding to tribal environmental programs. With potential increase of 39 Billion to EPA coffers under the 2010 president's budget, now is the time for the NTC to approach EPA's administrator regarding increasing allocations to Tribal state revolving funds and EMP accounts. The first priority of the NTC under water resource protection is to ensure that Indian Nations and Alaskan Native Villages (ANVs) are adequately funded to implement EPA water programs. For 2011 NTC requests that \$120,000,00 million be allocated to Tribal Stag and EMP accounts to ensure that tribal and ANVs water resources are adequately protected. This funding request will provide the best opportunity to achieve this goal, enable the nation to meet its international and domestic commitments, address a persistent inequity, and meet the federal government's trust responsibility to tribes and ANVs.

- Provide for CWA Section 319 Nonpoint Source pollution Control Tribal Programs 25 million. Permanently lift the cap that was established.
- Provide for CWA Section 104 3(b) Wetlands Tribal Programs 10 million. Allow for implementation
- Provide for CWA Section 106 Tribal Programs 50 million and index for inflation from this point forward. Set reasonable targets for "TAS" Tribes with WQ standards.
- Provide for CWA Section 319 Nonpoint Source pollution Control Tribal Programs 25 million. Permanently lift the cap that was established.
- Provide for CWA Section 104 3(b) Wetlands Tribal Programs 10 million. Allow for implementation

**Solid Waste Workgroup:**

CY 2008 and 2009 RTOC SOLID WASTE PRIORITY

**Prepared by:** Nancy Sockabasin, US EPA Region 9  
John Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

**Date Prepared:** April 2008 (original); **April 2009 (update)**

**EPA Division/ Office:** Waste Management Division

**Name of Priority:** Solid Waste

**Tribal Caucus Lead:** John Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe

**EPA Lead:** Nancy Sockabasin, EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team

**Goal:** Improve tribal access to solid waste management programs through interagency and collaborative efforts to address physical infrastructure needs and support for ongoing activities.

**Objective 1:** Maintain communication between US EPA, Tribes, and other federal agencies.

**Sub-objective A:** Continue organizing and participating in the interagency solid waste workgroups. Hold at least one meeting in each three Region 9 states (CA, NV, AZ) in each calendar year.

**Status:** A total of six tribal solid waste interagency meetings were held in CY08. In January 2008, EPA, Tribes, and Tribal Consortia partnered to hold three interagency solid waste workgroup meetings. The interagency meetings

have greatly increased communication between federal and state agencies and tribes, which has resulted in peer-to-peer networking opportunities and increased grant funding opportunities.

Specific locations/hosts of meetings are as follows: The La Jolla Band of Luiseno Mission Indians hosted a Southern California meeting and the Paiute-Shoshone Indians of the Bishop Community hosted a meeting for the Eastern Sierra tribes. In addition, a state-wide Nevada interagency meeting was hosted by the Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada, Inc. In June 2008, a state-wide meeting was held in Arizona, hosted by Inter Tribal Council of Arizona. Additionally, in July 2008, state-wide meetings were also conducted for California tribes, hosted by the US EPA Region 9, and for Nevada tribes, hosted by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. In CY09, a state-wide Nevada interagency meeting was held in January in Sparks, NV and another meeting is planned for July. A state-wide meeting for California will be held this summer, and we will be working with tribes in Arizona to determine if an Arizona meeting is needed.

**Sub-objective B:** Continue to lead the RTOC solid waste workgroup.

Status: A workgroup meeting was held in January 2008 to discuss tribal interest in green building and, as a follow up to strong tribal interest, a presentation was delivered in April 2008 focused on incorporating green building techniques into home renovations. As a result of the growing momentum, EPA and tribes began work on a Regional Tribal Green Building Strategy, organized the first-ever Tribal Summit at one of the country's largest green building conferences, and successfully recruited the EPA Leadership Development Program participants to select the topic as their multi-year project.

In July 2008, the workgroup meeting focused on transfer stations and included a presentation entitled, *Basics of Transfer Station Development and Operation*, to serve as prep for the training to be held later in the year.

In October 2008, the need to form a workgroup that focused on cross media issues related to green buildings, solid waste, and water infrastructure was identified. As a result, the Sustainable Infrastructure Workgroup was formed. Between November 2008 and March 2009, 3 conference calls and 1 meeting were held to discuss the group's goals and priorities. Funding available through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act was identified as an immediate and urgent opportunity which the Workgroup took immediate action on. Information was made available on agencies with funding available for green building, alternative energy, and water infrastructure projects. Long term projects started by the Workgroup include partnering with the EPA Leadership Development Program participants to identify barriers (as discussed above) as well as developing a questionnaire for tribal governments to determine what is needed for greener, sustainable development on tribal lands.

The next meeting of the Solid Waste workgroup will be held in July 2009.

**Sub-objective C:** Provide information and outreach to tribes on a variety of topics. This includes a 'how to' guide on abandoned vehicle removal; additional web resources for Freon removal certification, battery recycling, removal and reuse of abandoned trailers; and web success stories on tire removal and green waste programs.

Status: Additional resources have been added to our website, including 'fill-and-print' brochures for general waste management and recycling issues, household hazardous waste, and illegal dumping. EPA is also developing the 'Tribal Solid Waste Costing Tool', which will provide tribes with information on costs associated with various collection systems and to allow comparison of these options. The guide has been reviewed by IHS, Region 9 tribes, and other EPA regional offices and is expected to be finalized and made available on our website in April 2009.

The 'how to' guide on abandoned vehicle removal is still in draft form, and we are waiting to receive additional funding in order to complete the document.

**Sub-objective D:** Create and/or organize solid waste presentations for the Annual Tribal/EPA Conference and other Tribal/EPA meetings. Topics could include green building and meth lab cleanup.

Status: The Tribal Solid Waste Team organized 10 presentations for the Annual Tribal/EPA Conference in 2008. Sessions included:

- Abandoned Autos – Tips and Considerations for Collecting and Crushing
- Green Building: Reducing Energy Use, Traditional Principles and Modern Implementation
- Tribal Perspectives on Green Building
- Alternative Energy Options
- Greening Tribal Events: Pow Wows, Rodeos, and other Large Scale Gatherings
- Innovative Funding Sources for Open Dump Cleanups
- Open Dumping Enforcement Mechanisms for Tribal Governments
- Electronic Waste (e-waste) Recycling
- Greening Your Casino: Easy Solutions to Save Money and Resources
- Starting a Recycling Program in your Community

**Objective 2:** Increase the number of tribes covered by integrated waste management plans (IWMP) through grants, EPA-sponsored training, and targeted technical assistance. Work with tribes to develop at least 2 new IWMPs.

Status: In FY08, 20 new IWMP projects were selected for funding through grants from the EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team and the Tribal Programs Office. Projects began on October 1, 2008. Four new IWMPs were completed in FY08. As of mid-year FY09, two additional plans have been approved by tribal councils.

**Objective 3:** Increase the number of dumps that are closed or cleaned up on tribal lands. This work will be done through grants, increased partnerships with other federal agencies such as BIA and IHS, increased partnerships with the Region 9 Tribal Programs Office, and increased cooperation and funding opportunities with Region 9 states.

**Sub-objective A:** Close at least 40 illegal dumpsites – 20 in FY08 and 20 in FY09.

Status: Seventy-two dumps were closed or cleaned up on Region 9 tribal lands in FY08. As of mid-year FY 09, six dumps were closed or cleaned up.

**Sub-objective B:** Provide leadership on the national dump closure workgroup, which will address issues related to Part 258 regulations and soil sampling.

Status: Region 9 held the first national conference call in March 2008. The Workgroup explored what legal options are available for the development of this type of document and will begin development of a best management practices guide. This project was selected as a focus area by the national program and development will begin in mid-FY09.

**Sub-objective C:** Develop process for gathering open dump inventory data and priorities from tribes.

Status: The Tribal Solid Waste Team worked with the Tribal Programs Office to include language in the GAP Solicitation to encourage tribes to provide additional data when they submit clean up proposals with their GAP Workplans.

**Objective 4:** Research and develop a document to showcase open dumping enforcement mechanisms and techniques to enforce against illegal dumping of solid waste. Document will be completed by December 31, 2008.

Status: The 'Open Dumps Enforcement Mechanisms' guide has gone through final EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team review and is currently under review by the Office of Regional Council. The document will be sent for comment to outside entities in mid-FY09. The document is expected to be finalized by the end of FY09.

**Objective 5:** Promote sustainable waste collection and recycling programs for tribes throughout Region 9.

**Sub-objective A:** Create and present a tribal-specific Transfer Station Training.

Status: EPA worked with the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals to develop and conduct a course on Creating and Managing Tribal Transfer Stations. The course was held September 30 – October 2, 2008 and was hosted by the Pala Band of Luiseno Mission Indians. The course included site tours of the Pala and La Jolla Transfer Stations, as well as classroom sessions on understanding your waste stream; deciding what you need; working with tribal government and the community; siting, design, and construction; management and operations; and creating a sustainable program. The course was attended by approximately 25 tribal representatives.

**Sub-objective B:** Work with tribes and state contacts to increase recycling rates on tribal lands in Nevada.

Status: The Tribal Solid Waste Team is working with the Environmental Finance Center, Region IX (EFC9) to complete a project that will assist in making recycling economically feasible for tribes in Nevada. EFC9 attended the Nevada Tribal Interagency Solid Waste Workgroup meeting in July 08 and January 09 to discuss current tribal recycling practices and what needs exist for future projects. Research has begun, and the project should be completed by Spring/Summer 2009.

**Sub-objective C:** Create outreach materials for recycling programs, including information on the benefits of recycling.

Status: A 'fill-and-print' brochures for general waste management and recycling issues was developed and is available on our website at: [www.epa.gov/region09/waste/tribal](http://www.epa.gov/region09/waste/tribal)

**Sub-objective D:** Provide information on electronic waste recycling in anticipation of the digital television transition.

Status: A presentation was given at the April RTOC on the digital television transition. Information on the transition was added to our website and a presentation on electronic waste recycling, including additional information on the transition, was delivered at the Annual Tribal/EPA Conference in October in San Francisco.

**Sub-objective E:** Begin research into creating/promoting a Federal bottle bill to encourage recycling on a national level.

Status: Research has begun, and a proposal was submitted for students at the Goldman School of Public Policy, at UC Berkeley to work on this project. Although the project was not selected, we will be exploring other opportunities for assistance with this project.

**Reporting Dates:** Quarterly at each RTOC

**Assistance Needed from EPA and Tribes:** Participation in workgroup activities, meetings, conference calls; contribution to written documents; collaboration with local, regional, and national partners.

**For Further Information, Please Contact:**

Nancy Sockabasin, EPA Tribal Solid Waste Team, (415) 972-3772

John Mosley, Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, (775) 574-0101 x13

**Consultation Workgroup:**

No report submitted

### **Budget and Strategic Planning Workgroup:**

No report submitted

### **Air Workgroup:**

No report submitted

### **Quality Assurance Workgroup:**

No report submitted

### **Drinking Water / Waste Water Workgroup:**

**Prepared by:** Linda Reeves, EPA Lead; Denice Morphew, Tribal Lead; Marta Burg, RTOC Legal Advisor

**Date Prepared:** April 15, 2009

**GOAL:** The Drinking Water / Wastewater Workgroup's goal is to improve tribal access to drinking water and wastewater sanitation through regional and national efforts, and interagency and collaborative efforts to address both physical infrastructure needs and support asset protection activities, including protecting and increasing funding.

#### **OBJECTIVES:**

1. Participate in the National Infrastructure Task Force and Access Subgroup to achieve the Goal to Increase Tribal Access to Safe Water by 50% by 2015

Status: The Access Subgroup recommended that the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) funds be used to provide access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation. EPA implemented this recommendation and it is expected that the ARRA funds will accelerate progress to achieve the access goal.

- ARRA provided EPA \$60M CWTSAs and \$30M DWTSAs nationally. EPA Region 9 received \$21.5M for CWTSAs and \$8.1M for DWTSAs.
- In response to a request for project information from tribes, EPA Region 9 received 84 CWTSAs proposals totaling \$86.7M, and 81 DWTSAs proposals totaling \$1.7B.
- The recommended list of projects to be funded will provide access to safe drinking water for 3195 homes and basic sanitation for 6635 homes. This is expected to decrease the homes lacking access from 13.9% in 2004 to 9.2% or lower, a major step to achieving the 6.9% access goal.
- ARRA also provided \$68M to IHS which will further accelerate the progress to achieve the access goal.
- Other water infrastructure funds are available to tribes through the USDA Rural Development, Bureau of Reclamation, and State SRF programs.
- Through weekly conference calls, EPA Region 9 provided outreach to tribes regarding all EPA ARRA funds, coordinated participation by IHS HQ and USDA Rural Development HQ, and shared information about other ARRA funds. AIEO also hosted conference calls, and EPA HQ conducted outreach to the NTOC and National Tribal Water Council.

Contact: Linda Reeves (415) 972-3445, Loretta Vanegas (415) 972-3433

2. Continue to lead the Regional Interagency Drinking Water / Wastewater Workgroup

Status: Annual meetings will be held.

Contact: Linda Reeves, Denice Morphew (775) 265-8600, Marta Burg

3. Implement Tribal Water Collaborative Projects

Status: See attached status report.

Contact: Linda Reeves

4. Develop a tribal small system drinking water monitoring assistance program – Develop programs to lower tribal sampling and analysis costs through bulk discounts at labs and achieve greater compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act.

- ITCA Monitoring Assistance Program

Status: ITCA is developing a revised scope of work to create a monitoring assistance program in Arizona.

Contact: Patrick McMullen ITCA (602) 258-4822, Kevin Ryan (415) 972-3806

- California Rural Water Association Preferred Provider Program

Status: California Rural Water Association created a preferred provider program for its members which offers numerous discounted services, including laboratory analytical services at an average 20% discount (see [calruralwater.org](http://calruralwater.org)).

Contact: Dustin Hardwick CA Rural Water Association (800) 833-0322

5. Coordinate with IHS and BIA

Status: IHS and BIA will be invited to the next Regional Interagency Workgroup meeting.

Contact: Linda Reeves

6. Support tribal asset protection projects

Status: Since FY 07, GAP has provided a total of \$630K to implement asset protection programs for 30 tribes.

Contact: Hillary Hecht (415) 972-3790

7. Change California regulations to ensure that tribal wastewater operators can use their experience working at tribal facilities to obtain California wastewater operator certification

Status: The Office of Operator Certification (OOC) is in the process of amending the Operator Certification Regulations, Sections 3670-3719.19, Chapter 26, Title 23, of the California Code of Regulations. Due to budgetary issues, OCC will delay the regulation amendment process until the Fall of 2009. Announcements regarding the regulation amendments will be posted on the OOC website

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water\\_issues/programs/operator\\_certification/index.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/water_issues/programs/operator_certification/index.shtml) and email notifications sent to OOC mailing list. To receive OOC announcements, please subscribe to "Wastewater Operator Certification" email list at:

[http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email\\_subscriptions/swrcb\\_subscribe.shtml](http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/resources/email_subscriptions/swrcb_subscribe.shtml).

Contact: Tom Keegan (707) 473-2182, ext. 113, and Linda Reeves

8. Continue outreach and education on tribal water infrastructure and asset protection needs and solutions, through NTOC, National Congress of American Indians and other national tribal organizations

Status: Workgroup members have been actively participating in discussions with representatives of the NTOC, NCAI and NTEC to ensure a consistent message is being presented to the Transition Team regarding tribal drinking water and wastewater related needs. NTOC met with the Obama Transition Team and is focusing on the Strategic Plan, Transition document, and the ARRA to support the goals for all tribes and to ensure that accurate information regarding tribal needs is being communicated to the new administration.

Contacts: For NCAI and NTEC coordination, contact Clay Bravo at (928) 769-2255, Ken Norton (530) 625-1004, and Marta Burg; for NTOC coordination, contact Ken Norton and Clay Bravo; for National Tribal Water Council coordination, contact Deb Misra at (928) 871-7701 and see <http://nationaltribalwatercouncil.org/>.

9. Access State funding for tribal drinking water and wastewater – Barriers to tribal access to state funding will be evaluated, including access to California bond funds and SRF funds.

Contact: Marta Burg

10. Reevaluate Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) Health Ranking Criteria – At the request of Navajo, the Workgroup discussed reevaluating the DWTSA health ranking criteria for extensions of public water systems and the ranking of uranium projects considering the new MCL was established after the latest revision to the

health ranking criteria. The Workgroup discussed this on a 5/29/08 conference call and at the 7/31/08 RTOC breakout session.

Status: On hold pending direction from the tribal caucus.

Contact: Linda Reeves, Deb Misra

11. Workgroup Transparency

Visit the Workgroup website (blog):

<http://rtocwaterworkgroup.blogspot.com/>

Username: RTOCwaterworkgroup

Password: waterworkgroup

Contact: Linda Reeves

### **Status of Tribal Water Collaborative Projects and Needs**

**April 2009**

#### **Projects Ongoing**

**Big Valley Drinking Water and Wastewater**

Need: Numerous trailers lack access to drinking water.

Status: The Tribe requested EPA ARRA funding. Interagency meetings held. EPA tested water to trailers and it is safe to drink. Tribe seeks USDA funding for washeterias, and IHS scattered housing funds. IHS funds received for leach field repairs. EPA's Environmental Justice team and volunteers repaired worst trailers. SDS project developed.

Contact: Sarah Ryan, Big Valley; Linda Reeves, EPA

**Hopi Drinking Water Supply for First and Second Mesa**

Need: The Tribe requested EPA ARRA funding. Hopi has expensive, deep, low producing wells with arsenic.

Arsenic treatment options are not feasible due to the presence of vanadium in the water supply which interferes with many of the arsenic treatment. A new water source was identified 20 miles away which would be a long term sustainable solution. Due to the estimated \$15-20M cost, this will have to be a multi-phased approach.

Status: IHS, on behalf of the tribe, applied for EPA ARRA funding.

Contact: Jason Crownholm, IHS (928-537-0578)

**Hualapai Water Storage Tank and Transmission Line**

Need: The Tribe seeks funding for a 60 mile pipeline on top of the canyon and a 20 mile pipeline coming up the canyon to address their needs.

Status: The Tribe requested EPA ARRA funding to rehabilitate the Peach Springs well, pump house and pipeline to eliminate water outages. The Tribe received funding for a water hauling truck from the Bureau of Reclamation and continues to seek other collaborative partners to complete the project. The Tohono O'odham Utility Authority offered Hualapai a water storage tank; however, the cost to move the tank was greater than the cost to purchase a new tank.

Contact: Alex Cabillo, Hualapai

**Los Coyotes Well Needed for Planned Community**

Need: Water source needed for planned tribal housing area in the lower water system.

Status: Tribe is in discussions with Walking Shield, an Indian assistance organization that can help mobilize resources from the Military Reserve Readiness program.

Contact: Sandra Stoneburner, Los Coyotes; Gil Stewart, BIA

**Navajo Feasibility Study for Homes Lacking Access**

Need: A feasibility study is needed to evaluate alternatives to serve homes lacking access. A water hauling truck would not be included in this feasibility study.

Status: The Tribe requested EPA ARRA funding for a water hauling feasibility study and pilot program, and NNEPA is requesting EPA funds for Water Hauling Safety Guidelines and Outreach. In FY 08 the Tribe also submitted to

EPA a Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside proposal to prepare a feasibility study to evaluate options to serve residents that haul water and to implement a pilot water hauling project. In November 2008, Navajo departments, IHS, BIA and EPA had an all day brainstorming session.

Contact: Deb Misra, Navajo; Linda Reeves, EPA

#### Navajo Wastewater Program

Need: Navajo is developing a wastewater program and seeks funding and sample ordinances to assist in drafting wastewater regulations and minimum design standards.

Status: EPA 106 and GAP funds are available to develop a wastewater program. Sample tribal ordinances are available at: <http://www.narf.org/nill/triballaw/index.htm>.

Contact: Deb Misra, Navajo

#### Resource Clearinghouse

Need: Tribes can help each other by sharing surplus equipment/infrastructure/resources through a clearinghouse which will include the categories the retired equipment can be used for, recognizing that federal design specifications may limit use of clearinghouse equipment. A tribal website could list the needs and resources to share, similar to the CalWARN emergency response resources.

Status: Initial planning beginning.

Contact: Denice Morphew, Washoe Tribe

#### Septic Tank Access Risers

Need: Access risers are need for all existing septic tanks.

Contact: Eagle Jones, RCAC (760-484-1715)

### **Projects Completed**

#### Big Pine Water Storage Tank

Need: Old tank needed rehabilitation and had insufficient water storage capacity. EPA funded the project; however, delays in implementing the project resulted in \$150,000 of cost increases.

Status: EPA/IHS/RD funded cost increase. New tank constructed and in operation.

Contact: Alan Bacock and Tara Hess-McGeown, Big Pine; Roger Yates

#### Central Valley's Tribal Environmental Consortium Tribal Water Collaborative

##### North Fork

Need: Septic tanks are difficult to operate and maintain because they were constructed without access risers.

Status: With support from IHS and RCAC, the Tribe inspected 24 septic tanks, installed access risers on all tanks, improved 3 failed leach fields and replaced 1 failed septic tank

Contact: Rodney Clements, North Fork; Linda Reeves, EPA

##### Picayune

Need: Three septic tanks serving government buildings require pumping once or twice a week and frequently overflowed onto the ground.

Status: With substantial tribal matching funds, the Tribe connected the government building to the Tribe's wastewater treatment plant and properly abandoned the 3 septic tanks.

Contact: Samuel Elizondo, Picayune; Linda Reeves, EPA

#### Hualapai Sewer and Water Project for 3 Homes

Need: Three homes lack access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation.

Status: Hualapai constructed bathroom additions, installed fixtures and connected the homes to adjacent sewer and water lines. EPA funded proper abandonment of the existing pit privies. Contact: Alex Cabillo, Hualapai

#### La Jolla Tribal Collaborative for On-Site Wastewater Management

Need: The Tribe wants to create a business to pump septic tanks at the reservation and neighboring reservation at a reduced cost that will still generate sufficient revenue to properly operate and maintain the tribe's septage



treatment lagoon while protecting the San Luis Rey River watershed by ensuring that septic tanks on tribal lands are properly operated and maintained.

Status: With EPA Tribal Border Infrastructure funds, the Tribe constructed a septage lagoon which miraculously did not burn when the Poomacha fire burned nearly all the reservation. The Tribe also recently purchased a septic pumper truck to replace an old, undersized truck. IHS created as-builts for septic tanks and the Tribe has a database of tank details. RCAC and EPA conducted septic tank inspection trainings. Several neighboring tribes are interested in participating in the Collaborative. The San Diego Foundation also contributed funds for the project, including support for Walking Shield (<http://www.walkingshield.org/>), an Indian assistance organization that mobilized the Military Readiness Reserves (<http://www.dod.mil/ra/html/irtcontent.html#faq>) to repair culverts on the access road to the tank site.

Contact: Rob Roy, La Jolla; Linda Reeves, EPA

#### Navajo Livestock Well Analyses

Need: Residents haul water from livestock wells which may be contaminated.

Status: CDC and EPA completed water sampling of livestock sources: 75% have total coliforms and other samples have uranium and arsenic. Signs are being posted warning residents not to drink from livestock wells. Navajo's circuit rider and Public Information Officer and representatives of a non-government organization are attending Chapter Meetings informing residents of the dangers of drinking from these sources. A public service announcement campaign is also underway. Navajo also submitted a DWTS proposal for a feasibility study to evaluate alternatives to serving residents that haul water, including a one year water hauling pilot project. Also, an Access Implementation Workgroup is evaluating technical alternatives to piped water at Navajo.

Contact: Deb Misra, Navajo; Clancy Tenley and Linda Reeves, EPA

#### Navajo Nation Circuit Rider

Need: Insufficient technical assistance is available to address needs of the regulated public water systems and to ensure that water hauled by residents is safe to drink.

Status: The Navajo Nation received EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assistance funds to support a circuit rider to provide technical assistance to water operators and to ensure that water hauled by residents is safe to drink.

Contact: Deb Misra, Navajo; Bessie Lee, EPA

#### Robinson Rancheria Drinking Water

Need: Tribe is concerned about its water supply from the Nice Mutual Water Company (NMWC).

Status: Tribe, NMWC, IHS and EPA met on 2/4/08 to address the Tribe's concerns: NMWC explained infrastructure improvements which will increase capacity and reduce disinfection byproducts; Tribe shared emergency contacts; NMWC provided key to gate on tank access road; NMWC provided 2007 tribal water consumption data; NMWC approved purchase of 10 cubic yards of cobblestone for erosion at base of tank and the Tribe volunteered to do the work to restore the area. Based on tribal water samples at 5 individual wells with nitrate treatment systems, IHS determined that the treatment systems were functioning properly. Finally, Irenia Quitiquit successfully ran for election to the NMWC Board in June.

Contact: Irenia Quitiquit, Robinson; Mary Weber, IHS; Linda Reeves, EPA

#### Torres Martinez Water Collaborative

Need: Wastewater lagoons at large trailer parks within the boundary of the reservation threaten public health and the environment.

Status: A trailer park owner plans to build a wastewater lagoon that would serve two of the large trailer parks. Due to the uncertain future of the other large trailer park and changed tribal priorities, the Tribe has decided to terminate an EPA grant for design of a sewer system to serve these parks.

Contact: Alberto Ramirez, Torres Martinez; Linda Reeves, EPA

**National Infrastructure Taskforce:**

No report submitted

**Enforcement and Compliance Assistance Workgroup:**

No report submitted

**Conference Planning Workgroup:**

No report submitted

**Emergency Response and Emergency Planning Workgroup:**

No report submitted

**Charter Workgroup:**

No report submitted

**Representation Workgroup:**

No report submitted

**Pesticides Workgroup:**

Region 9 Pesticide Workgroup Conference Call  
Tuesday, April 14, 2009  
10:00 am

Participants: Allen Demorest, R9 EPA; Greg Gholson, R9 EPA

Tribes: Erica Helms-Schenk, Soboba; Nina Hapner, NAEPC

**Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) Draft Brochure – National Tribal Pesticide Program**

- EPA Headquarters has asked for comments on this brochure from tribes to be provided by early April 2009.
- The brochure will be used to internally brief the EPA Management.
- Four (4) tribes in Region 9 have provided success stories on their Pesticide Programs: Navajo Nation, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Salt River Pima Maricopa Indian Community and Inter-tribal Council of Arizona.
- **\*\*AI – Forward Pesticide Success stories to Region 9 Pesticide Workgroup - Nina**

**EPA Strategic Plan (Strategic Plan) – Goal 4**

- Noted that the OPPT Tribal Strategic Plan supports and provides clarification for the Strategic Plan.
- EPA hasn't had a situation where a tribal community has run into a problem that wasn't covered under the Strategic Plan.
- EPA Staff have been able to use the Strategic Plan to creatively fund grants and linking projects to the Goal 4 has been easy.
- **\*\*AI – Send OPPT Tribal Strategic Plan to Workgroup – Nina**
- **\*\*AI – Send a reminder to workgroup about comments needed for Goal 4 – Nina**

**Current Topics**

Past Action Items - Updates

- Federal Inspector Credentials:
  - o This has been resolved for now.
  - o It was suggested to send an update to the Pesticide Workgroup to let them know and make sure Clancy Tenley, Allen Demorest and Greg Gholson are copied on the email.
- Basic Inspector Training Course (Pesticides):
  - o Most training is for tribes with cooperative agreements and not opened to non-cooperative agreement tribes because of time and money.

- A Basic Inspector Training Course will not cover enough on pesticides.
- It was discussed the possibility of having a specific training for those tribes who do not want to develop a cooperative agreement program.
- A good resource is the Federal Inspector Manual. **\*\*AI - Allen will send an email with the link to the Federal Inspectors Manual.**
- Good tribal trainers would be: Hector Duran, CRIT; Dine Nizhoni Hill and Jeff Biakeddy from Navajo Nation. Greg Gholson from EPA may be able to attend.
- **\*\*AI – Ask EPA to verify if there is any language restrictions on non-cooperative agreement tribes participating in trainings set up for cooperative agreement tribes – Allen & Greg**

#### **Announcements**

Fourth Quarter Tribal Meeting on programs and enforcement in Arizona for the tribes with cooperative agreements.

#### **Next Conference Call Meeting**

- July 16, 2009, 10:00 am
- If you have topics for the next call, please let Nina Hapner know by June 30, 2009.

Recap of Action Items:

- **\*\*AI – Forward Pesticide Success stories to Region 9 Pesticide Workgroup - Nina**
- **\*\*AI – Send OPPT Tribal Strategic Plan to Workgroup – Nina**
- **\*\*AI – Send a reminder to workgroup about comments needed for Goal 4 – Nina**
- **\*\*AI - Allen will send an email with the link to the Federal Inspectors Manual.**
- **\*\*AI – Ask EPA to verify if there is any language restrictions on non-cooperative agreement tribes participating in trainings set up for cooperative agreement tribes – Allen & Greg**

#### **Webpage Workgroup:**

No report submitted