

EPA Report for May 13, 2015

Land Division ***Tribal Section***

Fond Farewell

Our beloved Morena Villanueva is retiring from the Agency on May 31, 2015. She will be dearly missed after all her years of dedicated service to the Region.

RTOC Election

The RTOC election is complete!! Check out the elections website for the new Tribal Caucus Roster for October 1, 2015 – September 2017 Term: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/tribal/rtoc/election.html>.

GAP Guidance Letters

GAP Guidance Letters are being sent out to Tribes, if you have questions, please contact your GAP Project Officer or Tribal Section Manager, Laura Ebbert at ebbert.laura@epa.gov.

Water Division

New Staff

We are pleased to announce that we have two new project officers in the Water Division, Tribal Section. Jeannie Wang and Kate Pinkerton.

Jeanny Wang started in late March in the Tribal Water Section, where she provides grant and technical assistance to five tribes in the Klamath River watershed. Jeanny has spent many years working on environmental projects outside the U.S. She has promoted protection of the black-necked crane on China's Yun-Gui Plateau, traveled to Siberia's Lake Baikal, and worked on eco-regional water planning in the Dominican Republic and Haiti. She has consulted on UN development projects in China, Mongolia, Russia, Ukraine, Belarus, and Laos.

Kate Pinkerton started on May 4th in the Tribal Water Section. She will be working with northern California tribes. Kate is originally from Kentucky and has BA and MS degrees in Environmental Science from American University. Before starting at Region 9, she was an Oak Ridge Institute for Science and Education program participant on the Hypoxia Team at EPA HQ for three years. She focused on helping states and tribes create nutrient reduction strategies for addressing nitrogen and phosphorus pollution in the Mississippi-Atchafalaya River Basin and hypoxia in the Gulf of Mexico. She also worked on Chesapeake Bay water quality issues at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center.

Superfund Division

Need Help With Targeted Brownfields Assessments?

The EPA Brownfields Office offers technical assistance on Targeted Brownfields Assessments year round. An EPA contractor can assist you (no funding and no match, non-competitive) with Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, land reuse planning, evaluate clean-up options and provide cost estimates based on future use. Contact Jose Garcia for more details, at (213) 244-1811 or Garcia.Jose@epa.gov.

2015 National Brownfields Training Conference Registration is Open

The 2015 National Brownfields Training Conference will be held in Chicago September 2-4. Early Bird registration rates are available until February 1st. More information is available at www.brownfieldsconference.org

Air Division

Note: The position of tribal co-chair of the RTOC Air Workgroup has been vacant since September, 2014.

Tribal Air Funding

42 proposals for FY16 tribal Clean Air Act funding were received in February and are currently being reviewed. We expect to send funding decisions by the end of May. Please contact Sara Bartholomew, Bartholomew.sara@epa.gov, or 415-947-4100, with questions.

Tribal New Source Review (NSR) Rule Updates

NSR permits are legal documents that the facility owners/operators must abide by. The permit specifies what construction is allowed, what emission limits must be met, and often how the emissions source must be operated.

In December, 2013, EPA proposed a rule to simplify the Clean Air Act permitting process for certain smaller sources of air pollution commonly found in Indian country. The action proposed: (1) general permits and permits by rule for certain source categories, (2) an extension of the minor source permitting deadline for true minor sources within the oil and gas source category, and (3) to change the policy in the Indian Country Minor NSR Rule to allow for the use of general permits (and permits by rule) to create synthetic minor sources. This action will ensure that air quality in Indian country is protected by implementing the Tribal Minor Source New Source Review Rule issued by EPA in July 2011.

The phased in regulation dates and phased in deadlines have all passed, and the rule is in effect in all of Indian Country. Tribes need to contact EPA Region 9 to get a permit for new construction or modification of major sources of air pollution, and register any minor sources.

EPA has proposed general permits for eleven categories of emission sources: (1) hot mix asphalt plants; (2) stone quarrying, crushing, and screening facilities; (3) gasoline dispensing facilities; (4) petroleum dry cleaners; (5) auto body repair and miscellaneous surface coating operations; (6) spark ignition engines; (7) compression ignition engines; (8) sawmills; (9) concrete batch plants; (10) boilers; and (11) graphic arts and printing operations. This will streamline the existing process and minimize the burden on reviewing authorities and sources.

Along with the permits themselves, EPA is making available, on its website, several implementation documents and tools to assist applicants in completing the permit application forms on which we are requesting comment. For more information, please go to: <http://epa.gov/air/tribal/tribalnsr.html>.

EPA's Proposal to Update the Air Quality Standards for Ground-Level Ozone

On November 25, 2014, the EPA proposed to strengthen the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, based on extensive scientific evidence about ozone's effects. The proposed updates will improve public health protection, particularly for children, the elderly, and people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma. The updates also will improve protection for trees, plants and ecosystems.

- Proposed primary and secondary range: 65 – 70 ppb
- Currently: 75 ppb
- Level set for both primary “health-based” std and
- Secondary “welfare-based” std (remanded)
- Taking comment on levels as low as 60 ppb
- Science advisory committee (CASAC) recommended:
- 60 – 70 ppb for 8-hour primary
- “W-126” seasonal metric for secondary
- 90-day public comment period ended on March 17
- Three hearings were held nationally, one in Sacramento February 2, 2015
- Final rule court-ordered deadline: October 1, 2015
- Designation decisions by October 2017
- www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution

The National Tribal Forum (NTF) on Air Quality

Region 9 will participate in this annual National Tribal Forum, put on by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, to be held May 19-21 in Battle Creek, Michigan. The purpose of the NTF is to provide environmental professionals from tribes, EPA, and other organizations an opportunity to meet and discuss current policies, regulatory initiatives, funding, and technical topics in air quality. The NTF is a cooperative endeavor co-sponsored by The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) and the National Tribal Air Association (NTAA).

Upcoming classes at the Institute for Environmental Professionals (ITEP) 2015:

June 2-5	Introduction to Tribal Air Quality	Flagstaff, AZ
Sept 1-3	Treatment As a State (TAS)	Las Vegas, NV
Sept 22-25	Air Pollution Modeling	Denver, CO