

EPA Report for May 2012 RTOC

Air Division

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS: Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard (NAAQS)

EPA will finalize the designation process for the 2008 ozone standard, 0.075 ppm, by **April 30, 2012**. Region 9 has done outreach and consultation with tribes throughout the designation process. Tribes will be notified by letter regarding their attainment or nonattainment status by early May. <http://www.epa.gov/air/ozonepollution/actions.html#stand>

NEW RULE: Tribal New Source Review (NSR) Rule

The Tribal NSR Rule was published as final on **July 1, 2011** and became effective on **August 30, 2011**. 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.

Existing minor sources are required to register by **March 1, 2013**. Large sources are now required to submit a permit application prior to construction or modification (the same is true everywhere else). Sources that want to establish synthetic minor status have until September 4, 2012 to submit an application for a site-specific permit. A copy of the final rule and a fact sheet are posted on the EPA's web page at <http://www.epa.gov/NSR/actions.html#jun11>. For more information, send an email request to R9TribalAirpermits@epa.gov or contact Roberto Gutierrez, 415-947-4276.

FUNDING: Tribal Air Funding

The Air Division is evaluating proposals for FY 13 Clean Air Act (CAA) grants. Tribes will be notified of their funding status by **May 31, 2012**. Full applications will be due in late June for projects that will start **October 1, 2012**. Contact Sara Bartholomew, bartholomew.sara@epa.gov or 415-947-4100.

TRAINING: Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) Training

June 5-8	Emissions Inventory/TEISS	Las Vegas, NV
TBD	Tribal Data Toolbox	Online

More information: http://www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training_aq.asp

Water Division

FUNDING: Source Water Assessment and Protection Program

EPA Region 9 received ten proposals for Source Water Assessment and Protection Program (SWAP) Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreement (DITCA) funding, totalling \$566,619. EPA Region 9 intends to award approximately \$290,000 in available SWAP DITCA funds to identify and assess any possible threats (potential sources of contamination) to their public drinking water supply sources and/or to develop measures to protect these sources against those threats. Please contact: Jamelya Curtis at (415) 972-3529 or curtis.jamelya@epa.gov with any questions or for more information.

SCHOLARSHIPS: Tribal Drinking Water Conference

The 5th Biennial Tribal Drinking Water Conference
July 16-19, 2012, Sacramento, CA
in partnership with RCAC and ITCA
Registration: www.rcac.org under Trainings and Events
Scholarships: www.itcaonline.com

TRAINING: Water & Wastewater Infrastructure Operation Maintenance and Management

FREE 3-day training sessions: 2012 Water and Wastewater Infrastructure Operation, Maintenance, and Management Training for Tribal Operators and Leaders

Take Note: Information presented below is specific to tribal participants and may not apply to all attendees.

Level of Training: 200 (Intermediate)

Remaining Training Sessions:
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, **May 2-4, 2012**
Albuquerque, New Mexico, **May 15-17, 2012**

Course Description: The U.S. EPA is sponsoring a series of training workshops for Tribes and Alaskan Native Villages to help increase participants' skills and knowledge in the operation of wastewater and drinking water treatment systems. Following the passage of the 2009 American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA), 160 projects on Tribal lands received ARRA funding to build wastewater and drinking water systems. While beneficial, this new infrastructure presents new operation, maintenance, and management responsibilities for busy staff and Tribal leaders. The workshops are open to all federally recognized Tribes and will assist Tribes in realizing the full potential of their water infrastructure.

The objective of this 3-day workshop series is to instruct staff and leaders on how best to operate, troubleshoot, and maintain small wastewater and drinking water systems. Topics covered will include:

- Operator and management roles and responsibilities
- Wastewater system operation and maintenance (O&M)
- Water system O&M
- Developing rate structures to support utility operations
- Asset management to ensure system longevity
- Case studies and exercises will be used to build on classroom skills. Please join U.S. EPA for an informal and informative workshop designed to help you operate your system safely and effectively.

Registration: Go to <http://www.horsleywitten.com/tribalARRA/> to register. The deadline to register is one week before the training. There is NO registration fee. Hotel rooms will be reserved for each workshop. After registering, participants will receive a confirmation email and logistical information (e.g., location, parking, hotel reservations, etc.).

Format for the course: Lecture and Group Activity (there is both a pre- and post-test for this training).

Accommodations: Travel, hotel, and per diem costs for attendees from Tribal reservations may be covered by the local Indian Health Service (IHS) Area office. Please contact your local IHS office to learn more.

Additional notes: Tribes and territories who received ARRA (SRF) funding have priority enrollment in the trainings, however other tribal water systems are also being invited (in cooperation with IHS), as space allows.

For more information: go to http://water.epa.gov/learn/training/tribaltraining/tcourse1_2012.cfm or you may also contact Leon Latino, latino.leon@epa.gov, (202) 564 1997 or Matthew Richardson, richardson.matthew@epa.gov, (202) 564 2947.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Draft EPA "National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change" Released for Public Comment and Website on Climate Change and Water Launched

EPA has released the Draft "*National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change*," which describes how EPA's water-related programs plan to address the impacts of climate change and provides long-term visions, goals and strategic actions for the management of sustainable water resources for future generations.

The 2012 Strategy, which builds upon EPA's first climate change and water strategy released in 2008, focuses on five key areas: infrastructure, watersheds and wetlands, coastal and ocean waters, water quality, and working with Tribes. It also describes geographically-based strategic issues and actions.

EPA will accept public comments on the draft strategy until **May 17, 2012**.

To read or submit a comment on the Draft "*National Water Program 2012 Strategy: Response to Climate Change*" and to learn more about the climate change impacts on our water resources, visit [EPA's new website on climate change and water](#).

Waste Management Division

FUNDING: FY2012 Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes

This notice announces the availability of funds and solicits proposals from federally-recognized tribes or intertribal consortia for the development and implementation of hazardous waste programs and for building capacity to address hazardous waste management in Indian Country. In accordance with the EPA Indian Policy of 1984, EPA recognizes tribal governments as the primary parties for managing programs for reservations.

The closing date and time for receipt of proposals is **May 21, 2012, 5:00 p.m. ET.**

<http://www.epa.gov/oswer/docs/grants/epa-oswer-orcr-10-02.pdf>

TRAINING: Waste Characterization

EPA Region 9 is holding a *Waste Characterization Training* course on May 10, 2012. An EPA contractor will lead participants through both classroom and field activities to conduct an effective solid waste characterization effort. This type of waste characterization is essential in developing a comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. Participants will discuss how to collect meaningful data to make decisions and take action. Space is limited and available on a "first come, first serve" basis. Please note that anyone who participates is **required** to provide and wear their own steel-toed boots, safety vest, hard hat, work gloves, and safety glasses for the training.

Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians
Chuckchansi Gold Resort and Casino, Manzanita Room
711 Lucky Lane, Coarsegold, CA 93614

Thursday, May 10, 2012

9:00 am - 4:00 pm

Contact: Nova Blazej
blazej.nova@epa.gov
415-972-3846

Hotel: A limited number of rooms, at a rate of \$75+tax/night, have been set aside at the Chuckchansi Gold Resort and Casino. To make a reservation, call 1-866-7WIN-WIN (1-866-7946-946) and provide the group code: SWC0502 and reference the Solid Waste Characterization Training Group.

For those looking for more information on waste characterization CALRECYCLE has a useful page: <http://www.calrecycle.ca.gov/wastechar/>

Communities and Ecosystems Division

Tribal Program Office:

NEW TRIBAL PROGRAM OFFICE MANAGER

Laura Ebbert, formerly Laura Mayo, is the new manager of the Tribal Program Office in the Communities and Ecosystems Division. Laura will be bringing her customary energy, clear thinking and tribal leadership experience to her new job and responsibilities.

Laura has been serving as a Special Assistant in the Office of the Regional Administrator for the past 15 months. She came to EPA's Tribal Program Office in 2008, where she served as the project officer for seventeen tribes in Nevada and Northern Arizona, and as the regional lead for the Indian Program Policy Council. Prior to joining EPA, Laura worked in northwestern California for 9 years, first as the Director of the Smith River Rancheria's Environmental Program, and then as Assistant Director for the Yurok Tribe's Environmental Program. The Yurok is the largest Tribe in California and controls the lowest 46 miles of the Klamath River. While at the Yurok Tribe, Laura was integral in developing a number of award-winning environmental and data management systems, and was herself the recipient of Region 9 Tribes/EPA's Connor Byestewa, Jr. Award. This award recognizes "the efforts of individuals that have made and strengthened Tribal self-government and improved human health and environmental conditions in Indian Country." In her career at EPA, she was also awarded:

- * EPA's Silver Medal for the team effort in increasing the allocation of infrastructure funds to under-served communities; and
- * EPA's Trudy A. Speciner Non-Supervisory Award for advancing environmental protection.

Laura holds degrees from the University of California at Davis in Environmental Resource Management and Native American Studies.

GUIDEBOOK

On April 3, 2012, Michelle DePass revised the development schedule for the "Guidebook for Building Tribal Environmental Capacity." Because of the extensive and constructive comments from tribes and tribal organizations, there will be significant modifications to the document. The revised draft document will be released for a 90-day review period by tribes beginning in **September 10, 2012**. The current schedule anticipates a final Guidebook by **May 1, 2013**. The Guidebook will be incorporated into the GAP funding announcement for FY 2014.

VIDEO CONFERENCING

The May RTOC is broadcast to Tribes at video-conferencing facilities in Yreka and Sand Diego, CA. Several other Tribes are connected by desktop video-conferencing. Similar opportunities are anticipated at the next RTOC meeting. For more details, or to incorporate the ability to video-conference from your desktop into your FY 14 GAP application, please contact your Project Officer.

Toxics Office:

RULE: Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting for Facilities Located in Indian Country

EPA published a final rule in the Federal Register on April 19, 2012 for "*Toxics Release Inventory (TRI) Reporting for Facilities Located in Indian Country and Clarification of Additional Opportunities Available to Tribal Governments Under the TRI Program.*"

<http://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/FR-2012-04-19/pdf/2012-9442.pdf>

EPA has taken an important step in finalizing a rule that provides tribal governments with more opportunities to fully participate in the TRI Program. Under the rule, facilities located in Indian country are required to submit TRI reports to EPA and the appropriate Tribe, rather than to the State in which the facility is geographically located. The final rule explicitly clarifies the provision that a Tribal chairperson or equivalent elected official has the same opportunities as a State Governor to petition EPA to request: 1) that individual facilities located within their Indian country be added to TRI, and 2) that a particular chemical(s) be added to or deleted from the TRI chemical list. EPA's action is part of its ongoing effort to increase tribal participation in the TRI Program and improve access to information on toxic chemical releases affecting local communities in Indian country. Through this final rule, EPA provides tribal governments with the right to directly receive release reporting information from facilities located in Indian country, and explicitly clarifies the rights of tribal leaders to take an active role in TRI through petitions to modify the toxic chemical list or requests to add a facility within their Indian country to TRI. Contact: Lily Lee, Regional TRI Coordinator, Toxics Office, CED, 415-947-4187 or email lee.lily@epa.gov.