



Tribal Information Exchange Network

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National Tribal Caucus Discussions with
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USEPA Office of Environment Information



Goals

- ❖ **Consistent data management for Tribes**
- ❖ **Efficient two way information exchange with media programs**
- ❖ **Access to archived data from various media programs, centralize in one location**
- ❖ **More Tribal Participation in network exchange grants**



Environmental Priorities

- ❖ Reliable system that will assist in the determination of environmental risk
- ❖ Ensure data collected by media programs is archived and made available for access and use
- ❖ Development of inter-Tribal Environmental exchange network
- ❖ Capacity building activities that promote information sharing



Budget Recommendations

- ❖ Restore FY 2008 budget set aside allocation – (\$2.240 Million)
- ❖ Current funding at \$18.2 million for information exchange. 10% for Tribes –(currently \$1.82 million)
- ❖ OEI to determine funding necessary for each media program – (internal assessment of media needs)



Programmatic Constraints

- ❖ Creation of database clearing house, to be tracked by AIEO
- ❖ Promote information sharing and implementation of baseline data that is accessible
- ❖ Uniform data system that is provided to Tribes and developed to also assess risk
- ❖ Availability of data and its differentiation between funding data and environmental data



Programmatic Constraints

- ❖ Tribes and States funded under same mechanism and Tribes may be thought to be at the same level with States with completion of nodes
- ❖ OEI to promote greater role as data repository consolidating media data
- ❖ Building Tribal capacity and access to internet service



Programmatic Constraints

- ❖ Greater funding opportunities for Tribes that have obtained Treatment as State status in the major media programs, 44 of 61 tribes have received information exchange grants.
- ❖ More Tribes are establishing media programs and utilizing data exchange methods
- ❖ Assumptions of Tribal data management capacity, and under-funded mandated data management protocol



Suggested Remedies

- ❖ More input from Tribes in the testing and implementation of reporting methodologies
- ❖ Centralization of data within the OEI
- ❖ Greater coordination of data storage between OEI and media programs
- ❖ Efforts to continue streamlining data collection and management



Cross Media Issues

- ❖ Coordinated actions with media programs
- ❖ Treatment as State programs as it relates to data management and accessing Information Exchange grants
- ❖ Promote energy conservation with increased use
- ❖ Responsible management of electronic waste