

TRIBAL AIR NEWS

VOLUME 7, ISSUE 4 OCTOBER 2009

SUSTAINABILITY FOR THE SEVENTH GENERATION



Earlier this year, EPA awarded grants to three tribes under the Sustainability for the Seventh Generation Initiative — the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe in north central Minnesota, the Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe in East Central Minnesota, and the Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa in Michigan. The purpose of this initiative is to help Tribal communities reduce their emissions and promote sustainability with the goal of cleaner and healthier air.

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe project is providing weatherization and solar forced heating for heating-assistance homes. They have completed retrofits for 8 homes and would like to expand their efforts. These solar units can generate 60.25 mBTUs and 17,800 kwhs of solar energy for the next 25 to 50 years, thus resulting in cost savings for the home owners

and contributing to the betterment of the community and environment. Just recently, Minnesota Public Radio (MPR) aired a radio story about this project. A taste of the story and a link to the MPR site to listen is on page 8. For more information about the program, contact Brandy Toft at 218-335-7429 or air@lldrm.org.

The Mille Lacs Band of Ojibwe is collaborating with the Phillips Neighborhood, the City of Minneapolis and the Minnesota air program. The Phillips Neighborhood is a Minneapolis community, surrounded on three sides by major highways, with a mixed population of tribal members, Hispanics and Southeast Asians. The tribe is conducting neighborhood meetings to get input on interest in improving air quality and sustainability. The three parties are interested in projects to: increase public transportation to the community (particularly with hybrid buses); replace gas lawn mowers; retrofit diesel engines; ban “smoker” vehicles, and; weatherize homes. By working directly with the city, they have already succeeded in passing anti-idling ordinances in the neighborhood. For more information, contact Charlie Lippert at 320-532-4704 or Charlie.lippert@millelacsband.com.

The Grand Traverse Band (GTB) of Ottawa and Chippewa, located in Michigan, own two casino resorts, a resort hotel, and dozens of administrative buildings for governmental and gaming-related management and infrastructure which use significant energy. In addition, over 1,000 employees commute daily to and from the surrounding areas to work, converting significant amounts of petroleum products to airborne pollutants. Grand Traverse wants to increase its overall energy efficiency, but has only limited understanding of its total energy consumption or the emissions associated with energy use. To address this problem, in June 2009, GTB began a project intended to provide an energy consumption and emissions discharge audit. Data from the audit will be used to put initiatives in place to reduce the Tribe’s carbon footprint. For more information, contact Desmond Berry at 231-534-7500 or desmond.berry@gtbindians.com

THIS MONTH: TRIBES IN THE NEWS

This quarter has been eventful, with numerous tribal air-related stories in the mainstream media.

See pages 5—15 for stories and links.

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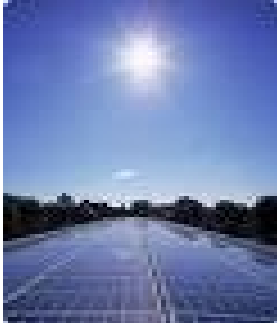


U.S. Department of Energy

Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy

Bringing you a prosperous future where energy is clean, abundant, reliable, and affordable

DEPT OF ENERGY FUNDS TRIBAL CLEAN ENERGY PROJECTS



On August 13, the Department of Energy (DOE) announced its award of up to \$13.6 million in multi-year funding for new clean energy projects on tribal lands. Thirty-six Native American tribes and Alaskan villages have been selected to receive awards that will advance renewable energy technologies, as well as energy efficiency and conservation projects on tribal lands and rural Alaska villages.

The DOE funding, awarded through a competitive process, is expected to be matched by up to \$27 million in public and private investment, for a total value of nearly \$41 million. In addition to the Alaskan villages, the funding will go to tribes in Arizona, Arkansas, California, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, Nevada, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Washington, and Wisconsin.

Of the 36 Native American tribes and villages whose projects have been selected for negotiation, 8 projects will provide weatherization training and resources to tribal members, 17 projects will focus on assessing the feasibility of

renewable energy development and energy efficiency deployment on tribal lands, and 11 projects will fund the development of renewable energy projects and the deployment of energy efficiency measures on tribal lands and villages. The renewable energy projects will employ hydropower and wind power, while the feasibility studies will be examining a wide range of renewable energy technologies. For more information on the projects, see the [DOE press release](#) and the [Tribal Energy Program Web site](#).

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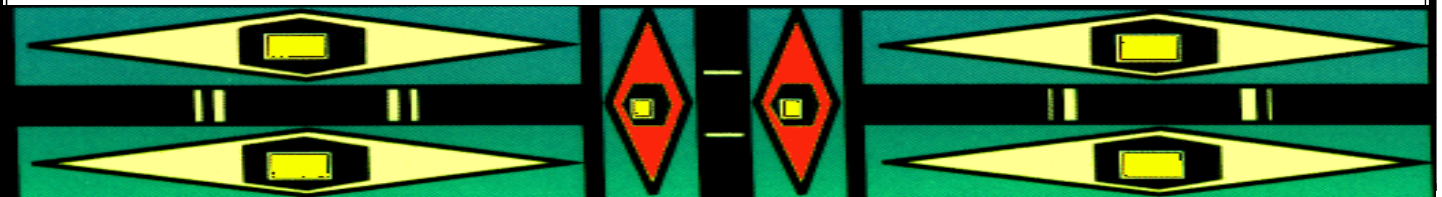
<http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/news/enn.cfm>

ANGEL MCCORMACK DETAILED TO OAQPS

The Community and Tribal Programs Group in EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) is happy to welcome Angel McCormack, a member of the Nez Perce Nation, to our offices on a detail. Sadly, Angel's arrival has been delayed by a family

emergency, so we will have an article introducing her in the next issue of the newsletter rather than this one.

You will be able to reach Angel at mccormack.angel@epa.gov.



TRIBAL NEW SOURCE REVIEW RULES: FILLING A REGULATORY GAP IN INDIAN COUNTRY

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed two New Source Review (NSR) regulations for Indian Country on August 21, 2006 (71 FR 48696). These rules will require stationary sources of air pollution to get permits before they begin construction. Permits specify what construction is allowed, what emissions limits must be met, and often, how the source must be operated.

These long-awaited regulations will fill a significant regulatory gap because there is currently no permitting mechanism for minor stationary sources located anywhere in Indian Country, or for major stationary sources located in areas of Indian Country not attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). EPA sets NAAQS to protect human health and welfare for six pollutants: ozone, carbon monoxide, particulate matter, sulfur dioxide, lead, and nitrogen oxide.

Major sources are facilities that have the potential to emit (PTE) pollutants in amounts equal to or greater than the defined major source threshold levels (i.e. emission limits). Thresholds vary by pollutant and/or source category and are more stringent in nonattainment areas. Minor sources have PTEs below these major source thresholds, but can cumulatively



contribute significantly to area health risks. Examples of minor sources include gas stations, dry cleaners, and automotive repair shops.

Tribal governments will be able to choose whether or not to implement the new rules. If the tribe cannot or

does not want to implement the program itself, tribes can ask EPA to implement the program because EPA has the broad authority to protect air resources throughout the nation, including air resources in Indian Country. Tribes that do choose to implement a minor NSR program can accept

delegation of the program or develop a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP), which would make them responsible for issuing these permits. EPA will maintain the sole authority to enforce these rules.



Tribes have been involved in developing these rules since early in the process, and we plan to continue that involvement as we finalize and implement the rules. In 2002, EPA sent letters to all federally-recognized tribes to inform them about the status of the rules and to seek their recommendations for effective consultation and rule development involvement. With the resultant feedback, we developed a consultation and outreach plan. This

plan included face-to-face meetings and trainings at locations throughout the country, EPA participation in numerous national and regional forums/conference calls, and the posting of information in newsletters and on websites. Furthermore, at the request of tribes, EPA twice extended and reopened the comment period for the proposed rules (from November 20, 2006 to January 19, 2007 and from January 19, 2007 to March 20, 2007).

Because of the long gap between that early consultation and final Agency action, EPA is once again informing tribes about the status and content of the final rules, targeted for May 2010. There will be an update at the next National Tribal Council call on October 13. If you have any questions about these rules, please feel free to contact Jessica Montañez at 919-541-3407 or at montanez.jessica@epa.gov.

CARE GRANTS CAN HELP TRIBES WITH TOXICS

Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE) is a competitive grant program that offers communities an innovative way to address the risks from multiple sources of toxic pollution in their environment. CARE Grants cover toxics in all media, not just air, making CARE a comprehensive way for communities to address toxics issues. To date, CARE has awarded grants to 64+ different communities throughout the United States.

Through CARE, local organizations, including non-profits, businesses, schools and governments, create partnerships that implement local solutions to reduce toxic pollutants and minimize people's exposure to them. CARE offers two levels of grants. Level I grants (up to \$100,000) are offered to communities to form partnerships among residents, businesses and local governments, among others, to identify the toxic risks in the community, and prioritize them. Level II Grants (up to \$300,000) allow a community to develop and implement measurable actions to reduce risks and implement a structure that can sustain the work beyond the life of the grant. While states are excluded from applying for CARE grants, tribes are eligible.

In addition to funding, CARE grantees also receive a broad range of support from EPA tailored to their project and community needs. This support comes from both EPA Regional and Headquarters staff. As an added benefit, CARE grantees become part of a network of communities undertaking risk reduction work, providing them opportunities to learn from each other.

Here are some examples of tribal projects funded under CARE:

- **Nunakauyarmiut Tribe - Toksook Bay, Alaska:** This Level I grant was awarded in 2006 to identify, prioritize, and reduce toxics by increasing community participation in existing or planned programs and building sustainable community-based partnerships.
- **Cherokee Nation Health Services Cancer Programs - Tahlequah, Oklahoma:** This Level I grant was awarded in 2006 to allow a number of Cherokee communities to collaborate on identifying

sources of toxics and opportunities for risk reduction and environmental improvement. Preliminary discussions have led one group to focus on polluted runoff from poultry farms in Delaware County. Another group is focused on methamphetamine pollution and particulate matter in Sequoyah County.

- **Montana Indian Country CARE Project - Rocky Mountain College, Montana:** This Level II grant was awarded in 2006 for: a toxics reduction strategy for families; an inventory of toxic exposure sources for tribal communities as a knowledge base for tribal planning and education campaigns; culturally-sensitive educational messages about toxic exposure in Indian Country, and; promotion of toxic reduction strategies in Tribal schools.
- **Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. - Phoenix, Arizona:** This Level I grant was awarded in 2007 to create a Community Risk Reduction Plan for reducing high priority toxics risks. Of particular concern is dust generated by agricultural practices. Pesticide use and household mold are also significant health concerns for the community.

CARE IS A
COMPREHENSIVE
WAY FOR
COMMUNITIES TO
ADDRESS TOXICS
ISSUES

CARE
LOCAL PARTNERSHIPS. HEALTHY COMMUNITIES.

- **Wind River Environmental Justice Project - Ethete, Wyoming:** This Level I grant was awarded in 2008 for a cross-cultural, community organization based on the Wind River Indian Reservation. The project will implement a broad-based tribal and community awareness campaign with the goal of generating wider understanding of environmental impacts in the lower Wind River area and building consensus on priorities for reducing risks.

We encourage more tribes to participate in the CARE Program. We hope to have another grant solicitation in mid-December, pending resolution of the EPA budget. Watch the CARE website for the announcement and other CARE information at: www.epa.gov/care/ or contact Dennis O'Connor at occonnor.dennis@epa.gov

RULE COMING FOR AIRCRAFT USING LEADED GAS

Piston-engine aircraft are the primary type of aircraft used in general aviation and air taxi activity in the U.S. These aircraft use leaded aviation gasoline, which accounted for 50% of all U.S. lead emissions in 2005. These smaller planes and helicopters are used for personal transportation, flight instruction, business/corporate transport, air taxi service, aerial application of pesticides and observation.

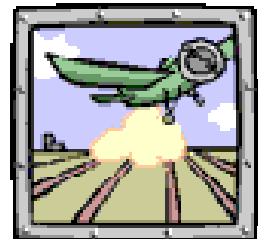
EPA's Office of Transportation and Air Quality (OTAQ) is currently preparing an Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPR) on the potential public health and welfare effects from lead emitted by piston-engine aircraft that use leaded aviation gasoline (avgas). The ANPR should be issued in 2010.

In the ANPR, EPA will describe and seek comment on currently available information, as well as on additional

data and analyses that EPA will be conducting. EPA is interested in any information regarding the potential exposure to, and/or impact of, lead emissions from these aircraft on tribal land.

While developing the ANPR, OTAQ is actively gathering data and improving its modeling tools. A modeling and monitoring study at the airport in Santa Monica, California should improve EPA's understanding of these aircraft's lead emissions and the resultant lead levels in ambient air and soil.

EPA anticipates that the information gathered through the ANPR process, and through EPA's ongoing efforts in data-gathering and model improvement will provide the basis for subsequent rulemaking. For updates and additional information, please see our website at: www.epa.gov/aviation.htm



IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS RULEMAKING, PLEASE CONTACT MARION HOYER AT 734-214-4513 (HOYER.MARION@EPA.GOV) OR MEREDITH PEDDE AT 734-214-4748 (PEDDE.MEREDITH@EPA.GOV)



TRIBES IN THE NEWS

This past season has seen a number of tribes make the news for issues related to air quality. We are proud to highlight those tribes in this issue. Whether summarized or reprinted, all articles have links to the original source. Enjoy!



SOUTHERN UTES IN *The New York Times*

August 17, 2009

By Kirk Johnson

An unusual experiment featuring equal parts science, environmental optimism and Native American capitalist ambition is unfolding here on the [Southern Ute Indian Reservation](#) in southwest Colorado.

With the twin goals of making fuel from algae and reducing emissions of heat-trapping gases, a start-up

company co-founded by a [Colorado State University](#) professor recently introduced a strain of algae that loves carbon dioxide into a water tank next to a [natural gas](#) processing plant. The water is already green-tinged with life.

See the complete story with photographs at: http://www.nytimes.com/2009/08/17/business/energy-environment/17algae.html?_r=1&emc=eta1



EPA HONORS NAVAJO ACCOMPLISHMENTS

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http://nativetimes.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=2059&Itemid=55

WINDOW ROCK, Ariz.

The Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency was recognized by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 9 for its 30-year partnership in protecting the Navajo environment and for its regional and national leadership in the development of tribal environmental programs.

On Tuesday, Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., and Navajo EPA Executive Director Stephen B. Etsitty expressed their appreciation to acting U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator Laura Yoshii and her staff during their two-day visit to Navajoland for a senior management team meeting with the Navajo Nation EPA to plan out priorities for the next two years.

Ms. Yoshii took the opportunity of her visit to present a plaque to Mr. Etsitty and the Navajo Nation EPA in recognition of its three decades of accomplishments and for building its program into one of the premiere tribal environmental offices in the country.

"I want to express my heartfelt appreciation for the partnership but, most importantly, to congratulate you for the tremendous accomplishments, urge you to share our commitment to continue working with you in full partnership," Ms. Yoshii said.

"I DO RECALL WHEN ENGAGEMENT WITH THE NAVAJO EPA WAS A HANDFUL OF PEOPLE," SHE SAID. "NOW IT'S 66 PEOPLE ON STAFF."
- LAURA YOSHII,
ACTING US EPA
REGION 9
ADMINISTRATOR

Among the Navajo EPA's accomplishments are:

- The ongoing clean up of the Northeast Churchrock Mine site.
- The on-going five-year, five federal agency plan to address uranium contamination on the Navajo Nation.
- Having two staff receive inspector credentials through the U.S. EPA Underground Storage Tank program, giving them authority to inspect tanks on behalf of the EPA and cite for violations of federal regulations.
- The March 2008 passage of the Navajo Nation Superfund law.
- Receiving primacy for the Underground Injection Control program in December 2008.
- Having the Navajo EPA delegated to administer the Title V Air Permitting Program.

Mr. Etsitty gave credit to his long-time staff for its dedication and perseverance to achieve what the program has.

"I can't do enough to take care of my staff," he said. "They are so tireless in what they do. They are so attentive to our mission which is to protect the public health and the environment on the Navajo Nation."



Navajo Nation President Joe Shirley, Jr., and Navajo EPA Executive Director Stephen B. Etsitty expressed their appreciation to acting U.S. EPA Region 9 Administrator Laura Yoshii who presented the Navajo EPA with a plaque in recognition of its 30 years of protecting the Navajo environment and creating a premiere tribal environment program.

President Shirley told Ms. Yoshii that families in the Churchrock area whose homes and lands are being cleaned up through the U.S. EPA's efforts are also grateful for the clean-up program after waiting years and hearing unfulfilled promises from others. Unlike in the past, he said, after visiting their homes, the U.S. EPA returned with money and equipment to really clean up the sites.

"'Now we believe,' is what they said," the President told Ms. Yoshii. "Certainly we look forward to fulfilling those plans. I look forward to working together."

Ms. Yoshii said she was fortunate through her career at EPA to work with tribal programs over many years.

"I do recall when engagement with the Navajo EPA was a handful of people," she said. "Now it's 66 people on staff."

"We need strong partners and allies in the fight for environmental protection," she said. "The agency really has moved to recognize the importance of tribal programs."

She said in the mid-90s, only 10 percent of tribes were supported with funding by the U.S. EPA to develop their environmental programs. Today, she said, 90 percent of the nation's 563 tribes enjoy at least basic environmental resources from the federal government.

"We know that in certain areas, in particular access to safe drinking water, there are huge disparities on tribal lands (compared to) what the rest of the country enjoys," Ms. Yoshii said. "We know that on the Navajo Nation, 30 percent of the families still lack access to drinking water so we're committed to getting those resources. We've seen incredible progress."

She said President Obama has set aside resources for clean-up and waste water infrastructure in the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act.

LEECH LAKE BAND OF OJIBWE ON MINNESOTA PUBLIC RADIO

SOLAR HEATERS PROVIDE WINTER ASSISTANCE AND A NEW BUSINESS

by [Tom Robertson](#), Minnesota Public Radio
August 24, 2009



The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is putting some cutting-edge solar technology on the homes of low-income tribal members. With help from a federal grant, the tribe is installing solar air heating systems in eight low-income homes. For participating households, it's going to mean significantly lower heating costs this winter.

The full story and more photographs are available at:
<http://minnesota.publicradio.org/display/web/2009/08/24/solar-air-heaters/>

A CREW OF WORKERS FROM THE LEECH LAKE INDIAN RESERVATION PREPARES A HOME FOR INSTALLATION OF TWO LARGE SOLAR PANELS. AIR HEATED BY THE PANELS IS CIRCULATED IN THE HOME USING FANS AND DUCTWORK. THE UNIT COULD CUT WINTER HEATING COSTS BY AS MUCH AS ONE-FOURTH.

(MPR PHOTO/TOM ROBERTSON)



SHOSHONE GEOTHERMAL ENERGY PROJECT

This document was originally published online on Tuesday, August 04, 2009 in the Idaho State Journal. Reprinted with kind permission, and available online at: <http://journalnet.com/articles/2009/08/04/news/breaking/6.txt>

By Yann Ranaivo yranaivo@journalnet.com

Jason Walker's daily schedule is as packed as some of the cardboard boxes surrounding the desks in the office building where he recently moved.

During these summer days, Walker, a 33-year-old student at Idaho State University, is out of class but maintains his responsibilities with the Northwestern Band of the Shoshone Nation, where he serves as both vice chairman and air-quality manager.

Walker began working for the Shoshone Nation nine years ago.

He said one of his biggest goals is to help the roughly 485-member tribe grow and prosper financially, regardless of the current state of economy.

"For years, the tribe has been looking for ways to generate more revenue," he said, adding that

he belongs to one of the smallest Shoshone bands.

"We want to make sure our younger tribal members are educated and that our elders are taken care of."

Walker notes a geothermal project that his tribe's economic development corps established and council approved.

He said the project involves building a geothermal plant near Honeyville, Utah. It's expected to begin generating power by 2012. The power will be sold to recipients in Southern California.

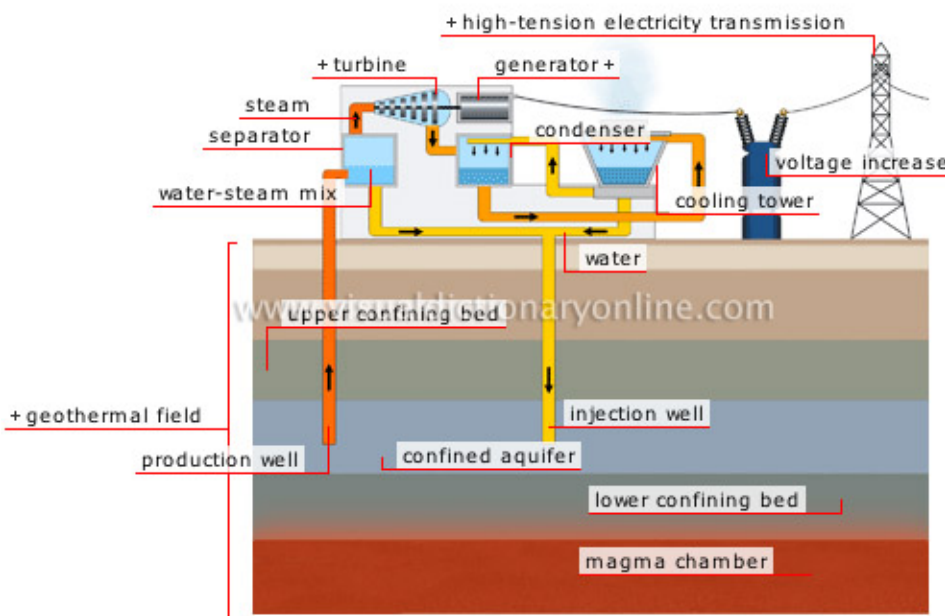
"That's going to be a very lucrative endeavor for the tribe. That's our flagship project," he said, adding that the



current geothermal project is one of about five other renewable energy projects his tribe is pursuing. Walker said his role as the tribe's vice chairman allows him to stay apprised of projects such as the construction of the geothermal plant.

He said the tribe has favored geothermal energy because it is a more consistent source of power generation than other renewables, such as wind and solar. In addition, he expects the geothermal project to generate a great number of construction jobs for the tribe.

When he's not dealing with tribal matters or receiving the latest update on the energy project, he can be found on the softball diamond and jokes about hitting home runs as a favor to those who care to come watch his team play.



PRODUCTION OF ELECTRICITY FROM GEOTHERMAL ENERGY

HOT WATER CONTAINED IN THE GROUND NEAR A VOLCANO, GEYSER OR THERMAL SOURCE IS PIPED TO THE SURFACE BY DRILLING TO EXTRACT STEAM AND PRODUCE ELECTRICITY.

(FROM MERRIAM-WEBSTER ONLINE..)

POTAWATOMI WINS AIR POLLUTION CASE AGAINST MICHIGAN



The Potawatomi tribe was featured on Minnesota WKOW TV September 11, 2009.
Here is the transcript.

You can read to the story at: <http://www.wkowitz.com/Global/story.asp?S=11115127>

Posted: Sep 11, 2009 2:15 PM EDT TRAVERSE CITY, Mich.

The Wisconsin Potawatomi Indian tribe won a battle in federal court against the state of Michigan over air quality. The dispute has lasted nearly 15 years.

Michigan challenged the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's decision last year to give the Forest County Potawatomi Community's reservation the highest level of protection against air pollution. The EPA's action followed years of negotiations between Michigan and the tribe. The tribe reached a separate deal with Wisconsin.

Michigan officials say the EPA used a flawed process of making the air quality designation, which they contend will create complications for the state's air quality control programs.

On Wednesday, however, the 7th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals dismissed Michigan's complaint, saying the state had no basis to challenge the case.



NORTHERN CHEYENNE ON NPR'S "LIVING ON EARTH"

Northern Cheyenne Air Quality staffer Jay Littleworth was featured on National Public Radio's program, "Living on Earth." Below is the transcript.

You can listen to the program at: <http://www.loe.org/shows/segments.htm?programID=09-P13-00031&segmentID=3>

[SOUND OF TRUCK DRIVING ON MOUNTAIN ROADS]

KRAKER: Jay Littleworth's mud-caked pickup careens up the rutted road to Badger Peak, the highest point on the Northern Cheyenne reservation.

At the summit is one of the more visible signs of his people's long fight to preserve their environment.

[SOUND OF DOOR OPENING. HUMMING]

KRAKER: Littleworth opens the door to one of the tribe's three air quality monitoring stations.

LITTLEWOLF: Basically all three sites monitor for SO2, NOx, NO, NO2...

KRAKER: Inside the tiny trailer air analyzers hum as they measure tiny amounts of the pollutants.

[HUMMING SOUND]

KRAKER: Outside, Littleworth points north, where 16 miles away four smokestacks puff wisps of smoke into the bright blue sky.

LITTLEWOLF: But with that plume from Colstrip, no matter what time of the year you can see it, usually in the morning you can see a brown haze in the sky there, and that's nitrogen dioxide.

KRAKER: Colstrip is Montana's largest coal plant. It cranks out over two thousand megawatts of electricity. When the plant's owners wanted to expand in the 1970s, the Northern Cheyenne fought back. They became the first



Jay Littleworth on top of Badger Peak outside one of the tribe's air-quality monitoring stations. (Photo: Dan Kraker)

government to voluntarily adopt the strictest air quality standard—a Class I airshed, the same as national parks.

The tribe used its new leverage to force the coal plant's owners to install state-of-the-art pollution scrubbers, and to pay for the tribe's air monitors.

[HUMMING SOUND]

KRAKER: Back inside Littleworth turns on a computer to show me the data he's collected.

LITTLEWOLF: We still get low numbers, but we measure and report in parts per billion. So we're still being impacted because even Class I has a very small increment [allowable pollution]. It doesn't take much to impact us.



The power plant in Colstrip, just a dozen miles north of the reservation boundary. It is the largest coal-fired power plant in Montana.

(Photo: Dan Kraker)

KRAKER: Over the years the tribe has used its stringent air quality standards to stop proposed mines and power plants beyond the reservation too. But now this reservation is an island. Five major strip mines surround it. There's a new power plant 60 miles west, hundreds of natural gas wells to the south, and two proposed plants to convert coal to diesel. Many people here say it's time for the Northern Cheyenne to also join in the coal boom, before it's too late.

SPANG: My name is Leroy

Continued on next page



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Flag of the Northern Cheyenne

NORTHERN CHEYENNE—*CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE*

Spang. I was recently elected president of the Northern Cheyenne tribe.

KRAKER: Spang worked for three decades as a miner in Colstrip before retiring three years ago. Coal is what he knows, and it's what he campaigned on.

SPANG: My platform was more or less coal. I guess there was a lot of people backing me for that coal, that's how I got in.

KRAKER: Two years ago, after decades of fierce opposition, tribal members finally said "yes" to developing their coal resources in a special referendum. There's an amazing amount of coal here; billions of tons under practically every inch of the reservation, part of a rich belt that stretches into Wyoming. Eugene Limpy, a former tribal vice president and Spang supporter, says there's enough to support generations of his people.



LIMPY: And the revenue that would come from that coal will address our needs for money for education, housing for all our people, and a retirement fund when people

Tribal President Leroy Spang in his office. (Photo: Dan Kraker)

reach elderly age.

KRAKER: Limpy seems unconcerned that elsewhere in the country, some are turning away from coal because of its carbon emissions.

LIMPY: It might seem way out far but they're going to find a technique to turn that coal into some kind of energy, maybe atomic fuel. Technology is always coming up with something to use the resources underneath.

KRAKER: And Limpy says those resources could provide jobs, on a reservation where the unemployment rate is about 70 percent, and the median income only half the national average. Limpy has a good job working for the tribal government, but he says the poverty affects everyone.

LIMPY: That includes me. I have 17 people living in my home. I keep seven of my grandchildren. There's no housing. We can't afford to buy a house.



Outside tribal headquarters (Photo: Dan Kraker)

KRAKER: But both Limpy and Spang acknowledge the Cheyennes' own environmental laws could be a roadblock.

LIMPY: It costs money for the companies to comply with the high standard of the clean air act that the tribe won at U.S. Supreme Court.

KRAKER: Would there be any consideration of lowering that air quality standard?

The question clearly makes Spang uncomfortable. He holds his hand up to signal he doesn't want to answer.

[CAR SOUNDS]

WHITEMAN: We're driving down Lame Deer, Montana, Cheyenne Avenue. We even have a four way stop downtown. What you see here is like third world conditions.

KRAKER: Philip Whiteman Junior cruises the tribal capitol's main drag—not much more than a gas station,

cafe and some boarded up storefronts. Whiteman is one of the most vocal opponents of coal development.

WHITEMAN: A lot of people think that industrial culture, gas, coal, all of that is going to bring in money, jobs, then plus they even promise Dollar Store.



Horses grazing on the Northern Cheyenne reservation. *(Photo: Dan Kraker)*

KRAKER: He gestures out the window as we drive north out of Lame Deer, past horses grazing in rolling pastures.

WHITEMAN: Look at this beauty of this land. It's priceless. Substitute that for a dollar store? That's what our people are faced with today.

[CAR SOUNDS]

KRAKER: Whiteman's taking me to one of his people's most sacred sites, Medicine Deer Rock. It's where the famous Chief Sitting Bull led Cheyenne and Sioux warriors in a Sun Dance before the Battle of Little Big Horn, where General George Custer was killed. It was a defeat that shocked America. But the victory was short-lived for the Cheyenne—they surrendered less than a year later.

[SOUND OF LIGHTER]

WHITEMAN: Bless myself with Mother Earth. Offer tobacco in the four sacred directions.

[PRAYING IN NATIVE LANGUAGE]

[SOUND OF WALKING]

KRAKER: Whiteman finishes his prayer and leads me around the rock. It's lined with huge pictograph panels, like a giant stone art gallery. One image depicts the vision Sitting Bull had before the battle, of Custer's soldiers dying like insects.

WHITEMAN: Look at the soldiers. Falling into the camp like locusts. They've got grasshopper legs.

KRAKER: Around the rock people have tied bright prayer cloths to trees, others have left offerings of food.



Prayer cloths hung around the Medicine Deer Rock. *(Photo: Dan Kraker)*

KRAKER: Whiteman believes the fight against coal is just the latest battle for his people, who still refer to themselves as "the Fighting Cheyenne."

[TRUCK SOUNDS]

WHITEMAN: We believe that we're still fighting in many ways, to preserve and protect our language, culture, identity, and submitting to the exploitation of our land, what little land that we have left, could be devastating to our future generations.

KRAKER: For those Northern Cheyenne who oppose coal mining, it invariably comes back to wanting to protect the land their ancestors fought so hard for. Shortly after the tribe, in defeat, was forcibly moved to a fort in Nebraska, they broke out; and in the dead of a frigid winter trekked hundreds of miles back here.

LONEBEAR: There are a lot of people who made a grave sacrifice.

KRAKER: Ben Lonebear, only 29 years old, is the tribe's treasurer.

LONEBEAR: And I think the rationale behind not developing those resources is based on the respect for those things. And that tearing up our land that was fought for and died for really, really hits home for some people.

KRAKER: But Lonebear also knows the hardship of living in a place where there's practically no economy.

NORTHERN CHEYENNE—*CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE*

LONEBEAR: From the treasurer's standpoint, I believe that 85, maybe 90 percent of the money that comes into the tribe comes in the form of assistance from the federal government.



A mural painted on the side of an auto repair shop in downtown Lame Deer, encouraging young people to stay away from alcohol.

KRAKER: To become more self-sufficient Lonebear doesn't rule out coal. But he believes the tribe should explore renewables first. The Department of Energy says there is

enormous wind potential on the reservation. And that's the route local environmentalists, like Alexis Bonogofsky with the National Wildlife Federation, are urging the tribe to take.

[TRAFFIC SOUNDS]

BONOGOSKY: It's a false choice they're being presented with, to be backed up against the wall, and say you have to develop your minerals or else you're going to remain in poverty, it's a horrible position to be in.

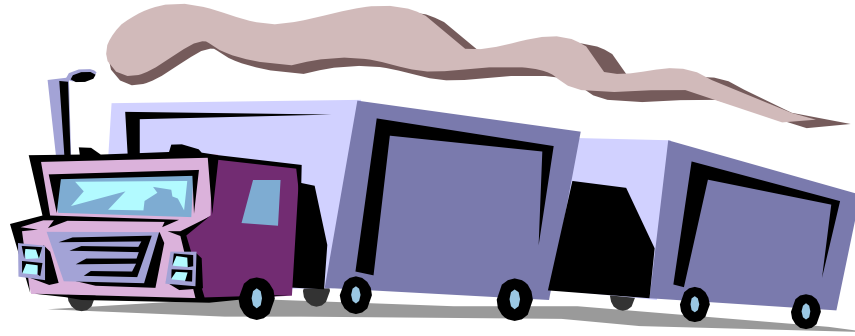
KRAKER: But there may be something even more fundamental at stake for many Northern Cheyenne, than whether they mine their coal or leave it in the ground, or even build wind turbines.

For people like Ben Lonebear, the key is cultural survival, not economic prosperity. If the tribe loses its language and ceremonies, he says with sadness, then they become just regular Americans, like everyone else.

For Living on Earth, I'm Daniel Kraker, in Lame Deer, Montana



NORTHERN CHEYENNE SYMBOL OF THE UNIVERSE



MILLIONS IN DIESEL RETROFIT GRANTS AVAILABLE EPA INVITES TRIBAL NATIONS TO APPLY

Numerous scientific studies link diesel pollution to a number of serious respiratory and cardiac health effects, including heart and lung disease, chronic bronchitis, exacerbations of asthma symptoms, and even premature mortality. EPA recognizes the critical need to reduce the harmful impacts of diesel pollution and has classified diesel exhaust as likely to be carcinogenic at ambient environmental concentrations.

A significant contributor to diesel pollution is the nation's legacy fleet of 20 million diesel engines. These legacy engines were produced before EPA established strict emissions standards which limit emission levels from new engines. Diesel engines are durable and can operate for decades. This means that these older legacy engines can continue to emit large amounts of diesel pollution well into the future.

The National Clean Diesel Campaign's (NCDC's) four Diesel Emissions Reductions Program (DERA) grant programs are designed to facilitate the replacement, repower, or retrofit of these older engines in order to reduce their harmful emissions. The four grant programs fund clean diesel grant projects, develop diesel emerging technologies, establish diesel finance programs, and assist states with their clean diesel programs. The grant programs are competitive with the exception of the State Clean Diesel Program, which is for states to establish or enhance their own clean diesel programs.

To date NCDC has awarded over \$350 million in clean diesel grants under DERA. NCDC will make both its FY 2009 and estimated FY2010 competitive program funds, totaling approximately \$64 million, available this Fall in this RFP. Joining the two fiscal year funds will help

expedite creating new projects to reduce diesel emissions.

EPA is dedicated to working with Tribes to ensure that these engines are replaced, repowered, or retrofitted to reduce the amount of diesel pollutions emitted into the air we all breathe. EPA was able to fund four tribal projects with the DERA Recovery Act funds and is looking forward to greater tribal participation with this upcoming Fiscal Year award cycle.

State, tribal and local (city and county) governments as well as school districts, and metropolitan planning organizations, and non-profits and institutions with transportation, educational services and air quality responsibilities are eligible to apply. Tribal governments also have the option to partner with private sector fleets to participate in the program or have a representative tribal consortium represent a group of tribes.

**\$84 MILLION IS
AVAILABLE FOR
DIESEL PROJECTS
THROUGH THE
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS
OPENING THIS
MONTH**
[WWW.EPA.GOV/
CLEANDIESEL](http://WWW.EPA.GOV/CLEANDIESEL)

Diesel engines power the nation's transportation industry. EPA's new emission reducing standards will ensure that the diesel engines manufactured today and in the future are cleaner. EPA is eager to work with tribes so that emissions from the diesel engines powering the needs of tribal communities are reduced. These grants can help tribal governments reduce diesel pollution and protect the air in tribal communities. Please visit the NCDC website at www.epa.gov/cleandiesel to find out how to participate. EPA also encourages all interested parties to sign up for the Clean Diesel listserv, also found on the NCDC website, for updated information on clean diesel grants.

Contact: Rosalva Tapia at tapia.rosalva@epa.gov or 202/343-9534.



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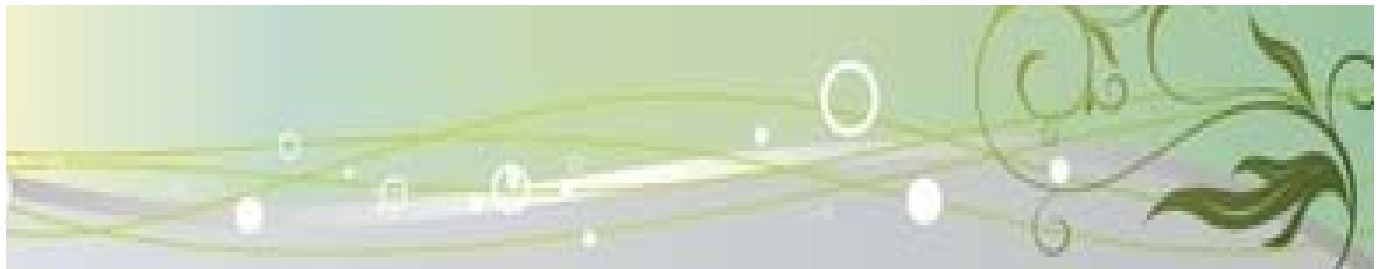
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For more information about the newsletter, or **to contribute stories and pictures** contact:

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MARK YOUR CALENDAR!



ITEP Trainings

(<http://www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/aiqtp.asp>)

- [Sept 30-Dec 16, 2009: Tribal Data Toolbox Web-Based Course, Online](#)
- [Oct 6-9, 2009: Indoor Air Quality in Alaska, Anchorage, AK](#)