

Issues to OITA/AIEO

What is AIEO mission statement, annual budget, and annual accomplishments?	Regarding mission statement: AIEO shared a document with the Caucus on 10/19. Regarding progress report: AIEO does not publish an accomplishments report, but contributes to the Agency's annual report. We will share that report with the RTOC in the future. EPA's most recent accomplishments report is published here: https://www.epa.gov/newsroom/epa-year-review-2017-2018 .
GAP Online 3.0 - we would like senior leaders to use it. Is it doing what you hoped, in the best way possible? (suggest using the system in Indian Country...internet cx)	AIEO looks forward to coordinating with Region 9 GAP Online Power Users to provide training to RTOC members and answer questions about GAP Online 3.0 (GO3) during the October 2018 tribal conference. AIEO continues to gather input from tribes and POs on the user experience with GO3. OITA managers continue to review and consider user feedback on GAP Online when making decisions about the development and utilization of the updated work plan development system. OITA is also paying close attention to the purpose and function of GAP Online as we continue with the GAP Guidance Evaluation to ensure that it will support EPA's responsibility for tracking and reporting national program performance.
What reporting is being produced by AIEO on GAP? Can we see it?	In progress
Please provide more training on Proposal Cost Preparation Policy and explain why GAP is capped at 5% when grantwriting is essential to program establishment.	AIEO worked closely with the Regions to provide tribal program comments to the Office of Grants and Debarment while the EPA Policy on Direct Charges for Proposal Preparation Costs was under development. The general rule in 2 CFR 200.460, applicable across federal agencies and various recipient groups, is that proposal preparation costs will normally be covered as indirect costs. EPA's final policy carves out exceptions to this general rule, including that for GAP, recipients can directly charge proposal preparation costs associated with applications for a wide range of funding sources. This flexibility for GAP recipients is broader than the exceptions for other EPA Continuing Environmental Program grants. The final EPA policy provides that "Proposal preparation costs must bear a reasonable relationship to the total budget and in no event exceed 5% of the total budget (which includes both EPA's share and any cost share/match by the recipient) for the agreement to meet the reasonableness requirement. However, OGD, after consulting with the National Program Manager and OGC, may provide an exception to this limitation based on extraordinary circumstances." If a GAP recipient wishes to request direct charges for proposal preparation costs that exceed 5% of the total award budget, the recipient should contact their Project Officer for guidance. In order for the Region to request an exception, the recipient will need to provide a justification for the exception (description of why the exception is needed, any extenuating circumstances that may prevent compliance with the 5% limitation), information the project officer specifies, and any additional background information that may help EPA to make a determination.
New GAP Online Training when will it start and will localized trainings be offered?	See note above re: GO3 training at October Conference. OITA is also planning a "train the trainer" session for GAP Project Officers this fall, which is intended to increase the available training opportunities for tribes across the country.

Media Office Action Items

Request an update from EPA regarding the Draft General Air Quality Permit for New or Modified Minor Source Gasoline Dispensing Facilities in Indian Country within California (EPA-R09-OAR-2016-0580)	EPA Air Division anticipates making a final decision on publication of the Gas Station General Permit by the end of the calendar year.
Concern about EPA QA office trying to force a tribe to place language in their QAPP that they will work with other tribes. When tribe representative voiced concern EPA said they would send a letter to the Chairman.	The QA Office does not force anyone to do anything but write and implement a complete plan that can be approved, which is a grant requirement. EPA may have provided suggestions as to how to meet resource-limited QA needs, such as having a final data review process that is independent of the data collection team. QA Office could not and would not force tribes to work in any particular way to meet the needs of the project. This issue has been clarified with the Tribe by the reviewer and the plan has been approved.
Fiscal Training: IDC, MBE/WBE, SF-425's hasn't been offered in awhile. We understand a full training is expensive but can we ask for limited training on some items?	Some of these topics will be covered at the Conference. Sessions will include Office of Grants and Debarment Updates, Overview of GAP and GAP eligible Activities, Calculating FTE & Component Costs for Your GAP Workplan.
Request that an NPETE style financial training be available to Tribes or at least provide an opportunity to access the archived NPETE webinars.	Julie Milazzo obtained an archive set of NPETE materials! While the reference the old regulations, the content is good. We will post them to the RTOC website. We are also nearing completion of a new training for applicants/recipients.
Over the last year the Big Pine Tribe had to overcome a major challenge with IDC. Trying to resolve the issue was difficult due to a real need for a face to face meeting and coordination of Programmatic POs with Grant Specialists. As a result, a lot of energy was spent on the issue over a long period of time. It is requested that Grant Specialists do site visits along with POs to provide stronger support for Tribes.	The Grants Office is planning a series of Grants Specialists (GS) Site Visits for this upcoming fiscal year to provide grants outreach, administrative technical assistance, and general problem solving. Due to limited resources, the Grants Office is currently compiling a list of Tribes in the most need of a GS site visit and plans to coordinate with Program Offices to see if a combined site visit is possible. The Grants Office is also working with Big Pine to see if they still are in need of help to resolve IDC, budget, and other administrative issues.
Every month tribes should receive an email updating them on NTOC activities. So Cal requests that the NTC Chair provide NTOC meeting minutes in a timely manner. Report should include whom the NTC met with, what was discussed, what program issues were raised, what comments were provided to EPA, is EPA proposing any new regs, what new issues were brought up? How does the NTOC take regional concerns from the RTOCs to the national level?	NTC reps to follow up.

Please provide a more detailed response to the issue previously raised requesting the EPA Project Officers respond and approve quarterly reports in a timely manner (e.g., 60 days).	There is no regulations-based service standard for this task, and it is up to each office's supervisor to set standards for the employees they manage. We have provided this input to the managers of tribal grant programs as they consider setting performance standards for FY2019.
Send out mike stoker memo.	Alan has sent the memo.
How can I (individual tribe) request an exception to the Proposal Cost Prep Policy? OR should the R9 Caucus request an exception for all of us?	Julie has reached out to the developers of the policy, and they are working on specific procedures for requesting exceptions.
Conference Sessions: Alan will look for tribal speakers to host sessions identified, and those people will follow up to request sessions.	Alan Bacock will reach out to folks! Folks will sign up!
Can we have access to the webinars related to NPETE, in addition to the slides?	Julie Milazzo has reached out about these, and no one was aware of NPETE-related webinars, however it may be that other training webinars that had been posted on the same site as the NPETE training were also moved or removed. EPA is in the process of redesigning its grant internet site, so training webinars may have been moved.

Responding to the GAP Workgroup

When a tribe experiences an emergency what can be done under GAP?	A handout has been developed, contact your Project Officer for more information.
What does capacity building look like for landless tribes?	A GAP conference session was developed with this in mind.
What reporting is compiled by the Region on GAP?	Shared with GAP Workgroup 7/18.
My council wants me to do things (property research, EA, other). Can we have some clear info about what's eligible and not so I can be clear with them?	EPA is working on an explainer document you can share with your Council and Administrator. Coming by December 1.
Let's consider asking questions and framing issues differently. For example: Here's where I want to go. How can I get there? What resources exist to help me?	Suggest a conference session modelling what success looks like.
The negotiation process takes a long time, is frustrating, and is difficult.	The GAP team has been engaged in a deep analysis of the grantmaking process and has identified some very significant ways to reduce the time it takes to negotiate grants, improve consistency among project officers, and ensure conformity with the sometimes confusing GAP guidance. Tribes will see some of these changes starting in October when we issue a new Notification for FY20 applications. We will talk more about our process and what's next at the Annual Conference.
Future GAP Workgroup conversation: Performance measures, describing the benefits of GAP, etc.	For a future GAP workgroup discussion! This is a very meaty topic with potential for big dividends.
When tribes are told something is not eligible, we aren't told why.	What and why is expected from Project Officers. If you receive a response that does not include why something was not eligible or allowable, please forward it to Laura Ebbert for followup.
What about going to meetings with other agencies?	This should be added to a future GAP Workgroup meeting to discuss, it's a little complicated.
Has EPA R9 approved any tribally defined capacity indicators? The Guidance allows tribes to define their own capacity indicators but Project Officers don't seem to want to approve them when proposed by the tribes.	R9 requests for indicators should be sent to supervisor of tribal office. We aren't aware of any being requested in the past 2 grant cycles. Please send future requests to the supervisor so we can track and follow up appropriately.

..And a number of items of Feedback for the GAP team that we will fold into our internal review

Negotiation feels like mandates. We want to feel like partners.	Thank you for this input, folding into our internal review.
FTE was a focus this year. What's next year's focus. What justification supports you focusing on this?	Thank you for this input, folding into our internal review.
I was told I wouldn't get GAP if I didn't submit my SWMP.	A SWMP is a requirement for some activities in Section E. See the GAP Guidance, Section E for more information.
Revisit the question of using ETEP as capacity indicators. How do indicators work with ETEPs and work plans? There was discussion on where and how the indicators should be included. What is the recommendation of EPA to their POs when discussing indicators and ETEPS?	Thank you for this input, folding into our internal review.
GAP issue: In the negotiation process, it seems that what the project officers are looking for, in the overall work plan, is unclear. What constitutes as enough work to justify full-time employee funding? It seems that the tribes are now being asked to do more work with less money. How is USEPA looking at the estimated work cost in relation to the estimated component cost?	Thank you for this input, folding into our internal review.

Lack of consistency from EPA R9 Project Officers. Concern about EPA seeming to require implementation of new requirements without prior notification; At least two So Cal tribes have been told that if they do not have an approved (signed resolution or letter from tribe) IWMP in place by 9/30/18 they will lose FY19 GAP funding, and to complete Open Dump Assessment Forms. Timing of deliverable requirements seem to vary (e.g., TEP progress). End of year assessments and analysis of expenditures vs. deliverables. GAP Project Officers are very severely restricting funding levels for GAP workplan components, such as only being allowed .05% for grant administration

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