

Region 9 Tribal Newsletter

United States Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, Pacific Southwest

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SAVE THE DATE!

The Summer RTOC will take place from July 20 - 22!

Please visit the RTOC web site for updates:

[Summer RTOC Information](#)

Musings from the Director, Water Division

The last 10 years have seen dramatic advances in tribal capacity to develop and administer drinking water and surface water programs, water infrastructure, and in obtaining treatment in a similar manner as a state (TAS) authority (and thus, autonomy) to oversee important water programs. And yet, some things have stayed relatively constant, funding for instance. While many more tribes have acquired TAS authority to administer the Nonpoint Source, Water Pollution Control, and Water Quality Standards Programs over the past decade, the appropriations that Congress provides the Environmental Protection Agency (U.S. EPA) in the form of grants to tribes to administer these programs has generally remained the same. Several years ago, and in large part through the advocacy of the National and Regional Tribal Operations Councils, the formula that the U.S. EPA uses to allocate funding for tribal infrastructure projects, known as the Indian Set-Asides, was increased to address the stark disparity in access to piped water and sanitation on tribal lands as compared to the rest of the population. Might it be time to revisit these funding allocation formulas?

I recently met with the chair of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC), Mervyn Wright, and members of the Budget Workgroup and was heartened to hear they were actively pondering this very question. While change is never easy when it comes to real-locating resources, I am more optimistic than ever that we can and will meet this challenge working side-by-side with tribes. Over the next several months, my team will meet with the RTOC Budget Workgroup leads to discuss the existing national allocation formulas and explore strategies to best advocate for additional resources based on tribal needs and data. We look forward to our continued partnership in this area. We are here to support tribes as they continue to administer and obtain authority to oversee water programs in Indian Country.

I often reflect on our trust responsibility to tribes and what more we can do to ensure that the U.S. EPA engages meaningfully with tribes on federal actions we take that may impact tribal interests. My U.S. EPA peers and I frequently ponder this question and I am proud that

(Musings from the Director Continued...)

we are collectively committed to getting better at engaging with tribes, whether informally via periodic check-ins or through the more formal consultation process. Understanding the historical inequities and injustice experienced by indigenous people in the United States is a good start. Two years ago, we launched a Water Division Consultation Standard Operating Procedure to begin integrating tribal engagement in a more coordinated and consistent way across the Division.

While not perfect, the premise behind this document was to provide clear expectations, guidance, and steps that promote early and meaningful engagement with tribes. I was heartened with the positive response across the Division, and the data was equally revealing: in our inaugural year of implementing these procedures, Water Division issued over 375 offers of consultation to Region 9 tribes, more than the previous 10 years combined. I say this is a good start as we continue to grow and improve in this area of early and meaningful engagement with tribal staff and leadership. Finally, I would like to express my sincere thanks to all of you and your tribal leadership for the great work you have done towards strengthening and supporting environmental efforts, particularly in advancing water capabilities in Indian Country to protect tribal members. My team and I are here to support your efforts and are committed to our continued partnership to protect public health and the environment in Indian Country. Here's to wishing you and your families an exciting and safe summer!

Respectfully,
Tomas Torres,
Director, Water Division

Regulatory News

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America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018

America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018 (AWIA) provisions are the most far-reaching changes to the Safe Drinking Water Act since the 1996 Amendments, with over 30 mandated programs designed to improve drinking water quality and improve public health. One such program mandated by AWIA requires community water systems serving more than 3,300 people to develop or update risk assessments and emergency response plans (ERPs). The law specifies the components that the risk assessments and ERPs must address, and established deadlines by which water systems must certify to the U.S. EPA completion of the risk assessments and ERPs.

Community water systems with service populations between 3,301 and 49,999 must certify completion of risk assessments by June 30, 2021. ERP certifications for these systems are due six months from the date of the risk assessment certification but no later than December 31, 2021. Region 9 staff have contacted tribal utility managers and community water system operators impacted by these requirements to discuss compliance assistance needs. For more information and resources on AWIA, including templates for completion of risk assessments and ERPs, please visit: AWIA: [Risk Assessment and Emergency Response Plans](#), or contact Greg Gholson at (415) 947-4209 or gholson.greg@epa.gov.

U.S. EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance: Inspection Commitment Temporary Flexibilities Extension

Compliance assurance activities, including onsite inspections and off-site compliance monitoring activities, are critical to the U.S. EPA shared mission with partner agencies to protect the health of communities and the environment. During the COVID-19 public health emergency, the U.S. EPA, as well as states, tribes, and local agencies have recognized the need to ensure the safety and health of our inspectors, as well as the regulated community, by adjusting compliance assurance activities to leverage off-site compliance monitoring tools while fewer staff have been able to perform onsite field inspections. Accordingly, the Agency issued a letter on July 22, 2020, communicating expectations for continued compliance monitoring, including conducting onsite inspections when it is safe to do so, and giving partner agencies the flexibility to count both off-site and onsite compliance assurance activities in meeting their compliance monitoring commitments. The flexibilities of the July letter ended on March 31, 2021; however, given the ongoing pandemic, the U.S. EPA has issued a new letter to extend the flexibilities through the end of this fiscal year (September 30, 2021). The Agency will evaluate the need to extend this date further at that time, if appropriate. The Agency continues to emphasize the need to use robust enforcement to advance environmental justice aims and to protect vulnerable communities.

Please follow this link to view the letter describing the extension to inspection flexibilities and providing additional clarification on processes and documentation: [Revised Inspection Expectations Letter](#).

Program Updates

Air and Radiation Division

The second planning period for the Regional Haze Rule is underway. State Implementation Plans (SIPs) for Regional Haze are due July 31, 2021. The Regional Haze program focuses on air pollution that impairs visibility at National Parks and Wilderness Areas that are designated mandatory Federal “[Class I Areas](#)”. It is a visibility program, not a public health program, although the same pollutants that cause visibility impairment also impact human health.

The first planning period, which began in 2007, focused on Best Available Retrofit Technology at certain sources of pollution. In the first period, the U.S. EPA required states to evaluate each source’s individual visibility impacts on Class I Areas.

The second planning period is less prescriptive. States must submit plans that make “reasonable progress” towards improving visibility conditions. The U.S. EPA has not specified an outcome or amount of emission reduction or visibility improvement as a reasonable indicator of progress for any Class I area.

States must follow the Clean Air Act and Regional Haze Rule to determine what is “necessary to make reasonable progress” for visibility in Class I areas. To make their determinations, states must analyze different control



Big Pine Reservation: Photo by Alan Bacock

options for pollution sources in terms of cost of compliance, time necessary for compliance, remaining useful life, and energy/non-air environmental impacts. Most states in the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) used a “Q/d” analysis to select emissions sources for analysis. This criterion relates total emissions of pollutants that impair visibility (“Q”) to the distance of the source from the nearest Class 1 area (“d”).

States may be coordinating with tribes individually or through WRAP as they develop their State Implementation Plans. The U.S. EPA has engaged with states on SIP development to increase the likelihood that SIPs will be approvable after they are submitted.

Visit the Agency’s Regional Haze program website here: www.epa.gov/visibility.

Environmental Justice Program: Monthly Community Office Hours

The U.S. EPA Region 9 Environmental Justice (EJ) program will be holding monthly virtual office hours open to all community members within Region 9, which includes the states of Arizona, California, Nevada, Hawaii, as well as 148 federally recognized tribes and the US Pacific Island territories. These office hours will provide community members with the opportunity to interact directly with a member of the U.S. EPA Region 9 EJ program to ask questions and highlight concerns related to environmental justice.

The U.S. EPA has unique responsibilities related to federally recognized tribes and tribal governments through a government-to-government relationship. Communities anywhere, including those on tribal lands, may experience disproportionate environmental impacts. EJ program tools and approaches may benefit tribal programs in their work to address the concerns of these communities.

The office hours are designed to connect community members with U.S. EPA staff, helping them to better understand and more effectively support the needs of communities facing EJ issues. The office hours are also open to community members engaged in EJ work, providing an opportunity for networking, coordination, and collaboration. For those questions for which an immediate response is unavailable, the EJ program will help connect callers with alternate subject matter experts within U.S. EPA Region 9 or with partner agencies.

Monthly, virtual, community office hours schedule: **The 4th Tuesday of each month from 6-7 p.m., starting June 22.** Access the meetings by using this Teams link: [EJ Community Office Hours Teams Meeting](#). The call-in number and meeting code are: +1 619-375-3276, 930 759 648 #.

For more information, please contact the Region 9 Environmental Justice Coordinators: Morgan Capilla 415-972-3504, capilla.morgan@epa.gov) and Alan Bacock (bacock.alan@epa.gov).

Emergency Planning, Preparedness & Response for Tribal Nations Workshop Recap

On May 20, 2021, the U.S. EPA hosted a virtual workshop with participation from over 90 people representing tribal nations and federal, state, and local agencies. A highlight of the workshop was the panel of Emergency Management leaders from the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe, the Salt River Indian Community, and the Shoshone-Paiute Tribes of the Duck Valley Reservation. Many thanks to all presenters and participants. Stay tuned for information on future webinars with additional case studies and peer-to-peer information sharing.

In the meantime, please visit the [Region 9 Tribal Emergency Preparedness and Response Workshop page](#) for access to presentations and links to additional resources. No password or login is required.

Please contact: Greg Bazley (562-733-0262, bazley.greg@epa.gov); Bill Jones (619-806-6737, jones.bill@epa.gov); Amanda Pease (415-301-1503, pease.amanda@epa.gov); or Pam Overman (415-972-3781, overman.pamela@epa.gov) with questions or suggestions.

General Assistance Program

The U.S. EPA is moving forward with finalizing revisions to the General Assistance Program (GAP) Guidance. The U.S. EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) in the Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) has scheduled two national webinars in June to share our progress and discuss next steps. During these webinars, we will recap the work done thus far, and focus our discussion on how we will move forward together to develop final guidance, including consultation on the GAP allocation. Information on the webinars will be sent to Tribal Environmental Directors and posted online soon.

Background:

In 2018, OITA began an evaluation to review the effectiveness of the [2013 GAP Guidance](#) and to identify opportunities to improve the guidance and its implementation. This guidance describes how the U.S. EPA administers the GAP Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. § 4368b). Under the GAP statute, the U.S. EPA provides GAP financial assistance to tribal governments and intertribal consortia to assist tribes in planning, developing, and establishing the capacity to implement federal environmental programs administered by the U.S. EPA, and to assist in implementation of tribal solid and hazardous waste programs in accordance with applicable provisions of law (including service delivery activities as of 2016).

EPA received more than [800 tribal comments](#) in tribal consultation and through discussions with tribal organizations, tribal partnership groups, and RTOCs.

Tribal Project Success Stories

Morongo Band of Mission Indians Approved for Treatment in a Similar Manner as a State for Portions of the Clean Air Act

On May 7, 2021, the U.S. EPA approved the Morongo Band of Mission Indians' request for treatment in a similar manner as a state (TAS) for Clean Air Act (CAA) 105 Grant funding and other portions of the CAA. Following the regulations under the CAA and the Tribal Authority Rule (TAR), the tribe demonstrated it met the four criteria; (1) be federally recognized, (2) have a governing body carrying out substantial governmental duties and powers, (3) have appropriate authority, and (4) be capable of carrying out the functions of the program. The Tribe requested and was approved for TAS for CAA sections 105, 107, 110, 126(a)-(b), 172, 319, and 505(a).

The U.S. EPA commends Morongo's efforts in working with the Agency to provide the information which resulted in final approval of the TAS application and looks forward to continuing to work together to protect and enhance air quality on the Morongo Reservation.

For more information on treatment in a similar manner as a state, please visit: [Tribal Assumption of Federal Laws-TAS](#).

Call for Region 9 Tribal Project Success Stories!

Do you have an environmental project that you are proud of and would like to have highlighted in an upcoming Region 9 newsletter? Notify your U.S. EPA Project Officer or send an email to: R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov. While we cannot guarantee your story will be used in a particular issue, we would like to develop and highlight a success story for each quarterly newsletter. The project should have an environmental focus and have been funded using federal grants or programs.

RTOC and Tribal/U.S. EPA Annual Conference

The Regional Tribal Operations Committee (RTOC) is a working committee of the U.S. EPA and tribal personnel co-chaired by a U.S. EPA representative and a tribal representative. The U.S. EPA designates its RTOC representatives through internal mechanisms. All tribes within Region 9 are considered members of the RTOC. Tribal representatives to the RTOC are selected through government-to-government communication, by tribal leaders in various geographical areas within Region 9.

Spring RTOC Recap

Region 9 RTOC co-chairs, Mervin Wright Jr. (Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe) and Laura Ebbert (U.S. EPA, Region 9), convened another well-attended virtual Region 9 RTOC meeting on April 27 – 29. The meeting began on April 27 with a full day tribal caucus meeting (open to tribes only). Tribal RTOC members elected their new members. Congratulations to the newly elected RTOC Tribal Co-Chair, the Region 9 RTOC representatives, and NTOC members from Region 9 who will be serving during the 2021-2023 term! The current list of contacts is available [on the RTOC website](#).

The plenary and technical break-out sessions began on April 28. Plenary session topics included new Executive Orders on environmental justice, changes to NEPA requirements, moratorium on border wall construction, and a discussion on EPA budget development, among other topics. Technical break-out sessions included emergency response, tribal research, Clean Water Act 401 certification, and the Salton Sea management program. During the three-day meeting, Region 9 Acting Regional Administrator Deborah Jordan, convened a discussion for elected tribal leaders. Presentations and meeting materials are available on the [Region 9 RTOC website](#).

Tribal & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Updates



Big Pine Reservation: Photo by Alan Bacock

The Tribal & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference co-sponsors, the Pala Band of Mission Indians and the U.S. EPA, are pleased to announce that this year's conference theme will be "Tribal Land, Tribal Knowledge, Tribal Sovereignty." The Tribal & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference brings together more than 300 participants from tribal nations located across Arizona, California, and Nevada; and representatives from federal, state, and local agencies; nonprofits and academia.

Plans are in place to hold this year's conference at Harrah's Lake Tahoe Conference Center in Stateline, Nevada, on October 18 through 22, 2021. Conference organizers are planning a hybrid event in which participants will be able to choose to participate in-person or virtually. To see the latest updates from the event organizers, please check the [Tribal & U.S. EPA Region 9 Annual Conference Website](#).

The health and safety of conference participants and their communities is our top priority and the policies and guidelines of both Harrah's Lake Tahoe and the state of Nevada will be followed. Please note that the conference co-sponsors do not have the authority to enforce mandatory vaccinations of the participants. You can stay informed about the most current safety protocols of Harrah's Lake Tahoe by visiting the [Harrah's Lake Tahoe Health and Safety Plan](#) webpage.

Tribal Resources

U.S. EPA Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance

The U.S. EPA launched the Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance, an online database of land, air, and water information. This new Clearinghouse catalogues available funding, financing, and instructional resources to aid communities in their efforts to improve environmental conditions. The Office of Policy collaborated with the Office of Water to launch the new Clearinghouse.

The Clearinghouse expands on the concept of the original Water Finance Clearinghouse, launched in 2017, that served as the one-stop shop for communities researching ways to fund and finance their water infrastructure needs to assist in local decision making. The new Clearinghouse includes over 1,800 funding and financing opportunities and information resources from the U.S. EPA air, water, and land programs. Communities can use this system to access information on funding and financing opportunities for environmental projects as well as financial research, such as case studies, white papers, and webinars.

The public can access the Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance here: [U.S. EPA Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance](#).

For context, the U.S. EPA Water Finance Center manages the Clearinghouse for Environmental Finance. The Center provides information on a suite of water sector financial topics including, through the Water Finance Clearinghouse, coordination among the U.S. EPA and other federal water funding programs, and specialized support for communities requesting technical assistance for how to afford water infrastructure improvements. Additional information about the U.S. EPA Water Finance Center is available here: [U.S. EPA Water Infrastructure and Resiliency Finance Center](#).

U.S. EPA Relaunches Climate Change Indicators Website

The U.S. EPA has relaunched its Climate Change Indicators in the United States website, providing the public with information on climate change impacts. This comprehensive resource presents compelling and clear evidence of changes to the climate reflected in rising temperatures, ocean acidity, sea level rise, river flooding, droughts, heat waves, and wildfires, among other indicators. The site also features an enhanced user experience with interactive data-exploration tools offering a closer look at graphs, maps, and figures, along with an overview of the importance of indicators and how climate change can affect human health and the environment.

The Climate Change Indicators website can be viewed here: [U.S. EPA Climate Change Indicators](#).

Tribal Consultation Opportunities

A full list of active U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation opportunities are available on the U.S. EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) webpage: [TCOTS Webpage](#). If interested, join the TCOTS Listserv by sending a message to, Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov to receive email notifications on the latest U.S. EPA Tribal Consultations.

As required by President Biden's January 26, 2021 memorandum on [Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships](#), the U.S. EPA submitted a Plan for Implementing the Policies and Directives of Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). The plan was approved by EPA Administrator Regan and submitted to OMB

(Tribal Consultation Opportunities Continued...)

on April 23. The plan details the U.S. EPA's consultation practices and how the Agency consults with tribal nations and commits the U.S. EPA to two actions:

1. The U.S. EPA will convene an Agency workgroup to identify options and recommendations to address key comments raised by tribes during the consultation and coordination process.
2. The U.S. EPA will provide enhanced consultation training for U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation Advisors.

One additional key component of the draft plan is that it reinforces the importance of having senior EPA leadership participate in consultation meetings with tribes.

For any questions or comments about the U.S. EPA's Plan, please contact Andy Byrne, U.S. EPA-AIEO, at byrne.andrew@epa.gov or (202) 564-3836.

Each month, the Region 9 RTOC Consultation Workgroup meets to share information and updates and to discuss consultation topics of interest. The workgroup is jointly chaired by Kelcey Stricker, Environmental Director of the Pechanga Environmental Department, and Jeremy Bauer, Acting Deputy Director of the U.S. EPA Region 9 Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy Division. For more information or to become involved in the workgroup, please contact Kelcey (kstricker@pechangansn.gov) or Jeremy (bauer.jeremy@epa.gov).

The following list of upcoming Region 9 consultation opportunities provides early notification and transparency to tribal governments. Please note that timeframes and details for each of these listed consultation opportunities may change. Active U.S. EPA consultation opportunities are available on U.S. EPA Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS): [TCOTS Webpage](#).

Lead EPA Office	Potential Topic	EPA Point of Contact	Activity
Region 9	Phoenix 2015 Ozone Determination of Attainment or Failure to Attain	Anita Lee (Lee.Anita@epa.gov)	Budgeting & Planning
Region 9	Imperial County Ozone Determination of Attainment or Failure to Attain	Ginger Vagenas (Vagenas.Ginger@epa.gov)	Budgeting & Planning
Region 9	Clark County 2015 Ozone Determination of Attainment or Failure to Attain	Karina O'Connor (OConner.Karina@epa.gov)	Budgeting & Planning
Region 9	San Francisco Bay Region Chlorine Water Quality Standard/CWA 303(c)	Eric Dubinsky (Dubinsky.Eric@epa.gov)	Regulations
Region 9	California Toxicity Rule. Statewide Water Quality Standard/CWA 303(c)	Rochelle Cameron (Cameron.Rochelle@epa.gov)	Regulations
Region 9	Agua Caliente GDF General Permit Amendment/Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians	Sheila Tsai (Tsai.Ya-Ting@epa.gov)	Permits
Region 9	Tule River Casino - Tule River Indian Tribe	Sheila Tsai (Tsai.Ya-Ting@epa.gov)	Permits
Region 9	Sand & Rock General Permit - Tohono O'odham	Sheila Tsai (Tsai.Ya-Ting@epa.gov)	Permits
Region 9	29 Palms Power Generation Project - 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians of California	Sheila Tsai (Tsai.Ya-Ting@epa.gov)	Permits

Funding Opportunities

Stay up-to-date on federal grant opportunities by using the [Grants.gov](#) search page.

U.S. EPA Tribal and Insular Areas Diesel Emission Reduction Act Grant

The U.S. EPA FY2021 Diesel Emission Reduction Act (DERA) competitive Tribal and Insular Areas Request for Application (RFA) is now open until July 9, 2021. Approximately \$4.5 million is available for tribes. This year's grant program requires no mandatory cost-share funding from tribes. The DERA Program focuses on reducing diesel air emissions from existing larger diesel vehicles, equipment, and engines. An existing diesel-fueled on-road medium or heavy-duty diesel truck or bus, or nonroad equipment will be required to be scrapped and replaced with a new, cleaner, similar vehicle, among other eligible activities. Eligible diesel engines may include the following: school or transit buses; medium or heavy-duty trash, delivery, or utility trucks; construction or agricultural equipment; boats or marine vessels; or diesel generators providing primary electricity, among others. To learn more about previously funded U.S. EPA Region 9 DERA Tribal grants, visit the U.S. EPA [West Coast Collaborative's project site](#) and search by "Funding Program."

The deadline for submitting applications is **July 9, 2021, at 8:59 pm (PT)**.

For the RFA and more detailed information, please visit: [Tribal and Insular Areas: DERA](#).

U.S. EPA Region 9 Wetlands Program Development Grant

The U.S. EPA Region 9 RFA for the Wetlands Program Development Grants (WPDG) FY21-22 application period has opened.

A competitive, multi-year grant program, pursuant to section 104(b)(3) of the Clean Water Act, the U.S. EPA WPDG assists states, tribes, and local governments to protect and improve wetlands within their jurisdictions. Proposals submitted under this RFA must be for projects that build or refine state, tribal, or local government wetland programs and should include one or more of the following elements: monitoring and assessment, wetland regulation, voluntary restoration and protection, or establishing water quality standards for wetlands. Total funds awarded for the region's two-year period will be approximately \$3.1 million. More information about the Wetland Program Development Grants can be found here: [Wetland Program Development Grants Webpage](#).

The deadline for submitting applications is **July 6, 2021, at 8:59 pm PT**. To access the RFA, please follow this link: [Region 9 Wetland Program Development Grant RFA](#).

Please contact Sarvy Mahdavi for further information: 213-244-1830.



Big Pine Reservation: Photo by Alan Bacock

Training & Technical Assistance

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with the U.S. EPA. Any links to websites outside of U.S. EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. The U.S. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies, or applications.

Descent into Madness: Mad Chemists, Collectors, and Other Eccentrics

The U.S. EPA Emergency Response Program is proud to announce the re-release of its “Descent into Madness: Mad Chemists, Collectors and Other Eccentrics” course. This course is approximately 3 hours and will only be available online by downloading the course sessions (PowerPoint presentations and other documents). This class will provide a turnkey approach to responding to “Mad Chemist”, also known as chemical hoarder sites.

The course covers assessment techniques, cleanup techniques, health and safety issues, and case studies, among other topics. The course also features case studies and videos of Mad Chemist sites. The class is taught and narrated by Federal On-Scene Coordinator Robert Wise, a regional and national expert on Mad Chemist sites.

To access the course, please follow this link: [Emergency Response Training Resources](#). Locate the Mad Chemist documents and presentations and download the “Mad Chemist Class Directions” document to get started.

For more information, please contact On-Scene Coordinator (OSC), Robert Wise, (wise.robert@epa.gov)



Big Pine Reservation: Photo by Alan Bacock

Introduction to Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulation Webinar

July 21, 2021: 10:00 am-1:00 pm PT

On July 21, 2021, this virtual webinar will acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist tribes in understanding the scope and implementation of the spill prevention, control, and counter-measure regulations for above-ground storage of oil, the U.S. EPA inspection process, and spill notification and response. The target audience includes tribes that have any petroleum production, above-ground storage, or transportation (e.g. pipelines) within and/or through their reservations, treaty areas, traditional hunting and ceremonial lands, or other areas considered to be part of Indian Country, tribal owners/operators of regulated oil facilities, and Alaska Native Corporations with oil facilities.

Follow this link to find out more information and to register for this webinar: [Register for the July 21 webinar](#).

Overview of Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasure and Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act

There have been two prior sessions covering this topic, the last session will take place on September 15, 2021, 10:00am-11:15am PT.

This one-hour lunchtime session hosted by the U.S. EPA Oil Program will provide a basic overview of prevention and preparedness programs for oil spills under Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasure (SPCC) and chemical emergencies under the Emergency Preparedness and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA). The objective of the webinar is to provide attendees with a general awareness of the SPCC and EPCRA programs and their associated regulatory requirements. The session will also include a question and answer session where participants will be able to interact with the SPCC and EPCRA national program managers.

The target audience for the Overview of SPCC and EPCRA includes:

- All tribes (including state-recognized) that have any petroleum and/or chemical production, above-ground storage, processing, or transportation (pipelines) within and through their tribal lands. Including customary, hunting, spiritual, and treaty rights areas.
- Tribal owners/operators of regulated oil and chemical facilities.
- Alaska Native Corporations with regulated oil and chemical facilities.
- Tribal environmental management agencies.
- Tribal Emergency Response Commissions (TERCs) & Tribal Emergency Planning Committees (TEPCs).
- Tribal First Responders.
- Tribal environmental nonprofit organizations.

For more information and to register for this event, please follow this link: [SPCC and EPCRA Overview](#).

U.S. EPA Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous People

The U.S. EPA has been providing an EJ webinar series for tribes and indigenous peoples since November, 2020, to enhance EJ integration, build capacity, raise awareness of the U.S. EPA and other federal programs and resources, and provide technical assistance to tribes and indigenous peoples on priority environmental, public health, and other EJ concerns. The EJ webinar series was developed after receiving input from tribes requesting that the U.S. EPA “increase training and technical assistance,” as well as from indigenous peoples requesting information and training. The fulfillment of these requests will be done, in part, through these webinars.

These webinars are planned to be held regularly (monthly or bimonthly) as topics are selected and content is prepared, for 1.5 hours per session, allowing for a question and answer period. Most webinar topics have been recommended by tribes, indigenous peoples, and/or pertain to priorities identified by tribes and other indigenous peoples. Tribes and indigenous peoples are welcome to recommend topics for future webinars.

Webinar information is available on the webpage, EJ for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples: [Environmental Justice for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples Webpage](#). Information is also sent out through the EJ listserv. To subscribe, send a blank email to: join-epa-ej@lists.epa.gov.

Past webinar topics include: an overview of the EJ policy for tribes and indigenous peoples; advice and tips on the competitive grants award process, tribal partnership groups, and EJ; wildfires and air quality (AirNow Maps and Sensors for Communities and Tribal Experience with the Tools); and Enforcement and Compliance Online

History (ECHO: its Use in Indian Country and in Indigenous Communities). In July, the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) sessions will be made available. Materials and recordings from past webinars are available on the website listed above.



Environmental Protection Agency
Region 9 Tribal Branch
Tribal, Intergovernmental, and Policy Division

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Get in Touch!

Do you have an idea for inclusion in an upcoming newsletter? Do you have a question or comment about an article in this issue? Please submit ideas, questions, tribal success stories, original photos, or other feedback to the R9 Tribal Newsletter Coordinator, Jeanette Sasek, at:

R9TribalNewsletter@epa.gov

R9 Tribal Programs: www.epa.gov/tribal/epas-pacific-southwest-tribal-program-region-9

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Protecting Human Health and the Environment