

Summary of Early Engagement with our Partners for the FY 2023-2024 OLEM National Program Guidance

Process for Soliciting Early Input

Between July and October 2021, OLEM conducted outreach to its partners to inform the FY 2023-2024 OLEM National Program Guidance. During this time, OLEM program offices held conference calls and web-based meetings with state, tribal and local partners to discuss priorities and other important issues. The results of OLEM’s early engagement process are highlighted below.

Name of Organization	Venue	Date
Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee	Bi-monthly conference call	7/13/21
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	Monthly ASTSWMO Tanks Subcommittee Conference Call	8/3/21
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	ASTSWMO Federal Facilities Subcommittee Conference Call	9/1/21
Multiple tribes	National Tribal Waste Management Program Priorities (webinar)	9/1/21
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	ASTSWMO Investigation and Remedy Selection Focus Group	9/8/21, 10/10/21
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	ASTSWMO Post Construction Focus Group	9/16/21, 10/21/21
Tribal UST program contacts	Tribal and EPA UST Contacts Call	9/15/21
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	ASTSWMO Site Assessment Focus Group	9/27/21, 10/18/21
Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	ASTSWMO Remedial Action Focus Group	9/27/21, 10/21/21

Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO)	Monthly ASTSWMO Brownfields Focus Group	10/19/21
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Highlights of Early Input from States, Tribes and Associations

Tribal Concerns

Waste Management

- Tribal waste management trainings/technical assistance such as codes and ordinances development and enforcement, backhaul, recycling, junk car and white goods removal, food waste minimization and microplastics
- Education and outreach on lead, household hazardous wastes and open dumping
- Tribes and EPA project officers should work together to compile potential resources from Brownfields, the state, and regulated entities
- Open dumping from nontribal sources and an inability to enforce codes and ordinances
- Prioritize tribal waste management funding and increase GAP funding
- Provide training to EPA staff on tribal treaties, laws, and cultural sensitivity

Underground Storage Tanks

- Tribal USTs can play a critical role in emergency response situations
- Clarify federal government’s role in IC relative to states

Environmental Justice

- Set up a website with tribal success stories regarding EJ concerns
- EJ could be applied to Tribes, but it should not be done at the expense of ignoring treaty language regarding rights and responsibilities. The Tribes have a right to environmental self-determination

General/ Funding

- Tribes are sovereign nations, co-regulators and important EPA partners. OLEM should consider inviting tribes to help author and/or contribute to original drafts of documents, where appropriate, to ensure that tribal perspectives and needs are included from the beginning and integrated into the program and not as an afterthought
- Encourage OLEM to empower tribes to engage with programs where tribes can’t be delegated primacy
- Tribes advocated for priority funding from Superfund, brownfields, UST remediation, and solid waste

- Lack of equitable funding, e.g., for tribal staffing (re: waste management)

Brownfields

- State partners expressed enthusiastic support for continuing our coordination and collaboration to advance Brownfields and Land Revitalization goals.

Underground Storage Tanks

- Incorporate equity and inclusion into our work
- Full implementation of the 2015 underground storage tank regulations

Federal Facilities

Input was provided ranking state federal facility program priorities:

1. Applicable or Relevant and Appropriate Requirements (ARARs)
2. Contaminants of Emerging Concerns/PFAS
3. Munitions Response
4. Formerly Used Defense Sites (FUDS)
5. Long-term stewardship/Land Use Controls (LUCs)/Institutional Controls (ICs)

State priorities also are further detailed in the [May 2020 Federal Facilities Issues Paper](#)

Next Steps

OLEM and the EPA regional offices will consider the early input received from state, tribal and local partners in developing the FY 2023-2024 National Program Guidance.