

EPA Report for October 26, 2015

Land Division Tribal Section

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RTOC New Caucus in Place

The 2015-2017 Tribal Caucus is now in place, please meet your new representatives!

New Staff in the Tribal Section

Angela Mendiola

Angela Mendiola is a new Project Officer in EPA Region 9's Tribal Section, primarily working with Tribes in Nevada and Southern California. Previously, she was at EPA Region 8's Office in Denver, Colorado and was the Region's EEO Manager. Prior to that, Angela worked in the Grants Office as a Grants Specialist for four years, starting in 2010. She worked closely with many programs, including: State Revolving Fund, Water and Tribal Assistance Grants. In addition, she provided ongoing technical assistance to Tribes, set up joint-federal teams for audit resolution and trainings, and helped to resolve many administrative tribal issues.

Kate Fennimore

Kate Fennimore is a Presidential Management Fellow, with a Masters of Public Policy from the University of California, Berkeley. Prior to joining the EPA, Kate worked on health and environmental projects at USAID, the United Nations, and a variety of local and international non-governmental organizations. Both her academic and professional work have largely focused on program evaluation for community development initiatives. She is originally from Seattle, WA and enjoys spending time outdoors with her dogs.

Shannon Kissinger

Shannon Kissinger is a Project Officer in EPA Region 9's Tribal Section, primarily working with tribes in the Northern Mendocino area. Prior to joining EPA he was a social worker with the Department of Veterans Affairs HUD/VASH and Healthcare for Homeless Veterans Programs. Shannon has also worked at numerous non-profits throughout Northern California. Shannon is also an US Navy Seabee Veteran. Shannon received his B.A. in Journalism and Foreign Policy from Humboldt State University and a Masters in Social Work with an emphasis in Native American and rural communities from Humboldt State University as well.

Alhelí Baños-Keener

Alhelí Baños-Keener is a new Project Officer in the Region 9 Tribal Section and is based out of the San Diego, CA field office. She will be working with several Tribes along the U.S.-Mexico Border in California and Arizona. She has been with Region 9 for almost 16 years and previously worked with EPA's U.S.-Mexico Border 2020 Program, and as a Community Involvement Coordinator in the Superfund Division. Previous to joining EPA, Alhelí worked for the Alameda County Lead Poisoning Prevention Program doing health education and outreach; and for a non-profit called the Greenlining Institute on environmental justice, community organizing, and brownfields policy development. Alhelí has a BA in Sociology and a minor in Native American Studies from U.C. Berkeley.

Water Division

Water Quality Training Opportunity

Tribal Bioassessment Training - The Chemehuevi Indian Tribe and the Colorado River Indian Tribes will be hosting a Bioassessment Training, sponsored by the US Environmental Protection Agency Region IX. This training is designed for tribal staff involved in, or with future plans to develop, water quality monitoring programs for lake and river ecosystems. In addition to being in a classroom setting, attendees will participate in hands-on field work to practice skills learned throughout the training.

When: This free training will be held Tuesday, November 17, 2015 – Thursday, November 19, 2015 at the Colorado River Indian Tribes Reservation, in Parker, AZ and the Chemehuevi Indian Reservation, in Havasu Lake, CA.

To register please contact Nancy Sockabasin at sockabasin.nancy@epa.gov or 415-972-3772. Provide the following information to register: Name, title, tribe/organization, email address, and phone number.

Funding Opportunity

On September 2nd, 2015 Region 9 announced its solicitation for drinking water infrastructure projects serving tribal communities that address high priority public health risks. Approximately \$6 million of fiscal year 2016 (FY16) Drinking Water Tribal Set-Aside (DWTSA) funds may be available. The full announcement, guidance, and project proposal form are available at: <http://www.epa.gov/region09/funding/dwtsa.html>.

When: Proposals must be received by November 13, 2015 and must be submitted with a tribal government endorsement.

If you have questions about the solicitation please contact Emmanuelle Rapicavoli at (415) 972-3969 or rapicavoli.emmanuelle@epa.gov.

Superfund Division

Need Help With Targeted Brownfields Assessments?

The EPA Brownfields Office offers technical assistance on Targeted Brownfields Assessments year round. An EPA contractor can assist you (no funding and no match, non-competitive) with Phase I and Phase II environmental assessments, land reuse planning, evaluate clean-up options and provide cost estimates based on future use. Contact Jose Garcia for more details, at (213) 244-1811 or Garcia.Jose@epa.gov.

Air Division

Note: The position of tribal co-chair of the RTOC Air Workgroup has been vacant since September, 2014.

Tribal Air Funding: 41 proposals for FY16 tribal Clean Air Act funding were reviewed. There are 29 tribes that received Clean Air Act funding for FY16. Please contact Lauren Maghran, Maghran.Lauren@epa.gov, or 415-947-4107, with questions.

Tribal New Source Review (NSR) Rule Updates: NSR permits are legal documents that the facility owners/operators must abide by. The permit specifies what construction is allowed, what emission limits must be met, and often how the emissions source must be operated.

In December, 2013, EPA proposed a rule to simplify the Clean Air Act permitting process for certain smaller sources of air pollution commonly found in Indian country. The action proposed: (1) general permits and permits by rule for certain source categories, (2) an extension of the minor source permitting deadline for true minor sources within the oil and gas source category, and (3) to change the policy in the Indian Country Minor NSR Rule to allow for the use of general permits (and permits by rule) to create synthetic minor sources. This action will ensure that air quality in Indian country is protected by implementing the Tribal Minor Source New Source Review Rule issued by EPA in July 2011. The phased in regulation dates and phased in deadlines have all passed, and the rule is in effect in all of Indian Country. Tribes need to contact EPA Region 9 to get a permit for new construction or modification of major sources of air pollution, and register any minor sources.

EPA has proposed general permits for eleven categories of emission sources: (1) hot mix asphalt plants; (2) stone quarrying, crushing, and screening facilities; (3) gasoline dispensing facilities; (4) petroleum dry cleaners; (5) auto body repair and miscellaneous surface coating operations; (6) spark ignition engines; (7) compression ignition engines; (8) sawmills; (9) concrete batch plants; (10) boilers; and (11) graphic arts and printing operations. This will streamline the existing process and minimize the burden on reviewing authorities and sources.

Along with the permits themselves, EPA is making available, on its website, several implementation documents and tools to assist applicants in completing the permit application forms on which we are requesting comment. For more information, please go to: <http://epa.gov/air/tribal/tribalnsr.html>.

EPA's Rule to Update the Air Quality Standards for Ground-Level Ozone

The final rule for update of the Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard was updated on October 1, 2015. The new standard is 70 parts per billion (ppb). The updated standards will improve public health protection, particularly for at-risk groups including children, older adults, people of all ages who have lung diseases such as asthma, and people who are active outdoors, especially outdoor workers.

- Final rule court-ordered deadline: October 1, 2015
- Designation decisions by October 2017
- <http://www3.epa.gov/ozonepollution/>

The Clean Power Plan:

On August 3, 2015, President Obama and EPA announced the Clean Power Plan – a historic and important step in reducing carbon pollution from power plants that takes real action on climate change. With strong but achievable standards for power plants, and customized goals for states to cut the carbon pollution that is driving climate change, the Clean Power Plan provides national consistency, accountability and a level playing field while reflecting each state's energy mix. Tribes on tribal lands may participate in the trading provisions of the Clean Power Plan and may generate and provide emission rate credits (ERCs) to states to help them meet their goals.

Upcoming classes given by the Institute for Environmental Professionals (ITEP):

2015

Oct 20-22	Clean Power Plan	Las Vegas, NV
Oct 20-23	Air Quality Computations	Phoenix, AZ
Nov 17-20	Management of Tribal Air Programs and Grants	Phoenix, AZ
Dec 15-17	Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities	Las Vegas, NV

2016

Jan 12-15	Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Diagnostic Tools	Las Vegas, Nv
Jan 26-29	Introduction to Tribal Air Quality	Flagstaff, Az
Feb 9-12	Air Quality Computations	Phoenix, Az

Fond Farewells & Departures

After an incredible 44 years at EPA and 46 years of federal service, Wendell Smith retired at the end of July – and the Tribal Water Office will not be the same without him. Among his many accomplishments was establishing Region 9's Tribal Water Quality Program in the 1980s. As the tribal program expanded, Wendell trained others to assist. He believed in empowering the tribes to restore and protect their own water resources. Today, a substantial number of the Region's 147 tribes have established water quality programs.

Tim Grant left EPA, Region 9, in August, after spending 17 years in the Tribal Section as a project officer. He described his post-EPA plans include perfecting his golf game and playing at as-yet untried golf courses. Eventually, he says, he plans to return to home to Nebraska. Tim worked with tribes in Northern and Central California, and Arizona.