



# Tribal Air News

US EPA OAQPS

Volume 7, Issue 2

## The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act How can it stimulate tribal economies?

The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) is the first crucial step in a concerted effort to create and save 3 to 4 million jobs, jumpstart our economy, and begin the process of transforming it for the 21st century with \$787.2 billion in economic recovery, tax cuts and carefully targeted priority investments.

The investments emphasize clean, efficient and American energy, which can also translate into green jobs that cannot be sent overseas, energy cost savings for families and businesses, cleaner air and a smaller greenhouse gas footprint. Energy investments include:

- Investment in a reliable, efficient electricity grid;
- energy efficiency (EE) and renewable energy (RE) research;
- Local government EE grants;
- EE housing retrofits and weatherization; and
- Green job training.

Other key investment areas will benefit the environment and the economy in tandem. Funds will support expanding employment opportunities in cutting-edge science and engineering to meet environmental challenges and to improve global economic competitiveness. Also, monies will be spent modernizing infrastructure, such as wastewater treatment plants, flood control and water supply, and public transit and rail. All these provide societal, economic and environmental benefits.

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Tribes can benefit from these investments by applying for the grants, which will be available on an expedited schedule to stimulate the economy quickly. Some of these energy/environment-specific investments for which tribes are targeted or eligible include:

Dept of Energy: Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy: \$16.8 B (including \$3.2B for energy efficiency and conservation block grants and \$5B for weatherization assistance)

EPA: State and Tribal Assistance Grants: \$6.4B (including \$300M for Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, or DERA, grants)

Dept of Labor: Training and Employment Services: \$3.95B (including \$750M for worker training and placement in high growth and emerging industry sectors and \$500M for research, labor exchange and job training projects for careers in energy efficiency and renewable energy)

Dept of Housing and Urban Development: Native American Housing Block Grants: \$510M (including \$255M for new construction, acquisition, rehabilitation including energy efficiency and conservation, and infrastructure development)

Dept of Commerce: Tribal Economic Development Bonds

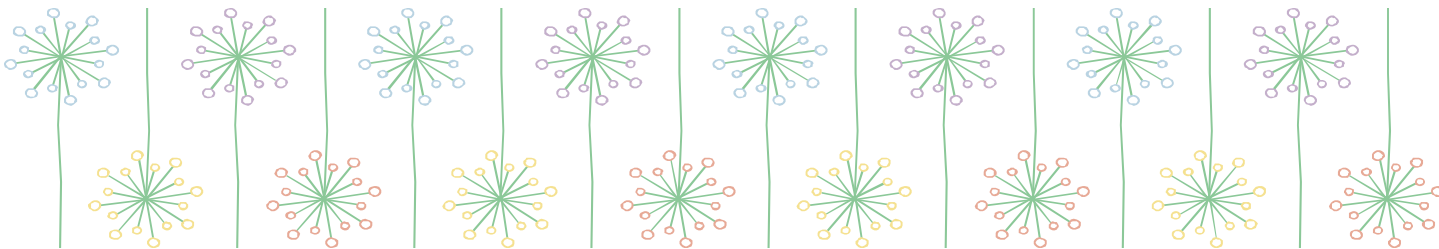
Dept of the Treasury: Community Development Financial Institutions Fund: up to

## ARRA

The process for using these funds is just beginning. You can get up-to-date information from this central website:

[www.recovery.gov](http://www.recovery.gov)

Grant announcements will be on this site. Department-specific pages are also accessible from that main page, and should have grants information when available.



## Mark your calendar!

- **National Native Commercial Tobacco Abuse Prevention Network** - Regional Conference, April 21-22, 2009 (Rapid City, SD)
- **National Tribal Forum on Air Quality**, June 2-4, 2009 (Milwaukee, WI)
- **EPA's National Asthma Forum - Tribal Session**, June 4-5, 2009 (Washington, DC)
- **EPA's Community Involvement Conference**, August 17-23, 2009 (Seattle, WA)

# August Target for 8-hour Ozone NAAQS Implementation Rule Proposal

In 2008, EPA significantly strengthened its national ambient air quality standards (NAAQS) for ground-level ozone, the primary component of smog, in order to protect both public health and sensitive vegetation and ecosystems. This revision reflected the results of more than 1,700 new scientific studies.

Specifically, EPA set an 8-hour average level of 0.075 parts per million (ppm) for both the primary (public health) and the secondary (public welfare, including ecosystems) standards. New standards require new rules for implementation, and EPA plans to propose those rules later this year. The target date for publishing the proposed rule is August 2009, with a final rule in May 2010.

The proposed implementation rule will address the classification system for designated nonattainment areas, as well as a number of implementation requirements under the Clean Air Act (CAA). These will include requirements for:

- State/tribal implementation plan (SIP/TIP) elements (attainment demonstration, reasonable further progress (RFP), reasonably available control technology (RACT)
- reasonably available control measures (RACM), nonattainment new source review (NSR) and others)
- timing (SIP submissions, compliance, attainment dates), and other topics.

As with all implementation rules, issues and guidance specific to tribes will be included in the proposal, as will the opportunity to provide comments.

States and tribes were to have made recommendations to EPA for area designations as attainment or non-attainment for the new standard by March 12, 2009 (1 year after the NAAQS was issued), and the designations will take place in a separate rulemaking.

After EPA designates areas attainment or nonattainment for the new standard, states will be required to submit SIPs to address the CAA requirements for nonattainment areas. Tribes can submit TIPs, but are not required to meet the same deadlines as states.

Contact: John J. Silvasi at [silvasi.john@epa.gov](mailto:silvasi.john@epa.gov)

## Ozone Rules Timetable

*3/09: State recommendations for designations*

*8/09: Implementation Proposal*

*3/10: Designations Final*

*5/10: Implementation Final*



## Designations

*Designation of attainment and nonattainment areas will be done separately from the ozone NAAQS implementation rule.*

# Diesel Grant Opportunities for Tribal Nations

EPA recognizes the health risks associated with diesel emissions and has classified diesel exhaust as a likely carcinogen at existing ambient concentrations. Many scientific studies link diesel exhaust, and its components, such as particulate matter (PM or soot), ground-level ozone (smog) and other air toxics, to serious respiratory and cardiac health damage, heart and lung disease, chronic bronchitis, exacerbations of asthma symptoms, and premature mortality.

As a means to reduce diesel exhaust and its harmful impacts, EPA has set more stringent heavy-duty highway and nonroad engine standards. However, these standards only apply to new engines. The full benefits of these new standards will not be realized for another 20 to 30 years, as the existing fleet is replaced. Meanwhile, older diesel engines will continue to emit high levels of emissions.

## **Emission Reduction Strategies**

EPA established the National Clean Diesel Campaign (NCDC) to promote diesel emission reduction strategies for the nation's existing diesel fleet. NCDC includes regulatory programs to address new diesel engines, as well as innovative programs to address the millions of diesel engines already in use.

One of NCDC's successful programs is the National Diesel Emissions Reduction Program (referred to as DERA). This authorization enables EPA to offer awards to eligible organizations and entities to create clean diesel programs that achieve significant reductions in diesel emissions to improve air quality and protect public health.

Last year was the first year that Congress appropriated funds for DERA grants. This appropriation of almost \$50 million enabled EPA to retrofit, repower, or replace approximately 14,000 diesel vehicles. During their lifespan, these projects will reduce nitrogen oxides (NOx) emissions by 46,000 tons and diesel particulate matter (PM) emissions by 2,220 tons.

NCDC manages this funding via four DERA grant programs. The Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program (CDFAP) receives the majority of the allotted funding and provides a great opportunity for tribal governments to apply for funding and implement diesel

emission reducing programs. CDFAP grants must be used to support technologies and engines that are on the verified or certified technologies lists of the EPA or the California Air Resources Board (respectively,

[www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/verif-list.htm](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/retrofit/verif-list.htm) or [www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/verdev/verdev.htm](http://www.arb.ca.gov/diesel/verdev/verdev.htm)).

## **Fiscal Year 2009 Funding**

This year, NCDC has two separate funding sources to support diesel emission-reducing grants. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (Recovery Act or ARRA) included an appropriation of \$300 million to support clean diesel activities, of which CDFAP received \$156 million. The Recovery Act-funded grants will be offered this year, in addition to any DERA appropriations. There will be separate competitive announcements issued for the two "pots" of funding.

The DERA grants funded by the Recovery Act must focus on stimulating the American economy and retaining or creating jobs, as well as meet Energy Policy Act of 2005 project eligibility requirements. Since the Recovery Act funds aim to help stimulate the current economy, these grants will be processed expeditiously. EPA headquarters released the competitive grant requests for applications (RFA)

March 19th. Please visit

[www.epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery](http://www.epa.gov/otaq/eparecovery) for more program information and the latest news.

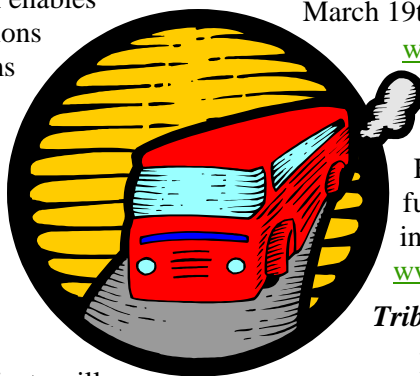
With FY 2009 Appropriations, EPA expects to receive similar levels of funding as last year, which will be released in late summer of 2009. Please visit [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel) for information.

## ***Tribal Participation***

EPA encourages tribal governments to consider participating in the DERA program. This year's funding provides an opportunity for tribal governments to reduce diesel emissions and help protect the health of their communities. Please visit the NCDC website at [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel) to find out how to participate and to learn more about the program and schedule updates.

(Contact: Rosalva Tapia at [tapia.rosalva@epa.gov](mailto:tapia.rosalva@epa.gov))

*DERA is the Diesel Emissions Reduction Act, which authorized funding for the National Diesel Emissions Reduction Program — part of EPA's National Clean Diesel Campaign.*



## Radon Award for the East Shawnee

Radon is an odorless, tasteless, colorless, naturally-occurring gas which causes 20,000 lung cancer deaths per year. It is the second leading cause of fatal lung cancer; only smoking causes more deaths.

EPA has an active Radon Program. The program encourages people to test their homes and other buildings to determine if dangerous levels of radon are present. If radon levels are high, property owners should take action.

January is *National Radon Action Month*, when EPA and our State/Local/Tribal partners make a special effort to raise awareness of the risks posed by radon, including announcing the winners of the annual EPA- National Safety Council Radon Poster contest.

Since 1990, a poster contest has been held each fall for students aged 9-12 to encourage testing of homes for radon. This year the contest included, for the first time, a category for tribal entries. The winning tribal poster was a student from the East Shawnee Tribe in Oklahoma. It emphasized the need to test for radon, since radon is colorless, odorless and tasteless.

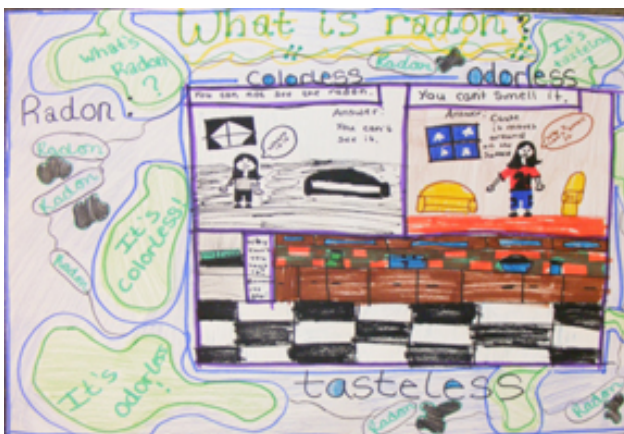
All the winning entries were recognized at the National Radon Action Month Awards Ceremony at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. Bob Haskins, Air Quality Officer for the East Shawnee Tribe, accepted the award on behalf of the young artist.

The contest is an annual event and we anticipate even more tribal participation next year.

For more information about National Radon Action Month, including the poster contest information, visit: <http://www.epa.gov/radon/nram/public.html>.



Bob Haskins, accepting the award for the East Shawnee Tribe from Janet Froetscher , President and CEO of the National Safety



The winning poster

### Radon Facts

**Radon** is a radioactive gas. It comes from the natural decay of uranium that is found in nearly all soils. It typically moves through the soil and into the air above, and into your home through cracks or holes in the foundation. Your home can trap radon inside, where it can build up. Any home — old or new, well-sealed or drafty, with or without a basement — can have a radon problem.

Radon is the number one cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, according to EPA estimates. Overall, radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer.

Source: [www.epa.gov/radon/](http://www.epa.gov/radon/)



## Tribe to Tribe



### Penobscot Nation Sees Hybrid Purchases as an Expression of Tenets

Indian Island, ME -

In February, Penobscot Nation announced a new component in their ongoing work as leaders in environmental consciousness, as well as efforts to reduce their carbon footprint, in line with ancient tribal tenets and beliefs. After four months of exploring the technology, the Penobscot Nation Police Department, working with the tribe's Department of Natural Resources Air Quality Program, purchased three new hybrid vehicles as police cruisers and one hybrid for Air Program field work.

The hybrid vehicles can run as electric vehicles, or along with the small gasoline engine when extra power is needed. There is no need to plug in these vehicles, because braking action of the wheels charges the batteries whenever the brake pedal is used.

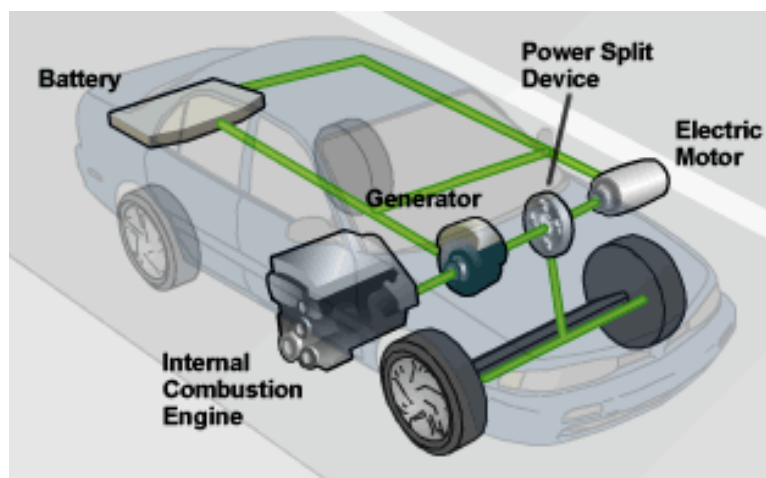
Bill Thompson, Penobscot Air Quality Program manager and Penobscot Vice Chief, stated, "We've cut our fuel expenditure by two thirds, and, of course, contribute much less GHG [greenhouse gases] to the atmosphere."

These new police vehicles each sport a newly designed departmental logo on the side and rear panels, as seen in the photos. The new design does not replace the tribe's Governmental Seal.

Penobscot Nation Police Chief Robert Bryant, works to incorporate a community policing approach that enhances the quality of life for the citizens of the tribe. One of his priorities was to connect with the community by including the cultural beliefs of the Penobscot Nation in the decision making process. To do this, he has converted vehicles over to "green technology". This not only reduces the strain on the fuel cost, but reduces the department's carbon footprint as well. It helps show the tribal citizens that the police department cares for them in areas other than keeping peace and preventing crime.

Like the police hybrid, the new Air Program

vehicle sports a clean and simple new logo design. The vehicle provides a visible message to the general public off-reservation, as the program manager makes his weekly sample collection rounds, including the weekly six-hour round-trip into the mountains to collect mercury and acid rain deposition samples. "This vehicle and its logo show the off-rez world when Penobscot Nation is at work protecting the environment," says Thompson. "The idea behind purchasing hybrid vehicles is that we can hopefully inspire other departments, both on- and off-reservation, to consider the impact they have on the environment with their purchasing decisions. It fits nicely into our tenets as stewards of the environment -- to reduce our impact upon Mother Earth with each decision we make."



For information on how hybrids work, see the Department of Energy website: [www.fueleconomy.gov/Feg/hybridtech.shtml](http://www.fueleconomy.gov/Feg/hybridtech.shtml)

## May is Asthma Awareness Month!

Asthma affects 9.2 percent of people living in tribal communities. When not well managed, asthma can lead to missed school days for children, decreased quality of life, and even emergency room visits and hospitalizations. Asthma Awareness Month is your opportunity to stand up to asthma and fight for your tribe's health.

Communities across the nation will join together for Asthma Awareness Month in May to educate people about asthma and improve the quality of asthma care. Be a leader for your tribe in this nationwide effort to deliver the best asthma care to everyone who needs it.

The US Environmental Protection Agency can help you take action. EPA has excellent outreach and planning materials, some specifically designed for tribes, that you can use to plan Asthma Awareness Month activities and events. Visit [www.epa.gov/asthma/awm.html](http://www.epa.gov/asthma/awm.html) to access these materials and ensure that you have a positive impact on tribal health this May!



Don't miss this year's *Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments National Asthma Forum*, June 4-5, 2009, in Washington, DC! Participate in a dialogue to bring asthma under control nationwide. [Register today](https://www.epaasthmaforum.com/index.aspx) at <https://www.epaasthmaforum.com/index.aspx>

*Editor's note:*

*You can also see the last issue's article about the tribal-targeted asthma education program and materials developed by the Tulalip Tribe.*



### 4 Steps for Asthma Action

- Step 1: Download EPA's [Event Planning Kit](#) to find ideas, materials, and examples to support your Asthma Awareness Month success.
- Step 2: Take advantage of great tools for tribal outreach. Access [Native American radio public service announcements](#) in Anishinaabe, Lakota, and Navajo and other highly effective, **no-cost asthma outreach materials**.
- Step 3: Share your plans and see what others are doing with EPA's [Asthma Event National Map](#).
- Step 4: Keep the momentum going to improve asthma care in every tribe and every community by joining the *Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments* [Online Network](#). You can search for tribal asthma programs and make sure yours is listed on the [Community Program Profiles](#) page. Click on 'Tribal Organization' in the drop-down menu.

# Tribe to Tribe

## Cherokee Tribe Adds Third Mercury Monitor

By Jami Custer, Staff Writer, *Cherokee Phoenix*  
PRYOR, Okla.

The Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) recently added a mercury monitor at its Pryor air quality observation station. The monitoring site is approximately 3.8 miles from a coal-fired power plant, 1.5 miles from a gas-fired power plant and less than a mile from a sewage lagoon in the Mid-America Industrial Park.

The CNEP began assessing air quality in Oklahoma in 1999 and began the mercury monitoring program in 2003 after the tribe realized there was no data on mercury levels for Oklahoma.

The Pryor air quality site was established in 2003 and started yielding samples from ambient air in 2004. The mercury monitoring system was added in November 2008 and rainfall mercury sampling began March 4.

The mercury monitor will pull a weekly sample, which will be sent to a Seattle lab for testing. About six weeks later, the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP) will get the data, analyze it, and make it available to the public on its [Web site](http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/) (<http://nadp.sws.uiuc.edu/>). The CNEP plans to use the mercury data to identify trends of high mercury levels in rainfall. “Something that is unique to the CN Air Quality Program is mercury monitoring,” said Ryan Callison, manager of the tribe’s Air Quality Programs. “The tribe now has three mercury monitoring sites within its jurisdictional boundaries, located at Stilwell, Newkirk, and Pryor, OK. It’s a project we have had an interest in and worked on since 1999 -- to set up and deploy these sites to evaluate mercury trends.”

The first CNEP mercury rainfall sample was taken at the Stilwell site in 2004. A year later CNEP officials learned the startling fact that Stilwell rainfall had the second-highest depositional value of mercury in the U.S.,

second only to a site in New Mexico.

“That was an interesting fact that surprised a lot of folks, but we want to ensure the public that these are seasonal changes,” Callison said. “These are yearly changes that the public should not be overly alarmed about. We are going to see these changes. We are going to see spikes in weather patterns, and we are going to see changes in global weather patterns. A lot of the local sources, such as power plants and industry aren’t a direct impact to localized sites. We are talking about pollution concerns and mercury transport from a global level, not necessarily local levels.” He said the mercury monitoring effort is long-term and that the CNEP sees trends get better and worse due to seasonal variations.

David Gay, NADP program coordinator, said there was a lot of mercury in the environment in the Stilwell area at the time. He said there had been high concentrations of mercury in the southwest and he has seen that year after year. The problem with mercury, Gay said, is that it has so many natural and man-made sources -- mercury has to enter the atmosphere somehow and burning is one way.

“When I was a kid, every time we went out to the trash dump it was on fire. I don’t think they are doing that anymore, but if you burn something with mercury in it, it is going to put that mercury into the atmosphere,” Gay said. He said the tribe’s landfill in Stilwell could have some effect on the mercury levels if mercury-containing trash is burned.

Coal is another source of large amounts of mercury and Oklahoma has coal-fired power plants, Gay also said. “So when you burn coal you are going to be putting mercury into the environment.”

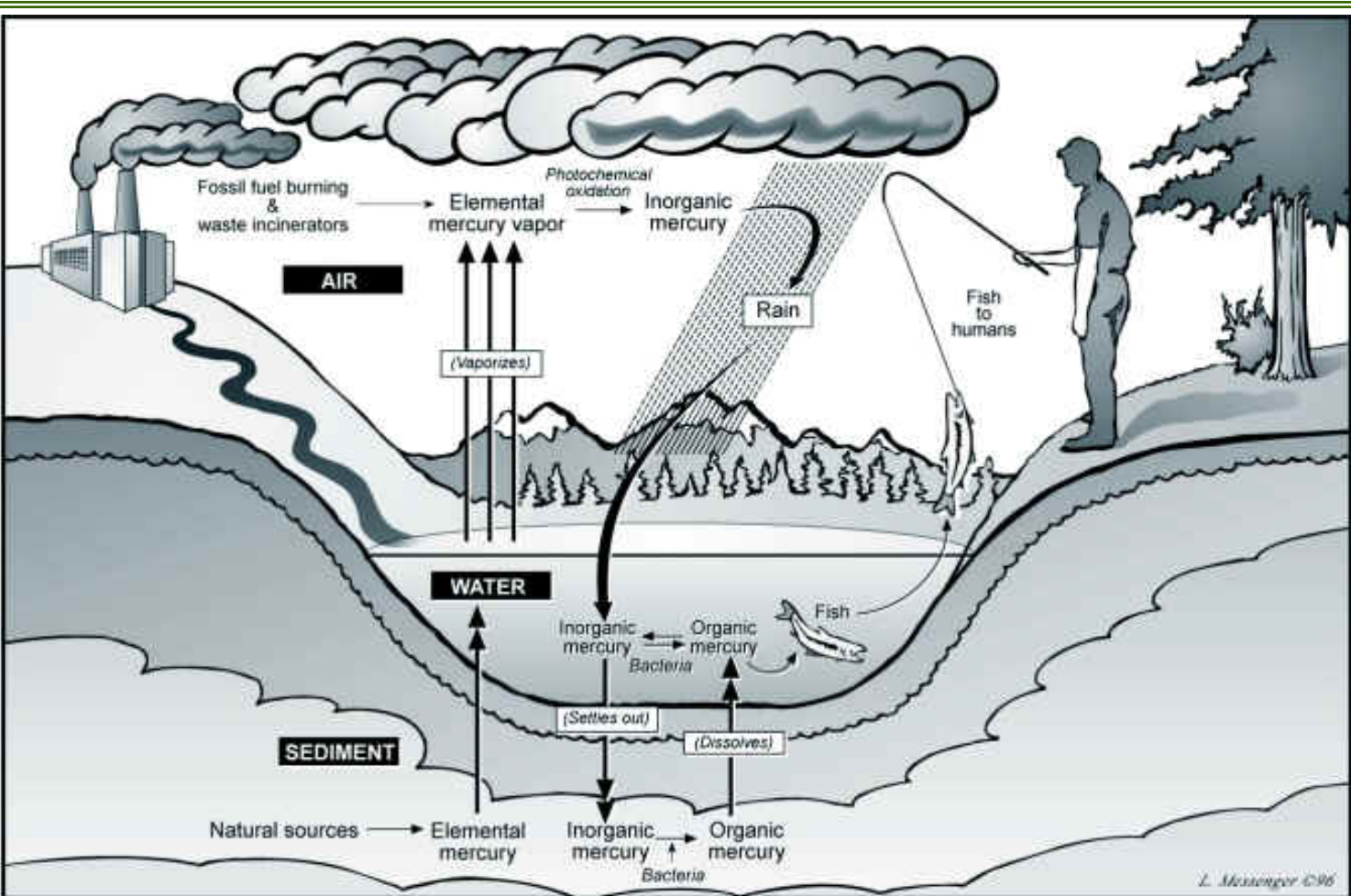
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Kent Curtis, environmental specialist III describes how the rain sampling is done. (Photo by Jami Custer)







Mercury Movement in the Environment

From: [www.mercuryinschools.uwex.edu/curriculum/hg\\_in\\_env.htm](http://www.mercuryinschools.uwex.edu/curriculum/hg_in_env.htm), Univ of Wisconsin Extension

### Mercury Dangers

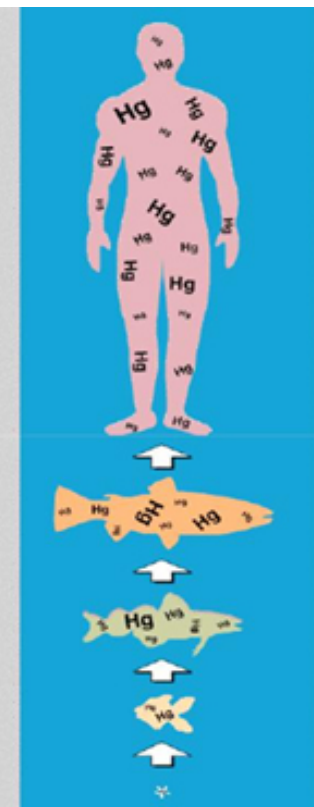
Almost all people have at least trace amounts of methylmercury, the most dangerous form of mercury, in their bodies. This reflects the widespread presence of organic methylmercury in the environment, people's exposure through the consumption of fish and shellfish, and the ability of this form of mercury to accumulate in tissues and concentrate up the food chain. People may be exposed to various mercury forms under different circumstances.

Various factors affect the severity of mercury health impacts, including: chemical form; dose; age of the person exposed (the developing fetus and child is most vulnerable); duration of exposure; route of exposure (such as inhalation, ingestion or dermal contact); and health of the person exposed.

The Environment Health and Safety Online Web site (<http://www.ehso.com/cssepa/mercuryspills.htm>) states that exposure to mercury may result in severe damage to the nervous and reproductive systems and may ultimately be fatal. Common symptoms of mercury poisoning are poor coordination and altered sensory perception.

If exposed, either dial 911 or the National Poison Control Center at 1-800-222-1222.

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## US EPA AQPS

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

Laura McKelvey (mckelvey.laura@epa.gov) Or Melissa McCullough (mccullough.melissa@epa.gov)

