

Tribal Air News

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Gila River Tribal Implementation Plan - A First

On February 21, 2007, the Gila River Indian Community delivered to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a Tribal Implementation Plan (TIP), a blueprint of how to achieve improved air quality on its tribal lands. The February 21st ceremony featured representatives from the EPA, tribal council members and local elected officials.

“In establishing the Tribal Implementation Plan, the Gila River Indian Community has not only established a series of essential guidelines for achieving cleaner air on tribal lands, but it has done so in a very open way, reflecting input from the community,” said Deborah Jordan, Director, EPA Office of Air, Region 9.

“The Gila River Tribal Implementation Plan provides the framework to protect our air quality now and for future generations,” said Margaret Cook, Director of Gila River Indian Community Department of Environmental Quality. “We are proud to be the first Tribal government in the nation to complete a comprehensive air quality plan.”

The Gila River Indian Community’s Department of Environmental Quality (GRIC DEQ) has spent the last seven years developing their TIP. In addition, the Gila River Indian Community developed a team of environmental professionals to administer and enforce this plan. The TIP shows that tribal regulation, shaped by the Community’s values and needs, is possible. The TIP also fills tribal gaps in the federal air quality program, which is important to the community and to those businesses located on the reservation.

As part of its TIP, GRIC DEQ developed a major source (Title V) and minor source permitting program. In addition, the TIP contains an air monitoring program, an emissions inventory, and through the TIP the Tribe has adopted the national air quality standards. In addition, the Community has developed specific ordinances for many of the 45 businesses and industries that are located on the reservation. The GRIC DEQ has also adopted general regulations to cover visible emissions; VOC use; storage and handling; degreasing and metal cleaning; and fugitive dust.

GRIC DEQ accomplished all of these very complex technical, policy and legal actions in a very inclusive way by inviting all of those who might be interested to the table. The GRIC DEQ did extensive outreach both within the tribal community and externally, during preparation of the TIP. This outreach led to a unanimous vote by the Tribal Council to adopt the TIP.

GRIC DEQ is a role model for other tribes in Arizona and across the nation. Located in central Arizona, the Gila River Indian Community encompasses over 600 square miles, and has three industrial parks, and three casinos.



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EPA, Industry Launch Agreement for Cleaner Outdoor Wood-fired Hydronic Heaters

Under a voluntary partnership agreement with EPA, key manufacturers have agreed to work toward the development of cleaner, more efficient outdoor wood-fired hydronic heaters (OWHH, also called outdoor wood furnaces or outdoor wood boilers). EPA developed the program with input from manufacturers, states and the Hearth Patio & Barbecue Association, an industry trade group. Ten manufacturers, which make over 80 percent of the OWHH sold in the U.S., have already joined the program, which was announced on January 29. Many of the cleaner models will be made available for purchase this spring, and these models will bear an orange hang tag to clearly identify them for consumers.

“This partnership, along with efforts from Northeast states, will provide consumers with a choice to purchase cleaner outdoor wood heaters and communities with tools to take action now,” said Bill Wehrum, acting assistant administrator for EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation. “This spring, consumers can look for the orange hang tag to identify new wood heaters that are both more efficient and less polluting.”

OWHH provide heat and hot water for homes and other buildings. Use of the heaters has increased in recent years to perhaps over 150,000 units, prompting numerous complaints about the smoke they produce. Current OWHH are significantly more polluting than other home-heating devices. When used in populated areas, they can create heavy smoke (often 60-200 grams/hr) from short stacks (typically less than 10 feet tall) which are prone to downwash and can often pose risks to public health in addition to being a nuisance. This is most likely when OWHH are located too close to homes or used improperly.

In addition to leading development of the voluntary agreement, EPA provided technical and financial support to Northeast States for Coordinated Air Use Management (NESCAUM) for the development of a model rule that state, local, and tribal governments can use to address OWHH use in their areas. EPA believes that the combination of the voluntary program, NESCAUM model rule, and consumer education will help reduce emissions from outdoor wood-fired hydronic heaters sooner than other approaches.

In Phase 1 of the EPA voluntary program, the new heaters will be about 70 percent cleaner than typical models currently on the market, i.e., they must emit no more than 0.6 pounds of particle pollution per million BTUs of heat input (i.e., wood burned). EPA’s goal is to reduce emissions from OWHH as quickly as possible. EPA’s voluntary program will help bring cleaner heaters to market much faster than we could accomplish under a traditional federal regulation and will also reduce emissions faster than most states can adopt rules. EPA will develop Phase 2 of the voluntary program after we see how well the implementation of Phase 1 of the voluntary program goes and the level of interest from states, local governments, and tribes in adopting the model rule.

The new OWHH model lines will undergo testing according to EPA Method 28 OWHH by an accredited third-party laboratory to verify that they meet the qualifying level. EPA will post the results after EPA review. Method 28 OWHH does not subcategorize the emissions but rather EPA is using particulate matter measurements as a surrogate for ensuring reductions of fine particles and air toxics emissions. Data indicate that OWHH emissions are mostly PM 2.5 and include toxics such as benzo(a)pyrene, dioxin, benzene, and formaldehyde. Also, OWHH emit criteria pollutants such as carbon monoxide, nitrogen oxides, and sulfur oxides.

For further information about OWHH and EPA’s voluntary partnership program, see www.epa.gov/woodheaters



When buying an outdoor wood-fired hydronic heater, look for the orange tag. The orange tag means the model is cleaner and pollutes less than other models.



Cooperation Leads to Mercury Deposition Monitoring in Northern Maine

Mercury levels in Maine fish, loons, and eagles are among the highest in North America. This has led the Maine Bureau of Health to issue a statewide advisory recommending that pregnant women, women of childbearing age, and young children limit their fish consumption based on the type of fish they consume. The advisories have been in place since 1994 and remain in effect today because mercury levels in fish have not decreased.

Because of these facts the State of Maine, the Maine Tribes and EPA's Region 1 Office are very concerned with mercury issues. Despite several potential upwind mercury emission sources and elevated mercury levels in the lakes and rivers, there has been no monitoring for mercury deposition in northern Maine.

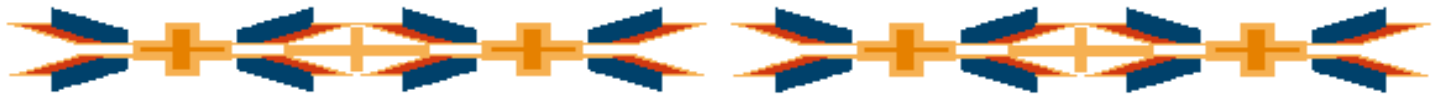
A Supplemental Environmental Project resulting from an enforcement action by Maine's Department of Environmental Protection, made funding available to begin mercury deposition monitoring in northern Maine. The Aroostook Band of Micmac Indians also had some grants funds to conduct mercury monitoring. The Tribe and the State of Maine decided to pool these funds to operate a mercury deposition site at the existing National Atmospheric Site in Caribou, ME for a period of four to five years. The University of Maine will be coordinating this monitoring.

This site, within a few miles of Micmac Tribal Lands, will provide data to determine if mercury deposition rates are significantly different in northern Maine than in southern and central Maine. This effort is an excellent example of how a state and a tribe can leverage their resources to accomplish a mutually beneficially result.

The Mercury Deposition Network (MDN) is the mercury wet-deposition monitoring arm of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program (NADP). The NADP is a cooperative monitoring program comprised of federal and state agencies, academic institutions, Native American tribal governments, and private organizations. High-quality environmental data have been collected from NADP monitoring networks since 1978. The NADP has a long history of providing consistent, accurate, quality-assured data to researchers, policymakers, and the general public. The MDN began measuring total mercury in precipitation (wet deposition) in 1996. It now has more than 88 sites including four existing sites in western and coastal Maine. Automated wet-deposition collectors and precipitation gages measure mercury concentrations and wet deposition. After review and validation by the NADP Program Office, data are made available to all users.



Pictured above is one of the National Atmospheric Deposition Program sites in Maine.



EPA Implementing 1997 and 2006 PM Standards, Tribal Input Needed

EPA is working on rules and guidance to assure that areas not meeting the particle pollution air quality standards take action to attain and maintain clean air. In 2004, EPA proposed the “Clean Air Fine Particle Implementation Rule” to provide guidance to states and tribes to implement the 1997 PM_{2.5} standard. The Agency’s goal is to finalize the rule in March 2007. For more information, contact Julie McClintock via email at mcclintock.julie@epa.gov.

On a separate track, EPA is taking steps to implement the 2006 Particulate Matter standards. These National Ambient Air Quality Standards were published in the *Federal Register* on October 17, 2006. You can find the notice at http://www.epa.gov/ttn/naaqs/standards/pm/s_pm_cr_fr.html. In this final rule EPA retained the existing annual fine particle standard (15 ug/m³) but tightened the 24-hour standard to 35ug/m³. With input from states and tribes, the next step is for EPA to make designations. The term “designation” refers to the process of determining whether an area complies with the NAAQS. The Clean Air Act requires EPA to establish designations for every area or county in the United States, including Indian country. The process to implement this phase is just beginning and your input will be sought as to how tribes want to be involved. Implementing this standard will likely require additional controls to reduce PM and make the air healthier for people to breathe. For more information contact Amy Vasu at vasu.amy@epa.gov or Julie McClintock at mcclintock.julie@epa.gov.

\$2.7 Million Available to Local Communities to Reduce Toxic Exposure

EPA is making \$2.7 million available to support community-based partnerships to reduce risks from toxics in local communities. These grants are available at two levels through the **Community Action for a Renewed Environment (CARE)** program. Past tribal recipients of CARE grants include the Cherokee Nation and the Nunakauyarmiut Tribe located at Toksook Bay, Alaska.

Level I grants will help establish community-based partnerships and set priorities for reducing risks from toxics in a community. Examples of projects include addressing water quality in Puget Sound, helping to rebuild St. Bernard Parish in Louisiana, helping the Cherokee Nation deal with toxic waste, and reducing air toxics in Tucson. One of last year’s recipients of a Level I grant was the Cherokee Nation, of Tahlequah, Oklahoma. Under their agreement, Cherokee Nation communities are collaborating as they identify sources of toxic exposure – such as polluted runoff from poultry farms and the toxic by-products of methamphetamine production – improve risk reduction, and focus on environmental improvement. EPA anticipates awarding eight to 10 grants under Level I, ranging from \$75,000 to \$100,000.

Level II grants are for communities that already have undertaken a comprehensive process to assess risks from all sources of toxics, formed a broad-based collaborative, have identified risk reduction priorities and are ready to implement risk reduction strategies. EPA expects to award six to eight grants at this level, ranging from \$150,000 to \$300,000.

A range of community groups may apply for funding, including county and local governments, tribes, nonprofit organizations and universities. Applications are due April 9, 2007.

The CARE program, which began in 2005, helps to build broad-based local partnerships for reducing risks from toxic pollutants that come from numerous sources. If you have questions contact Holly Wilson at 919-541-5624 or wilson.holly@epa.gov. Additional information about CARE, projects awarded in 2005 and 2006, or how to apply for the grants is available at: <http://www.epa.gov/care>.



Personnel Changes at EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards Support Tribal Programs

We are very pleased that Michael Papp will be working for one year with OAQPS' Community and Tribal Programs Group. Mike will work with the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center to develop the training and products used and distributed at the TAMS Center. Mike's placement with the group underscores the importance that EPA and ITEP place in continuing to work to provide additional staff to the Center. Mike also will be working with Annabelle Allison to complete the Tribal monitoring strategy and tribal monitoring technical guidance.

Annabelle Allison has completed a two year Interagency Personnel Agreement (IPA) with EPA. Annabelle's input has been invaluable in establishing a tribal program that is responsive to the needs of the Tribes. Hopefully as she returns to ITEP, she can help tribes facilitate two-way communication with EPA. The Community and Tribal Programs Group will miss Annabelle but we are very grateful for her time here.

As always we look forward to working with you. Please feel free to call Laura McKelvey at 919-541-5497, Mike Papp at 919-541-2408 or Tami Laplante 919-541-1915 if we can help you in any way.

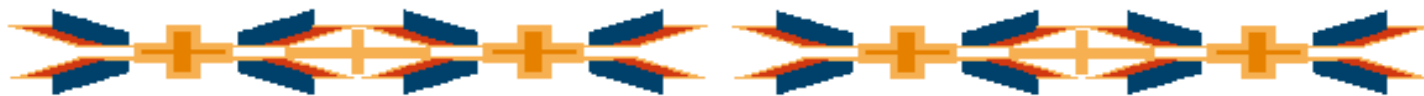
Air Communication Tools - Just a Click Away!

Looking for a program planning and evaluation toolkit for air communicators? Would you like to read the latest on the ground-level ozone, particle pollution, or mercury in the environment? Do you need information about what other states are doing to reduce air pollution? Do you want to know more about open burning, cleaner outdoor wood heaters, or fighting childhood asthma? These are just some of the many different types of information on AirShare - an air communicator's website primarily intended for EPA, state, local, and tribal agencies.

AirShare contains a wealth of outreach, educational, and some technical resources from air agencies around the nation. This website is a repository of information that consists of over 2,000 products including agency news releases, newspaper articles, booklets, annual reports, surveys, newsletters, video tapes, innovative projects, and educational tools just to name a few. Another important aspect of this website is that anyone can access AirShare and view the products.

The need for collaboration and communication is more important than ever, and public outreach is a growing challenge. AirShare helps you by quickly researching outreach challenges and solutions, and providing you with access to a variety of approaches without reinventing the wheel. State, local, and tribal agencies can input their information products to share with others. It's a great way to let others know about your programs, and it's easy to register. Simply go to <http://www.airshare.info/index.cfm/newagency.html> and request a new account. If you have any questions you can contact Maria Noell at noell.maria@epa.gov or by calling 919-541-5607.





Grant for technology development to assist solid waste, air toxics issues in Alaskan Native Villages

EPA's Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) Program will request grant proposals to develop better options to open burning at solid waste dumps in Alaskan Native Villages. This request will go out on March 15, 2007 and close on May 23, 2007. With few options for the management of solid waste, villages often turn to burning of waste to reduce volumes. The burning of waste in low technology devices can lead to the emissions of air toxics. Technologies that reduce the volume of solid waste while minimizing air pollution, but are still affordable and easily operated with clear instructions for pollution minimization are desired. This grant solicitation will go out to small businesses with the hope that new innovative technology such as clean burning, enhanced combustion devices or alternatives to burning that meet the needs of Alaskan Native Villages can be created or existing technology can be enhanced to reduce air pollution. EPA issues annual solicitations for SBIR Phase I and Phase II research proposals from science and technology-based firms. Under Phase I, the scientific merit and technical feasibility of the proposed concept is investigated. EPA awards firm-fixed-price Phase I contracts of up to \$70,000 and the period of performance is typically 6 months. Phase II contracts are limited to small businesses that have successfully completed their Phase I contracts. The objective of Phase II is to commercialize the Phase I technology. Competitive awards are based on the results of Phase I and the commercialization potential of the Phase II technology. In Phase II, EPA awards contracts of up to \$225,000 and the period of performance is typically 24 months. For more information about this grant solicitation please contact Heather Valdez 206-553-6220 or valdez.heather@epa.gov.

Asthma Program Updates

EPA and Allies Against Asthma have formed a partnership to reduce asthma in communities and are encouraging tribal environmental professionals and tribal health centers to join the "*Communities in Action for Asthma-Friendly Environments Network*".

The Network provides community-based asthma programs a platform for real-time learning that can drive the ongoing improvement of asthma care and access to cutting edge tools and resources. **To become part of this interactive network visit www.asthmacommunitynetwork.org** or for more information contact Chris Griffin at (202) 343-9421 or griffin.chris@epa.gov.

The Great Lakes Region Asthma Forum was held on February 8-9 in Chicago. Over 140 participants from mid-western asthma programs attended the forum. The Nottawaseppi Huron Band of Potawatomi Michigan, the Bois Fort Band of Chippewa Minnesota, the Grand Traverse Band of Michigan, and the Great Lakes Inter-Tribal Council of Wisconsin were in attendance. For additional information regarding the Forum, please contact Sheila Batka (312) 886-6053 or Lara Lasky (312) 353-5614.

The Tribal Air News

The Tribal Air News is produced by the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards. The newsletter is produced quarterly and is distributed electronically.

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

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Visit the ITEP website for the latest training opportunities
<http://www4.nau.edu/itep/trainings/>

Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Award

Nominations are being accepted for the Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Awards. The awards recognize outstanding contributions from tribal environmental staff, tribal air programs, and other environmental professionals that have demonstrated leadership in support of enhancement and improvement of human health and environmental protection in Indian country. Nomination forms and supporting information must be sent to Lee Rose at the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center by March 19. Nominations will be reviewed and voted on by the TAMS Steering Committee. The awards will be presented at the National Tribal Forum (NTF)/ National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) meeting in April. Three award categories are open for nominations.

The award for **Technical Excellence** recognizes outstanding technical effort in monitoring, risk assessment, modeling, or other technical activities. The nominee should demonstrate leadership in use of technology; in developing policies and strategies in technical areas, including monitoring strategies, risk assessment approaches, and data management; and support other tribal air programs.

The award for **Tribal Program Development** recognizes outstanding efforts in developing Treatment As States (TAS or eligibility determinations), Tribal regulations or codes, strategic planning and other programmatic activities. The nominee should demonstrate leadership in developing tribal air programs; development of codes, regulations, Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs) or voluntary programs to address air quality issues in Indian country; and an ability to leverage resources to support tribal air programs.

The award for **Tribal Program Capacity Building and Communications** recognizes outstanding efforts to provide training, tools, communications, and other areas of support and capacity building for tribal air programs. The nominee should demonstrate creativity in developing resources and information to support tribal air programs; a personal investment to providing support and capacity building for tribal air programs.

Nomination Form

Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Award

Nominated by: _____

Individual or Program nominated: _____

Date: _____

Nomination Category: Please check the appropriate category.

- Technical Excellence – Recognition of outstanding technical effort in monitoring, risk assessment, modeling, or other technical activities.
- Tribal Program Development – Recognition of outstanding efforts in developing TAS, Tribal regulations or codes, strategic planning and other programmatic activities.
- Tribal Program Capacity Building and Communications – Recognition of outstanding efforts to provide training, tools, communications, and other areas of support and capacity building for tribal air programs.

Provide a description of the work / accomplishments of the person / program being nominated for this award.

Send completed nominations by **March 19th** to Lee Rose at the Institute of Tribal Professionals (ITEP).
Nominations may be sent by email to lee.rose@nau.edu or mail to

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