



EPA' Office of Research and Development (ORD) Tribal Science Council

What Is the Mission of the National EPA-Tribal Science Council?

“In a manner consistent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Indian Policy and trust responsibility, the mission of the Tribal Science Council (TSC) is to provide a forum for interaction between Tribal and Agency representatives of mutual benefit and responsibility to work collaboratively on environmental scientific issues. The Council addresses a wide range of scientific issues, including research, monitoring, modeling, information, technology, and training in Indian country. To support the subsistence, cultural, and ceremonial lifestyles of Indians and the safe use and availability of a healthy environment for present and future generations, the TSC is committed to the development of sound holistic, integrated, and cross-media scientific approaches. The relationship between the Tribes and EPA in the TSC will not substitute for, but rather augment, the government-to-government relationship between EPA and Tribal governments.”

—Endorsed by the Tribal Operations Committee, July 2000

What Are the Goals of the TSC?

The TSC seeks to:

- Develop a better understanding of the priority science issues of Tribes from across the country and address these issues and consider them an integral part of EPA's formal planning processes.
- Reach consensus on collaborative approaches for addressing priority scientific issues.
- Share EPA scientific products or activities that may help address the priority scientific issues of Tribes.
- Promote partnerships between Tribal and EPA scientists in the development and application of sound science.
- Facilitate communication and coordination with other Agencies and organizations to more effectively respond to Tribal issues.

How Does the TSC Operate?

The TSC strives to address environmental science issues that are priorities for Tribes throughout the country. The process for how these issues are identified and addressed is described below.

- Issues identified by Tribes in an EPA region are brought to the Council through the Tribal TSC representative from that region. Because the Council is designed to complement the existing infrastructure that the EPA established to work with Tribes across the country, scientific issues can also be brought to the attention of the TSC via the Agency TSC representative from program-specific Agency Tribal advisory groups.
- The Tribal TSC representatives work together to develop a set of tribal science priorities of national significance for Tribal Caucus endorsement; these will be the focus of the Council's activities.

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- The full Council then explores the issues and determines what should be done to address them, including: recommending more research, identifying resources that may be available to advance the issues, or raising the profile of the problems both at the Agency and within the Tribal landscape ensuring that they are included in program-specific activities across the Agency and brought to the attention of Tribes throughout Indian country.
- Those issues that are not found to meet the Council's criteria will be referred back to the appropriate EPA Region or Agency-specific work group that can best address the issue.
- The group's progress on addressing issues is communicated to the Tribal Caucus of the Tribal Operations Committee, the Regional Tribal Operations Committee, and throughout the regions.

How Do I Get Involved?

The TSC continually seeks input from Tribes on priority science issues that they may be facing and related activities that are going on across the Agency or in other Federal agencies. If you are interested in keeping up with TSC activities, or have issues that you wish to raise, please contact the appropriate Tribal, Regional, or Headquarters TSC representative or the Executive Secretary.

Who Are the TSC Members?

The TSC is made up of Agency representatives from each major EPA region and headquarters program office, and Tribal representatives from each EPA region with federally recognized Tribes, including representation for Alaska Native Villages. The membership is vital to understanding and addressing Tribal science priority issues, in order to protect human health and the environment in Indian country.

Tribal Representatives

Interim Co-Chair: Jeffrey Mears, Oneida Nation, Region 5

Trevor White, Passamaquoddy Tribe – Indian Township Reservation, (Region 1)

Neil Patterson, Tuscarora Nation (Region 2)

Katie Renwick, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (Region 4)

Jeffrey Mears, Oneida Nation (Region 5)

TBD (Region 6)

Carol Kriebs, Sac and Fox Nation (Region 7)

Mike Durglo, Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes (Region 8)

Carley Whitecrane, Karuk Tribe (Region 9)

Alternate: Javier Silva (Region 9)

Lee Juan Tyler, Shoshone Bannock Tribes (Region 10: Idaho, Oregon, and Washington)

Alternate: Ladd Edmo, Shoshone Bannock Tribes (Region 10: Idaho, Oregon, and Washington)

Orville Huntington, Tanana Chiefs Conference (Region 10: Alaska)

Agency Program Office Representatives

Co-Chair: David Jewett, Office of Research & Development (Ada Laboratory)

Amy Kaufman, Office of Air and Radiation (OAR)

Theodore Coopwood, Office of Children's Health Protection (OCHP)

Elizabeth Jackson, Office of Environmental Information (OEI)

Karen Hamernik, Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP)

John McKernan, Office of Research and Development (ORD)

David Charters, Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM)

Karen Gude, Office of Water (OW)

Mary Powell, American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)

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Agency Regional Representatives

Robert Hillger, Region 1

Kai Tang, Region 2

Regina Poeske, Region 3

Alternate: Jennie Perey Saxe, Region 3

Dawn Taylor, Region 4

Luke Hullinger, Region 5

Alternate: Carole Braverman, Region 5

TBD, Region 6

Amy Shields, Region 7

Alternate: Amber Tilley, Region 7

TBD, Region 8

Destinee Cooper, Region 9

Lon Kissinger, Region 10

ORD's Office of Science Policy (OSP) provides the Executive Secretarial function to the TSC.

Executive Secretary: Monica Rodia, Office of Research & Development

(202) 564-8322 or rodia.monica@epa.gov

For more information about OSP and TSC activities, please visit our Web site at:

<https://www.epa.gov/research-grants/tribal-science-council>