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Region 10 Tribal Newsletter

 **EPA**
United States
Environmental Protection
Agency
Vol. 29 No. 3
April 2020

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Top News

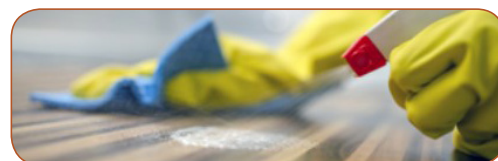
EPA COVID-19 Information

EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs Assistant Administrator Chad McIntosh sent a [letter to tribal leaders and environmental directors regarding COVID-19](#) on March 20. The letter provides assurance that EPA employees are continuing operations working from home and that the agency is working to address any operational challenges and offer flexibility where possible.

EPA's Office of Grants and Debarment issued a [Frequent Questions on Grant Issues in Response to the COVID-19 Public Health Emergency](#). The *EPA Grants COVID-19 FQs* provides information to grant applicants and recipients impacted by the COVID-19 crisis and covers topics such as requesting waivers, due date extensions, extraordinary cost allowability, and application submission issues during the public health emergency.

EPA's [COVID-19](#) website includes a list of [EPA's registered disinfectant products](#) that have qualified for use against SARS-CoV-2, the novel coronavirus that causes COVID-19.

We also have a wide array of environmental and science-based lesson plans you can use during school closures on our [Lesson Plans, Teacher Guides, and Online Environmental Resources for Educators](#) website, as well as games and activities on our [Games, Quizzes, and Videos about the Environment](#) website.



Earth Day and EPA — Turn 50!



Earth Day and EPA turn 50 this year! On the first Earth Day on April 22, 1970 – 22 million Americans celebrated clean air, land, and water. EPA's [Earth Day](#) website includes resources and ideas for educators and students, greener living tools to help reduce your environmental footprint, and the history of EPA.

EPA was established a few months after the first Earth Day on December 2, 1970. The agency was created in the wake of elevated concerns about environmental pollution to ensure environmental protection by consolidating into one agency — federal research, monitoring, standard-setting and enforcement activities. For 50 years, EPA has been

working for a cleaner, healthier environment for the American people. Check out information on our accomplishments on EPA's website — [EPA at 50: Progress for a Stronger Future](#).

TAMS Steering Committee Seeks Nominations

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center offers training courses that focus on a variety of topics related to ambient and indoor air quality monitoring. The TAMS Steering Committee is composed of tribal environmental professionals who meet regularly to discuss tribal air quality monitoring and other air quality technical support needs. The TAMS Steering Committee determines the Center's support efforts. The Steering Committee also relays tribal concerns regarding air quality management to EPA and other officials.



Committee members are elected for three-year, staggered terms and are eligible for re-election. It is preferred for candidates to be nominated by their peers, however candidates can also self-nominate. Members are selected based on their experience and availability. One steering committee seat is open. Nominations are due **April 14**. Submit a nomination on the [TAMS Steering Committee](#) website.

EPA Seeks Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals Nominations

EPA is requesting nominations of candidates for the Toxic Substances Control Act Science Advisory Committee on Chemicals. The SACC serves as a primary scientific peer review mechanism of EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and is structured to provide independent scientific advice and recommendations to EPA on the scientific basis for risk assessments, methodologies, and pollution prevention measures and approaches for chemicals regulated under the Toxic Substances Control Act.

The agency is seeking nominations for individuals who have demonstrated high levels of expertise in scientific or technical fields relevant to chemical safety and risk assessment, and the relationship of chemical exposures to women, children, and other potentially exposed or susceptible subpopulations.

Nominees should have backgrounds and experiences that would contribute to the diversity of scientific viewpoints, including professional experiences in government, labor, public health, public interest, animal protection, industry, and other groups.

Details are available on EPA's [TSCA Scientific Peer Review Committees](#) website.

Nominations are due by **April 20**. The preferred method for submitting nominations is via email to **Steven Knott** at knott.steven@epa.gov.



Air Sensors Video Series

EPA developed a series of educational videos designed to give the public information about air quality, health, and lower-cost sensors.

Many people are looking for credible air quality information to help reduce risks from air pollution and protect public health. Air sensors

are usually lower in cost, portable, and generally easier to operate than the regulatory-grade air pollution monitors used to understand air quality conditions.

The popularity of these devices, however, has resulted in many questions about how to use and communicate the sensor data that is collected during monitoring. The videos offer information to address common questions. Watch and share the videos from EPA's

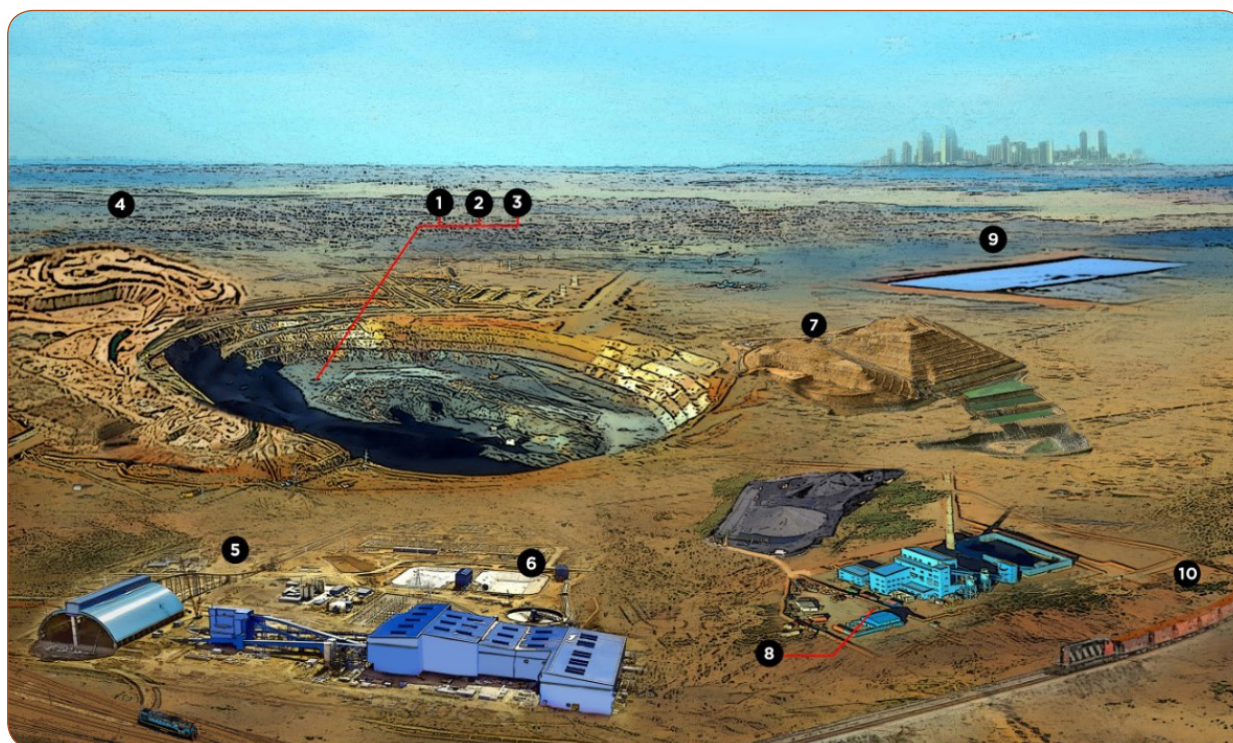
[Air Sensor Toolbox](#) website.



TRI Report and Metal Mining Graphics Published

EPA released its [2018 Toxics Release Inventory National Analysis](#). Findings from the report show an increase in recycling of TRI chemical wastes nationwide and indicate that companies continue to find ways to implement new source reduction activities and reduce the quantities of TRI chemicals they release into the environment.

Along with the *2018 TRI National Analysis*, EPA published a [new interactive graphic](#) on the TRI website to help explain how metal mines operate, and how and where releases of TRI-listed chemicals happen.



For details from the above hypothetical example about the numbered descriptions of where TRI-chemicals are used, managed, and released into the environment, check out EPA's website, [Explore a Metal Mine that Reports to the TRI Program](#).



Alaska News

First Alaska Marine Debris Summit Held in February

EPA and the Alaska Ocean Observing System, with support from NOAA, held a Marine Debris Summit on the final day of the Alaska Forum of the Environment in February. The event was kicked off with a message from Senator Dan Sullivan, who shared the status of his proposed *Save Our Seas 2.0 Act* whose purpose is to combat marine debris. Peter Murphy, NOAA's Marine Debris Coordinator for Alaska highlighted the challenges faced by the state's size and remoteness. Doug Causey of University of Alaska - Anchorage, rounded out the morning discussing his research on microplastics and the negative impacts on seabirds, as well as opportunities for a circular, plastic economy.



*Brandon Thynes, Environmental Director
of Petersburg Indian Association*

The afternoon sessions of the summit were moderated by EPA Alaska Operations Office Director Sue Detwiler, highlighting novel approaches to clean up and dispose of marine debris. The Native Village of Eyak is identifying debris with drones on the islands around Cordova and connecting fishermen to recyclers in order to turn fishing nets into new plastic products like clothing or kayaks. Participants also heard from state and federal agencies about their ongoing activities related to marine debris. EPA's [Trash Free Waters](#) is the unifying program for marine debris work across the agency and in Alaska.

The summit concluded with identifying next steps and challenges in addressing marine debris in Alaska. Participants emphasized priorities like selecting areas for clean-up, standardizing methods for reporting, and reducing local plastic use. Local needs were identified — such as funding opportunities, practical solutions for removing debris from remote areas, and youth education programs. The summit highlighted the importance of this topic to Alaskan communities, and the momentum behind the movement to create local, regional, and global solutions.



Photo courtesy of NOAA

RTOC

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*The Region 10 **Regional Tribal Operations Committee** is a partnership between EPA and elected tribal representatives to further tribal environmental objectives at the regional level, serve as a liaison between the EPA and tribes regarding information exchange, and provide assistance to the National Tribal Operations Committee.*

Upcoming RTOC Meetings

April 16 • Conference Call

May 21 • Conference Call

[Submit Meeting Discussion Topics](#)

Welcome to our Newest Members!

Sarah Miller joins us as the Alaska NTOC (Position 1) Alternate for Bill Hand. Both are from the Native Village of Kluti-Kaah.

Heather Bartlett joins the RTOC as the Oregon Alternate for Carter Thomas. Carter is from Confederated Tribes of Coos, Lower Umpqua, and Siuslaw Indians while Heather is from Cow Creek Umpqua Tribe.

Thank you for your service to the tribes in our region! We are grateful for the presence of the new members on the committee and for the commitment to serving your constituents.

Stay Engaged with Us

- [Follow us on Facebook](#) for the most up to date news and opportunities.
- If you wish to attend or add an item to a monthly meeting agenda, or if you have questions, comments, or suggestions for how RTOC can better serve your community,—please contact the RTOC representative for your area or RTOC's Administrator, Randi Madison.

CONTACT: **Randi Madison**, RTOC Administrator • randi@region10rtoc.net



Tribal Consultation

A full list of consultation opportunities is available in
[EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#)

CERCLA 108(b) Financial Responsibility for Additional Classes: Industry 3 (Chemical Manufacturing)

END DATE: **April 21.**

Section 108(b) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act establishes certain authorities that EPA can use to set financial responsibility requirements to assure that owners and operators make financial arrangements to address risks from hazardous substances at their sites. EPA is in the process of deciding if financial responsibility requirements are warranted for the chemical manufacturing industry.

In early 2018, the agency completed the first rulemaking under Section 108(b), addressing the hardrock mining industry, with a decision to not impose financial responsibility requirements. The agency has identified three additional industries to assess for potential financial responsibility — electric power generation, transmission, and distribution; petroleum and coal products manufacturing; and chemical manufacturing. EPA recently published proposed rulemakings for the first and second additional industries. The chemical manufacturing industry is the last of the three additional industries the agency is evaluating for possible financial responsibility requirements.

If you believe your tribe could be affected by the proposed action, EPA invites you to consult prior to the agency issuing a final rule. For more information about the proposed rule, check out EPA's [Superfund Financial Responsibility](#) website.

CONTACT: **Kim Katonica** • 703-308-6087 • katonica.kim@epa.gov

Draft Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides

END DATE: **May 1.**

The *Draft EPA Plan for the Federal Certification of Applicators of Restricted Use Pesticides within Indian Country* (EPA Plan) is a plan for the certification of applicators of restricted use pesticides (RUPs) in Indian country based on the certification requirements enumerated at 40 CFR Part 171. The *EPA Plan* allows the use of RUPs in those areas of Indian country not covered by any other EPA-approved certification plan.

EPA administers routine maintenance activities associated with the implementation of this *EPA Plan*, including application processing, database management and recordkeeping, and conducting inspections and enforcement actions as appropriate. During consultation, EPA will review the new standards and requirements for state, tribal, and federal agency certification programs for pesticide applicators when applying restricted use pesticides. To learn more, check out EPA's [Federal Certification to Apply Restricted Use Pesticides in Indian Country](#) website.

CONTACT: **Amanda Hauff** • 202-566-0603 • hauff.amanda@epa.gov

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Tribal Consultation

Guiding Principles for Consulting with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations

END DATE: **July 13.**

In 2004, Congress directed all federal agencies to consult with corporations established by the **Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act** in 1971 “on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order No. 13175.” EPA has a long history of engaging with ANCSA corporations on matters for which it consults with federally recognized tribes in Alaska and now seeks to formalize this process.

EPA is proposing to consult with ANCSA corporations on any regulatory action that has substantial direct effects on an ANCSA corporation and imposes significant compliance costs. EPA invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process. A *Guiding Principles for Consulting with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations* (Guiding Principles) document establishes principles relevant to consulting with ANCSA corporations. The Guiding Principles document, and the proposed consultation process is available on the EPA’s [Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System](#) website.

CONTACT: **Paige Lieberman** • 202-564-9957 • Lieberman.paige@epa.gov

Grants

Exchange Network Grants

APPLICATIONS DUE: **April 10.**

The [Exchange Network](#) was launched in 2002 as an inter-governmental, collaborative partnership of EPA, states, territories, and tribes to foster better environmental management and decision-making through increased access to timely, high quality environmental information. The framework adopted allows organizations to exchange data over the internet regardless of the specific information technology used.



The EPA Exchange Network Grant Program is soliciting project applications using the Environmental Information Exchange Network to facilitate sharing of environmental data.

For details, review the EPA’s [FY 2020 Exchange Network Grant Program](#) website.

CONTACT: **Erika Beasley** • 202-566-2530 • beasley.erika@epa.gov

Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water

APPLICATIONS DUE: **April 20.**

The EPA is soliciting applications from eligible applicants to reduce lead in drinking water in disadvantaged communities through infrastructure or treatment improvements or facility remediation in schools and childcare facilities. The goal of these projects is to address conditions that contribute to increased concentrations of lead in drinking water.

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S**Reduction in Lead Exposure Via Drinking Water**

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Eligible applicants under this competition include:

- Community water systems.
- Water systems located in an area governed by a tribe.
- Non-transient non-community water systems (schools and hospitals that have their own water systems).
- Nonprofit organizations servicing a public water system.
- Municipalities.
- State, interstate, or intermunicipal agencies.

For details, check out EPA's website – [Building the Capacity of Drinking Water Systems](#).CONTACT: **Brianna Knoppow** • WIINDrinkingWaterGrants@epa.gov**Source Reduction Assistance Grants**APPLICATIONS DUE: **May 15.**

Source Reduction Assistance grants fund innovative source reduction approaches (also known as pollution prevention or P2). P2 means reducing or eliminating pollutants from entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. SRA grant projects must use one or more of the following technical assistance methods to carry out source reduction or P2 activities such as research, investigation, experiments, education, training, studies, or demonstration of innovative techniques.

Specifically, EPA requests proposals in alignment with five national emphasis areas:

- Food and Beverage Manufacturing and Processing.
- Chemical Manufacturing and Formulation.
- Automotive Manufacturing and Maintenance.
- Aerospace Product & Parts Manufacturing and Maintenance.
- Metal Manufacturing.

Eligible entities include the 50 states and territories of the U.S., local governments, city or township governments, independent school district governments, state controlled institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations (other than institutions of higher education), private institutions of higher education, community-based grassroots organizations, and federally recognized tribes and intertribal consortia.

Region 10 awards may be in the range of \$20,000 - \$120,000 for the two-year funding period (between \$10,000 - \$60,000 funded per year). Details are available on EPA's [Source Reduction Assistance Grant Program RFA](#) website.

Pollution Prevention Grant Program

APPLICATIONS DUE: **April 30.**

EPA is offering a grant competition to fund two-year assistance agreements for projects that provide technical assistance to develop and adopt source reduction practices — also known as pollution prevention or P2. P2 means reducing or eliminating pollutants from entering any waste stream or otherwise released into the environment prior to recycling, treatment, or disposal. EPA is encouraging P2 because implementing these practices can result in reductions in toxic pollutants, the use of water, energy, and other raw materials, while also lowering business costs.

States, state entities, federally recognized tribes, and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply. Individual grant awards may be in the range of \$40,000-\$500,000 for the two-year funding period. Additional details about this opportunity are available on EPA's [Grant Programs for Pollution Prevention](#) website.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Tribal Wildlife Grants

APPLICATIONS DUE: **May 4.**

The goal of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's Tribal Wildlife Grant Program is to provide a competitive funding opportunity for federally recognized tribal governments to develop and implement programs for the benefit of wildlife and their habitat, including species of Native American cultural or traditional importance and species that are not hunted or fished.

Tribal Wildlife Grants are used to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes for the development and implementation of programs that benefit fish and wildlife resources and their habitat. Activities may include, but are not limited to: planning for wildlife and habitat conservation, fish and wildlife conservation and management actions, fish and wildlife related laboratory and field research, natural history studies, habitat mapping, field surveys and population monitoring, habitat preservation, conservation easements, and public education that is relevant to the project. The Service will award grants up to a maximum of \$200,000 for a single project. Details about this opportunity are available on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service [Tribal Wildlife Grants](#) website.



Training & Technical Assistance

Training opportunities in this newsletter are either hosted, funded, or sponsored in collaboration with EPA. Any links to websites outside of EPA are provided for additional information that may be useful or interesting to our readers. EPA can neither attest to the accuracy of these third-party sites nor endorse any nongovernment websites, companies or applications.

Qualified Sampler Training (Water Quality and Soil Sampling)

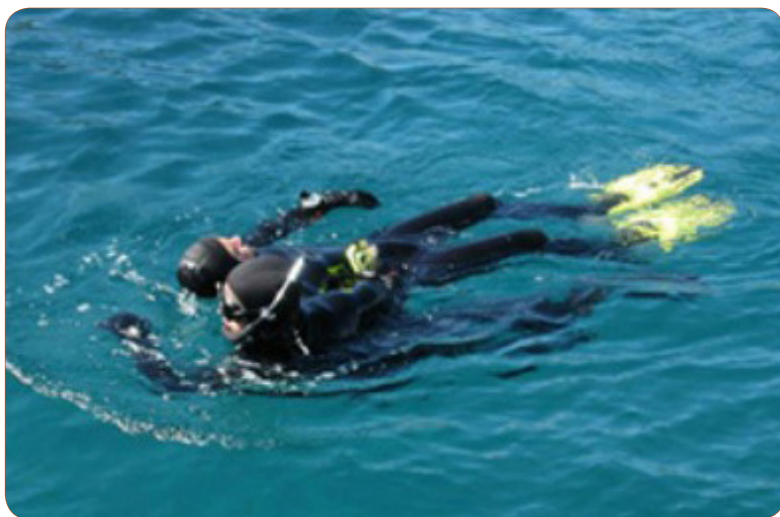
May 11-13, Anchorage, AK

At this time Zender Environmental Health and Research Group are assessing distance learning options for April - July trainings, which are on hold. The aim is to restructure these courses in a manner that will require a computer and a phone, but no internet. In the meantime, please sign up for any training that you are interested in, including those on hold.

Attendees will learn how to take water and soil samples to send for laboratory contaminant testing, how to test on-site for surface water fecal coliform, and how to sample and monitor for the basic water quality parameters using a YSI probe and turbidity meter. Details are available on the [Zender Environmental Health and Research Group](#) website.

CONTACT: **Simone Sebaló** • 907-277-2111 • ssebaló@zendergroup.org

EPA Diver Training



EPA divers practice water rescue techniques

May 11-15, Pensacola, FL

EPA hosts [Diver Training](#) that's catered to those needing to conduct scientific and light work diving. Every year EPA offers the class to federal, tribal, state, and local government divers with a work-related need at no-cost, to meet EPA's and our partners program needs. Training includes SCUBA, tethered SCUBA, and surface supply introduction with rescue skills training.

CONTACT: **Sean Sheldrake** • sheldrake.sean@epa.gov

Federal Facilities Online Academy

Available through September 14

This training program has been developed for EPA Remedial Project Managers, project managers from other federal agencies, state government, and tribal groups who work on federal facility Superfund cleanups. To obtain a certificate upon completion of the entire series, please participate in all 12 courses, 11 webinars, and 1 in-person training. To register for upcoming sessions or view archived sessions, check out the [Trainex](#) website.

Calendar of Events

April

- 13 **ANTHC IGAP Networking Call.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time • <https://bit.ly/2GRKy4f>
- 14 **Overcoming Barriers to Sustainable Waste Management in Tribal Communities.**
11 a.m. Pacific Time • <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3244815349996614156>
- 15 **Citizen Science at EPA.** 12:00 p.m. Pacific Time • <https://bit.ly/2JEaQJn>
- 16 **Region 10 RTOC Conference Call.** 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time
<http://region10rtoc.net/meetings>
- 21 **Alaska LEO Network Monthly Webinar.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time
<http://www.leonetwork.org>
- 27-May 1 **Backhaul, OSHA 10 Hour Safety, and Freon Removal Training.** Anchorage, AK
<http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html>

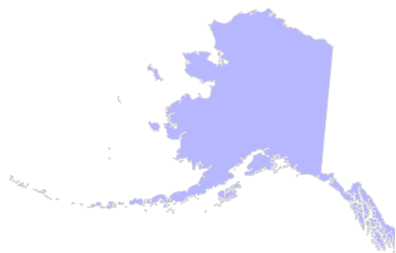
May

- 5 **ANTHC IGAP Networking Call.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time
<https://bit.ly/2GRKy4f>
- 11-13 **Qualified Sampler Training.** Anchorage, AK
<http://www.zendergroup.org/sw.html>
- 11-15 **EPA Diver Training.** Pensacola, FL
<https://www.epa.gov/diving/diver-training>
- 19 **Alaska LEO Network Monthly Webinar.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time
<http://www.leonetwork.org>
- 21 **Region 10 RTOC Conference Call.** 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time
<http://region10rtoc.net/meetings>

June

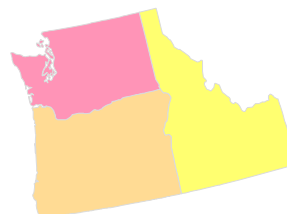
- 9-10 **Tribal Training on Water Quality Monitoring and Non-Point Source Pollution (CWA Sections 106 and 319).** Shelton, WA • CONTACT: Sue Patnude at 360-432-9439 or tribalnonpoint2020@gmail.com
- 23 **Alaska LEO Network Monthly Webinar.** 2:00 p.m. Alaska Time
<http://www.leonetwork.org>

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United States
Environmental Protection
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Region 10 Tribal Program

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Got News?

Got News? Please send submission ideas to
 R10TribalNewsletter@epa.gov

For Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Technical Assistance

ALASKA: **Jim Penor** • 907-500-4963

IDAHO, OREGON, WASHINGTON:
Rick McMonagle • 503-326-6363

Helpful Links

R10 Tribal Programs:

<http://go.usa.gov/xkdMv>

EPA on Facebook:

<https://www.facebook.com/EPARegion10>

Follow us @EPAnorthwest on Twitter!

<https://twitter.com/EPAnorthwest>

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Alan Moomaw, Tribal Coordinator (360) 753-8071

Report Spills and Violations

In the event of an oil spill, release of hazardous materials, or accident that may lead to an immediate threat to human health or the environment, please call **911**. Then, report it to EPA's **National Response Center** by calling **1-800-424-8802**.

To report a possible environmental violation, submit information online to the EPA at <https://echo.epa.gov/report-environmental-violations>.

