



**A Joint Conference on Tribal Air Quality Management
Radisson Hotel & Conference Center - Oneida, WI
October 15 -18, 2002**

**"The Winds Bring the Changing of the Seasons: Let Us Put Our Minds Together,
So Be It In Our Minds." (Oneida Opening Prayer)**

Sponsored by
the National Tribal Air Association, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals/
National Tribal Forum and The Environmental Protection Agency

Hosted by
the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin
(*People of the Standing Stone*)

BACKGROUND: The National Tribal Air Association (NTAA), as the new tribal air organization is now called, has been under development by the National Tribal Air Committee Working Group. The Working Group is a project of the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) located in Albuquerque, NM.

In 1999 NTEC undertook an investigation that concluded that a tribal organization was needed to address the issues of air quality management in Indian Country. This new organization would work to "insure that Tribes themselves set priorities & determine mechanisms for interacting with other governments on air issues."

In February of 2002, under a grant from the Environmental Protection Agency, NTEC formed a Working Group of 24 volunteers recruited from or appointed by Tribal air programs from across Indian Country. The members come from the following areas:

Alaska	4	Great Lakes	2
West	11	Southeast	2
Midwest	3	Northeast	2

Since its inception the Working Group has been dedicated to building the organizational infrastructure, developing draft Bylaws, goals and objectives and a draft Strategic Plan for Tribal review and input.

The NTAA will "Set a National Tribal Air Agenda" and among other things:

Advocate and advance Tribal air issues; Communicate and Educate; Build Partnerships with other Tribal organizations and the Federal government; and track national trends in air related issues, policies, legislation and regulations and report this analysis back to Tribal governments, other Tribal air related organizations and federal representatives.

The Working Group is proud to announce that it is time to meet to formalize the new National Tribal Association and to get to work on addressing the many air quality issues facing Indian Country.

Mark your calendars for Tuesday October 15 and Wednesday October 16, 2002. The National Tribal Air Association will meet the first two days to focus on the selection of NTAA's Executive Committee members, and to finalize NTAA's Bylaws and strategic plan. In addition, with the participation of NTAA's tribal partners, the Association will develop an agenda of key air issues to be addressed in the ongoing work of the Association and through interaction with EPA and other federal agencies.

The final two days, Thursday October 17 and Friday October 18, the National Tribal Air Association will join the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals and ITEP's National Tribal Forum and the EPA, to receive information on several hot topics in tribal air quality management. We hope that this tribally driven format will encourage participation from all parties in this first joint national meeting for tribal air professionals.

CONFERENCE INFORMATION

Oneida's Radisson Hotel & Conference Center
2040 Airport Drive
Green Bay, WI 54313
1-920-494-7300 or 1-800-333-3333

A block of rooms will be held until September 30, 2002 at \$70.00 (plus tax) per room, per night - Single occupancy.

The hotel is located just outside Green Bay and a short drive from the Austin Straubel International Airport. The Radisson Hotel provides shuttle service to and from the airport. The shuttle service is available 24 hours 7 days a week, use courtesy phone in the baggage claim area.

For more information and October conference details please contact:

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