

TRIBAL AIR NEWS

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United States Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air & Radiation
Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards



INSTITUTE FOR TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS DIRECTOR RECEIVES AIR QUALITY AWARD FOR HIS WORK WITH INDIAN TRIBES

Virgil Masayesva, director of the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), was presented with the Mike Frost Memorial Achievement Award on April 30 for leading, Northern Arizona University-based, ITEP in its exceptional air quality training and support work on behalf of Indian tribes throughout the United States. Masayesva received the award from the National Tribal Environmental Council, a tribal advocacy group based in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The ceremony took place at the annual National Tribal Environmental Conference, held at the Gila River Indian Community's Wild Horse Pass resort near Phoenix, AZ.

In his award-acceptance speech, Masayesva said, "It is especially an honor and a privilege for me to accept this award because Mike Frost was a very close personal friend, and of course he was a colleague. I knew Mike since 1993, when he was the first tribal air quality professional we recruited to help develop what is now called our American Indian Air Quality Training Program. Mike was instrumental in getting ITEP off and running.

"This award is really for ITEP's staff and our student associates, and for NAU faculty who have supported us for the past 10 years. We have very special people here who are committed to ITEP's mission, and it shows in the quality of our work. I'd also like to acknowledge the tribal air quality professionals who have been so instrumental in our tribal support efforts. I'd also like to thank U.S. EPA for its consistent support of ITEP in its mission to assist Indian tribes in their air quality management capacity-building and other environmental efforts."

The award was created in memory of Mike Frost, formerly the Director of Environmental Programs for the Southern Ute Tribe in Colorado. Frost was an accomplished tribal air quality professional who passed away in 1998.

ITEP is a national tribal environmental training and support organization based at Northern Arizona University's Dubois Center, in Flagstaff, Arizona. During its ten years in operation, the Institute has trained more than 800 tribal professionals in environmental management and maintains a variety of programs offering specialized support, training, and K-12 environmental education to individuals throughout the lower 48 states and Alaska.

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EPA AND TRIBES PRODUCING VIDEO ON NEW SOURCE REVIEW FOR

INDIAN COUNTRY

The EPA is producing a video to enhance outreach to Tribes about the Clean Air Act's New Source Review (NSR) program and to highlight new rules EPA is proposing to fill NSR regulatory gaps in Indian Country, including a minor NSR rule. The video will:

- C give Tribes that have not been involved in this rule development process a basic primer on NSR and how these rules may affect them;
- C help Tribes comment on the rules effectively during the official public comment period; and
- C enable Tribes to participate in implementation in a way that is right for them.

The intended audience for the video is Tribal environmental professionals and possibly Tribal councils. The video is expected to be released in the fall of 2003, to coincide with rule proposal. The video complements and builds on EPA's ongoing outreach activities. It will be more comprehensive than EPA's recent presentations at Tribal NSR rule outreach meetings around the country, and it will be organized differently to be more engaging.



The EPA is producing this video in partnership with Tribal air organizations, including the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), and Tribes that are farther along in their air development program. The goal of the video is to balance EPA and Tribal perspectives and address the questions EPA frequently hears from Tribes on this topic.

At the June 17-19, 2003 National Tribal Forum, hosted by ITEP in Albuquerque, NM, Virgil Masayesva facilitated an in-depth discussion between the EPA and Tribal representatives present on this topic. As a result, everyone understood the issues and each other's points of view more clearly. In addition, EPA videotaped interviews with several NTF attendees, including Virgil, for this video product. Between the focused discussion time and the interviews, the Tribal NSR rules outreach video project benefitted greatly from everyone's participation at the recent NTF meeting.

A video product allows EPA to be creative in doing outreach to Tribes that may not have much experience with NSR. For example, the video will highlight specific, NSR-related stories of Tribes with relevant experiences for the benefit of other Tribes. In addition, the video will feature Tribal environmental professionals and leaders speaking about the benefits of these rules to Tribes, as well as their ideas and concerns about the rules as they are currently drafted.

For more information about EPA's forthcoming NSR rules for Indian country, or to comment on the draft rules before proposal, contact Laura McKelvey, EPA/OAQPS, at mckelvey.laura@epa.gov (919)541-5497. For more information about either video, contact Michele Dubow, EPA/OAQPS, at dubow.michele@epa.gov (919)541-3803.

INTER-TRIBAL COUNCIL OF ARIZONA'S CIRCUIT RIDER RESPONDS TO GROWING TRIBAL ASTHMA ISSUES

Asthma is a chronic lung disease that affects more than 15 million people throughout the country. Numerous studies indicate that asthma may affect disadvantaged populations and low-income communities disproportionately - especially American Indians. The prevalence of asthma among American Indians has increased severely in the past few years. According to reports and studies conducted by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), asthma is one of the top 10 causes of death among American Indians/Alaskan Natives.



To address this growing concern, the Inter-Tribal Council of Arizona (ITCA) has collaborated with EPA and other asthma risk reduction programs to design a program to educate American Indian families about indoor air asthma triggers affecting homes and schools. This program intends to assist American Indian communities toward reducing asthma episodes and address school absenteeism due to IAQ hazards and respiratory illnesses.

In July 2003, ITCA's "**circuit rider**" will begin traveling within Arizona and surrounding areas conducting the "**Asthma Tribal Community Training Program**" to American Indian communities. The "**circuit rider**" is a trained individual who will provide asthma risk reduction training, workshops, materials and technical assistance to interested Tribes. The program's primary purpose is to develop a sustainable community-based indoor air and asthma risk reduction program for and with American Indian communities.

The program concentrates on the American Indian tradition of passing on knowledge, such as "***Continue the Indian Tradition. Teach and Learn Asthma Management.***" The program is based upon respecting each tribal community's unique characteristics and traditions. American Indian culture cannot be readily generalized, however, each tribe has similar teachings of the past through stories, songs, and dances taught by tribal elders and tribal leaders. It is through this tradition, we will find the program to be successful among tribal communities.

The "**Asthma Tribal Community Training**" program is comprised of two components. The first component is the "**Asthma 101: Introduction to Asthma and Its Indoor Triggers**" training/resource manual. The second component is the "**Asthma Program Development**" manual. These two manuals are the tools to help establish tribal community asthma risk reduction programs and provide culturally significant education and outreach materials to address tribal differences. In conjunction with the training manuals, ITCA has also developed outreach and education materials for tribal communities. They contain the following:

- * Tribal Asthma "**Put Out Asthma Fire**" - Poster
- * "**Top Ten Asthma Triggers**" - Magnet
- * "**My Asthma Management**" - Memo Board

All workshops, training manuals and materials are available to all tribal nations. Please contact Tamera Dawes, the ITCA Tribal Indoor Air/Asthma Risk Reduction Program Coordinator at (602)258-4822 or tamera.dawes@itcaonline.com for any additional questions or to set up a training or asthma awareness workshop for your tribal community.

NEW SOURCE REVIEW UPDATE FOR AUGUST 2003

In the last newsletter we described several underway—the routine maintenance, repair debottlenecking rule; and the allowables major New Source Review (NSR) regulations for “Prevention of Significant Deterioration” (PSD) and Nonattainment Area New Source Review (NANSR) required under parts C and D of the Clean Air Act, respectively.



rulemaking projects that are currently and replacement rule; the aggregation rule; the PAL rule. All of these rules amend the existing

The EPA is finalizing changes to the regulations for **routine maintenance, repair and replacement**, which reflect the incorporation of comments from the proposed rule (67 FR 80290; December 31, 2002). These changes provide a category of activities that are to be considered “routine replacement” and, consequently, exempt from major NSR requirements under the existing exclusion provisions for routine maintenance, replacement, and repair contained in the individual NSR regulations. The changes are intended to provide greater regulatory certainty without sacrificing the current level of environmental protection and benefit derived from the Major NSR programs. We believe that these changes will facilitate the safe, efficient, and reliable operation of affected facilities.

We are continuing work on the rules for **aggregation, debottlenecking, and allowable PALs**, which were described in the last newsletter. These rules should be proposed for public comment in several months.

Finally, on July 30, 2003, EPA issued a **Notice of Reconsideration** concerning the revised major NSR regulation published in the *Federal Register* on December 31, 2002. This notice requests public comment on six issues for which petitions for reconsideration were received by the Agency. It is not our intent to respond to any comments addressing any other provisions of the recently-amended NSR regulations. All comments must be received on or before August 29, 2003. .

For additional information:

- * Routine maintenance, repair, and replacement - Dave Svendsgaard (919) 541-2380
- * Aggregation/Debottlenecking - Juan Santiago (919) 541-1084
- * Allowables PAL - Raj Rao (919) 541-5344
- * Notice of Reconsideration - Lyn Hutchinson (919) 541-5795



VISIT THE TRIBAL AIR
WEBSITE AT:

<http://www.epa.gov/air/tribal>

Tools ...

TRIBAL EMISSION INVENTORY SOFTWARE SYSTEM

The Tribal Emission Inventory Software System (TEISS) is a project sponsored by the Western Regional Air Partnership's (WRAP) Tribal Data Development Working Group (TDDWG) and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). The goal is to develop a tribal emissions inventory software solution that will be freely available to all of the tribes in the region and other regions. The TEISS will have the capabilities to calculate emission estimates for area, mobile, and point sources specific to tribal lands. The TEISS will have the ability to use a Geographic Information System (GIS) interface to facilitate development, analysis and presentation of the emissions inventory data.

The main objectives that of the TEISS are to:

- C create emission inventory software with a very user-friendly interface to facilitate the completion of emission inventories for tribal reservations by tribal environmental professionals;
- C calculate technically defensible emission estimates that will meet the needs of tribes and the WRAP; and
- C create clear reports and maps that support the needs of tribal air quality programs and the WRAP.

TEISS is scheduled to be released in early 2004.



JOIN THE TRIBAL AIR LIST SERVE, SPONSORED ITCA, INC

VISIT THE WEBSITE AT:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/tribalair>

Indoor Air Pollution from Tribal Cooking or Heating Devices in US Tribes

This project will attempt to develop and promote Indoor Air Quality risk reduction techniques which address health consequences related to indoor air pollution from cooking or heating devices, such as cook stoves, wood burning, etc. This initiative will recommend safer alternatives to traditional cooking techniques that rely on biomass (coal, wood, etc.) and develop recommendation for outreach techniques that are appropriate for Native American Tribes.

Indoor Environments Division is proposing to add a domestic aspect to the following new international initiative. EPA and US Agency for International Development have agreed to invest in a multi-year international project aimed at reducing the health risks posed by indoor cooking in the developing world. Over 2 billion people worldwide use wood, dung, and crop residues for cooking and heating.

As a result, over 2 million people, particularly women and children, die each year from breathing elevated levels of indoor smoke. The initiative has several components: outreach; cook stove technology certification; market incentives for cleaner alternatives; and research.

Projected Goals

- Hold a Tribal Stakeholder Workgroup to scope and assess the need within Tribal Nations
- Develop intermediate and long-Term Goals
- Develop techniques and strategies to reduce risk
- Develop culturally competence guidance (if necessary)

Tools- From page 5:

UPDATING THE TRIBAL AIR WEBSITE

How do we make the website more valuable to you? One thing we have heard over and over is how important it is for you to have examples of what other tribes are doing. This helps tribes that are dealing with new projects or concerns to see what other folks are doing to address these concerns. At the same time, it allows tribes to share their successes. In order to help facilitate this exchange we are improving the information under the "Tribes to Tribes" page of the Tribal Air Website. If you have projects that you want highlighted we would like to include it on the this page. We can either post a write up you have already developed or work with you to do the write up. Please contact Laura McKelvey at 919-541-5497 or mckelvey.laura@epa.gov.



PM 2.5 workshop This Workshop is designed for Tribal environmental staff with an interest in the PM 2.5 standard and the impact of designations on Tribes. This workshop will give Tribes an opportunity to discuss questions and concerns with EPA. To save resources EPA is holding the Workshop on **November 3** to dove tail with a November 4 - 6 Regional Planning Body meeting in Saint Louis at the Adams Mark Hotel. The one day PM 2.5 Workshop will begin at 1 pm on early Monday afternoon, November 3 and continue until noon on Tuesday, November 4. (The Regional Planning meeting begins mid-day Tuesday and continues to Thursday.)

EPA has a limited amount of travel funds available. For more information, please email Julie McClintock at mcclintock.julie@epa.gov . The deadline for registration is October 1.

AIR QUALITY DATA WORK GROUP

Over the last year a number of tribes have expressed concern about how tribal data is currently entered and housed in EPA's Air Quality System (AQS) database. The AQS database contains measurements of "criteria air pollutant" concentrations in the 50 United States, plus the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the Virgin Islands. Currently, AQS requires tribes to enter data under state and county codes. Some tribes are concerned that this not respectful of tribal sovereignty. EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards is interested in addressing this concern and would like to set up a workgroup with the tribes, Regions and other EPA offices to explore options to address and modify AQS. If you are interested in participating please contact Laura McKelvey at 919-541-5497 or Nick Mangus at 919-541-5549.



Mark Your Calendar...

Training courses:

Northern Arizona University's Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP): Air Quality Subsystem (AQS/AIRS) - Level 3. September 2003. Kansas City, Kansas. Check <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/wrkshop.html> for more information.

For a list of classroom courses (with dates, locations, and registration information) offered by EPA's Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI), see <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/eog/catalog/ccs2.html#Jul>:

For a list of computer-based courses offered by EPA's Air Pollution Training Institute (APTI), see <http://www.epa.gov/air/oaqps/eog/ecourse.html>.

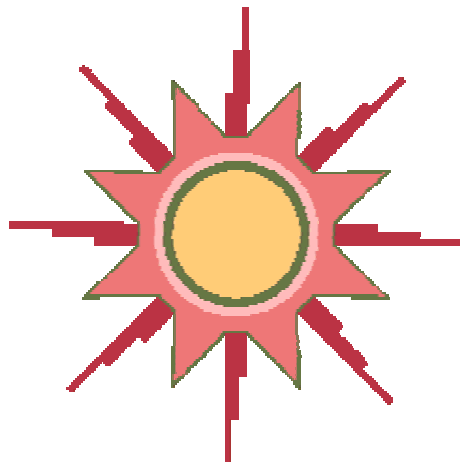
Conferences:

Thinking Globally While Acting Culturally. 32nd Annual North American Association for Environmental Education. October 7-11. Anchorage, AK. Check ITEP's website at www4.nau.edu/itep/conferencesworkshops.html.

Workshops:

Fundamentals of New Source Review, Updated Workshop Series Sponsored by the Air & Waste Management Association. September 4-5, Scottsdale, AZ. December 4-5, New Orleans, LA. For more information, visit: www.awma.org/events and scroll down to "Workshops."

U.S.EPA's Air Pollution Distance Learning Network (APDLN): Satellite Broadcast -- Stage 1 Disinfectants & Disinfection Byproduct Rule Training (U.S. EPA, Office of Water) (T-007-03), September 24, 11:00-5:00 PM ET. Check EPA's website at www.epa.gov/oar/oaqps/eog for registration information.



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