

Environmental *VOICES*

Office of Prevention, Pesticides,
and Toxic Substances and
Tribal Environmental
News Exchange

www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal

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Featuring OPPTS Tribal News
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Administrator Whitman Addresses Tribes at the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe and the Environmental Protection Agency co-hosted the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (NTCEM) at the John Ascuaga's Nugget Hotel in Sparks, Nevada, from June 4 - 7, 2002. The conference provided an opportunity for 700 tribal leaders, tribal environmental managers, tribal scientists, tribal organizations, federal agencies, and other entities to share information about tribal environmental programs and to discuss issues of vital interest to Indian country.

The National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management has been held every other year since 1992. This year, the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe continued this tradition, managing a successful conference while offering workshops and off-site tours to their tribal fisheries located 35 miles northeast of Reno, Nevada. The tribe introduced conference attendees to their reservation during an opening ceremony and welcoming beach barbeque at Pyramid Lake. Attendees were able to take a Pyramid Lake boat tour and visit the Pyramid Lake Cultural Center. Pyramid Lake Chairman Alan Mandell, Miss Indian Nevada 2002 Leticia Sanchez, and Little Miss Pyramid Lake Shelby Smith welcomed hundreds of guests. On Wednesday, conference proceedings commenced with prayers from three tribal elders and traditional songs, as well as a general session with speakers Chairman Alan Mandell, Nevada Department of

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*Pyramid Lake photo courtesy of Kathleen Kutschenreuter,
EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds*



From the Editor...

The Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) and the Office of Pesticides (OPP) are pleased to present the *OPPTS Tribal News* Summer/Fall 2002 edition. The staff of *OPPTS Tribal News* were especially fortunate to work with four summer interns who contributed articles and ideas for this issue. These interns include Alison Sasnett, Lois Bressette, Kathleen Maconaughey, and Brandon “Little Elk” Glen. Turn to page 38 to learn more about these summer interns, who through their combined talents, skills, enthusiasm, and most of all — their seriousness of purpose — made this issue very memorable.

I would like to especially thank and acknowledge the work of Brandon “Little Elk” Glenn. We were extremely fortunate that

Brandon decided this summer to devote his time and efforts to the development of this Summer/Fall issue. Brandon did an outstanding job and really set the tone for this edition, which features many serious environmental and environmental justice issues, concerns, and perspectives that tribes and EPA face today. Brandon is currently a graduate student at the University of California (Berkeley) pursuing a Masters of Science degree with the Energy Resources Group. He possesses a Bachelors of Science degree from Stanford University and has worked in various capacities as a consultant, energy analyst, researcher, and engineering technician on a variety of energy and water related environmental projects. He also served his tribe as the EPA Program Director of Water Resources with the Crow Tribal Administration.

We would also like to extend our thanks to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for hosting the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, featured on pages 1 and 3 through 8. Our participation was a wonderful experience for the staff of *OPPTS Tribal News*. Finally, as always, we would like to extend our thanks to all of our contributors and remind our readers to visit our tribal web site at www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal.

— Mary Lauterbach, OPPT
Tribal Coordinator

OPPTS Tribal News Mission Statement

OPPTS Tribal News seeks to provide an opportunity to promote a two-way dialogue with EPA and American Indian Tribes, including Alaskan Native Villagers, regarding a vast array of environmental issues and concerns that affect Indian Country. The mission and hope of the publication is to maintain an open, constructive exchange of information between the federal government, tribal governments, and tribal organizations. Together, we can build mutual understandings and forge effective partnerships to achieve our common goals of protecting the water, air, land, and communities, now and in order that the circle will continue on for generations to come.

—OPPTS Tribal News Staff

The Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances is pleased to include the comments and opinions of contributors. Byline articles and interviews represent the opinions and views of contributors and not necessarily those of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Also due to the nature and content of this publication, it has been determined that *OPPTS Tribal News* is not subject to the Information Quality Guidelines.

OPPTS Tribal News requests interesting, relevant stories about pesticide and pollution prevention programs and projects in Indian country from our readers. If you want to share your experience with our readers, please write or send an e-mail to Karen Rudek (pesticides), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7506C), Washington, DC 20460, rudek.karen@epa.gov, or Mary Lauterbach (pollution prevention), 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7408M), Washington, DC 20460, lauterbach.mary@epa.gov.

To be placed on our mailing list, write to:
OPPTS Tribal News, U.S. EPA, OPPT
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7408M), Washington, DC 20460, or send an e-mail to lauterbach.mary@epa.gov.

OPPTS Tribal News can be viewed on the Internet at www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal

Mary Lauterbach, OPPT Editor
Karen Rudek, OPP Editor
Shanita Brackett, Writer
Brian Adams, Graphic Design

6th National Tribal Conference

Administrator Whitman Addresses Tribes at 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management, *continued from page 1*

Environmental Protection Administrator Allen Biaggi, EPA Region 9 Administrator Wayne Nastri, EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) Director Carol Jorgensen, Navajo Nation EPA Administrator Derrith Watchman Moore, and National Tribal Operations Committee Chairman Apensanahkwat.

The general session was followed by several plenary

sessions, including a roundtable dialogue with tribal environmental leaders and senior EPA managers and a working luncheon with keynote speaker and EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman. The roundtable dialogue was moderated by the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California Chairman A. Brian Wallace and included remarks from tribal panel members Navajo Nation EPA

Administrator Derrith Watchman Moore, First Nations Environmental Law Program Director Dean Suagee, National Tribal Environmental Council Executive Director Jerry Pardilla, and remarks from senior EPA managers EPA OPPTS Associate Assistant Administrator for Management Marylouise M. Uhlig, EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response Assistant Administrator Marianne Lamont Horinko, EPA Office of Water Acting Assistant Administrator Diane Regas, and Hal Zenick, EPA Office of Research

and Development.

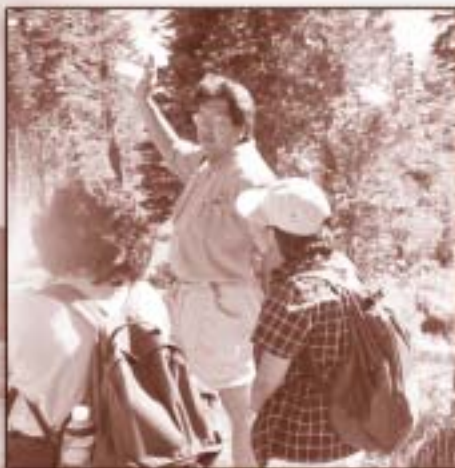
During a working luncheon, EPA Administrator Whitman welcomed guests and expressed her sincere appreciation to the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe for hosting this meeting. Administrator Whitman stated that she was eager to hear views on how best to manage EPA's tribal programs wants to continue to make real progress in protecting the environment and public health in Indian country. Whitman spoke about the goals of partnering and working with tribes to develop solutions that work and that are respectful of tribal values and traditions. Responsible stewardship, according to Whitman, is about leaving the air cleaner, the water purer and the land better protected.

Although there is still much work to be completed, Whitman spoke about a few accomplishments made recently. In May 2002, the Administrator appointed Carol Jorgensen as the Director of EPA's AIEO. Jorgensen is a member of the Tlingit Tribe. To learn more about Director Jorgensen, please see page 9 of this current issue. Despite cutbacks in funding for many federal agencies, EPA was able to protect its funding and

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EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman riding horseback at the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation. Photo courtesy of Felicia Wright, EPA,



Student group touring Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe Reservation. Photo courtesy of Kathleen Kutschenreuter, EPA Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.

EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman addresses conference attendees.



resources designated for tribal programs in the FY 2003 budget request. Included in this request was an additional \$5 million for the EPA General Assistance Program to help build tribal capacity to manage environmental programs. Also, last year Administrator Whitman reaffirmed EPA's Indian Policy, which recognizes that tribal governments are the most appropriate parties for managing the environment on Indian lands. Finally, Whitman spoke about the federal courts' agreement with EPA in the Tribal Air Rule (TAR) litigation and its delegation to eligible Indian tribes to have the authority to regulate air emissions in all lands within reservations.

At the end of her talk with tribal members and conference participants, Administrator Whitman presented a research grant award of \$1.2 million to the Swinomish Tribe. The research grant award was the largest ever of its kind. The EPA funding will be used to study the toxic risks of the consumption of shellfish.

The working luncheon was probably the most attended activity of the conference, but many other



EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman presents research grant award to the Swinomish Tribe

sessions and events resulted in successful talks, education, communication, and lasting memories. Plenary sessions and talks followed that afternoon and over the next few days. Topics included, building tribal environmental programs, water quality, mining, clean air, environmental justice, youth education, waste issues, energy, coordination among tribal-related entities, financing environmental projects, science, monitoring, modeling, and research and analysis.

Needless to say, the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management was a major success, and communication, partnership, and trust were key elements. For further information regarding conference topics and

proceedings, please contact Lela Leyva, Conference Coordinator for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, P.O. Box 256, Nixon, Nevada 89424, 775-574-1000, lleyva@powernet.net or Felicia Wright, EPA Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW (MC5103), Washington, DC 20460, 202-260-8929, wright.felicia@epa.gov.

The Pyramid Lake Paiute also hosted the 10th Annual EPA Region 9 Indian Conference in October 2002. The conference took place on October 23-25, 2002, at the John Ascuaga's Nugget in Sparks, Nevada. For more information, please contact Lela Leyva, Conference Coordinator for the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, P.O. Box 256, Nixon, Nevada 89424, 775-574-1000, lleyva@powernet.net



Miss Indian Nevada 2002, Leticia Sanchez, along with a tribal flutist.

Highlighted Sessions from the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management

Several hundred tribal members, officials, scientists, and educators, along with EPA and other government agency representatives, participated in the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management. Listed below are some of the plenary sessions and workshops that were attended by participants and sponsored by the Agency and many different tribal organizations and governments. Those sessions noted with an asterisk also are featured throughout this issue.

Plenary Sessions:

- Roundtable Dialogue with Tribal Panel and Senior EPA Managers
- Luncheon with EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman
- Impacts on the Proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository Project and Public Concerns About the Proposed Yucca Mountain High-level Repository Project*
- Tribal Caucus – Moderated Session Highlighting EPA Sponsored Tribal Groups

Program Development:

- National Tribal Watershed Listening Session
- The Process: A Construction Project for Water, Sewer, Solid Waste
- Information and Information Quality: Tools for Building the Foundation for Environmental Programs in Indian Country
- The Role of EPA in Eliminating Toxic Substances in Indian Country, FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Project Update and Panel Discussion, and the National PBT Program – Tribes Can Benefit and Tribes Can Help*
- Tribal Hazardous Waste/Underground Storage Tank Ordinance and Tribal Underground Storage Tank Programs
- Development of Tribal Water Quality

Standards

- Using Demonstration Projects to Build Tribal Capacity and Solid Waste Management Training for Alaska Tribes and Native Villages

Education, Youth:

- ATSDR Hazardous Exposures Training for Tribal Health Care Providers and Indian Health Service Clinicians
- Building Tribal Capacity through the Tribal Colleges Network*
- Helping Students Succeed in the Environmental Field – Student Summer Internships and Preparing Indian Youth for the Future

Science, Technology, and Subsistence:

- Subsistence Quality and Tribal Science Council
- Communicating the Risk from Fish Consumption and Coordinated Tribal, Federal, and State Approach Management of Native Lands and Resources of Southeast Alaska
- The EPA Risk Assessment Paradigm – How Can It be Improved to Address Tribal Concerns?
- Basics of Pesticide Registration and Tribal Indicators for Pesticides, Chemicals, and Waste
- Modifying Traditional U.S. Risk Assessment Models for Relevance to Unique Tribal Scenarios: Critical Data and Assumptions*
- Building Tribal Capacity for Assessing Exposures and Risks Resulting from Subsistence Lifestyles*
- Managing Risks Associated with Dietary Exposures to Chemically Contaminated Aquatic Resources and Endocrine Disruptors – What are They and What Research is EPA Doing?
- Tribal Science Council: Bringing Tribal Science Issues to EPA

Sustainability, Case Studies:

- Tribal Brownsfields Revitalization and Environmental Restoration
- Raising Black Ash from Obscurity and

Leopard Frog Habitat Restoration on Pyramid Lake Indian Reservation

- How Can Tribes Maximize their Environmental Regulatory Authority
- Case Study in Source Water Protection: The Yakima Nation
- Opportunities and Challenges in Developing Environmental Partnerships and The Value of the Oregon Tribal Environmental Forum to Tribes

Legal and Policy Issues:

- Establishing Government-to-Government with Army Corps of Engineers and the U.S. Department of Defense
- Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee's Recommendations on Environmental Justice and Federal Inter-Agency Coordination on Environmental Justice
- Senate and House Legislative Perspectives on Tribal Environmental Issues

Natural Resources and Mining:

- Protecting the Future through Indigenous Watershed Efforts and Fostering Leadership in Tribal Natural Resources Management through Natural Resources Field Courses
- Abandoned Mine Lands Team – EPA's Technical Assistance and Tribal Collaboration Case Studies and Nevada Mining Strategies

Training Courses:

- Development of Quality Assurance Project Plan and Overview of Quality Assurance
- Basics of Environmental Management for Tribal Officials

“Building Tribal Capacity through Tribal Colleges Network”

A four-member panel presented environmental science and technology academic program offerings to participants at the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management. The open discussion session, Building Tribal Capacity through Tribal Colleges Network, covered program offerings with unique specialty projects that both prepare tribal students for career opportunities in the environmental, health, and safe technology fields. Most of targeted students hope to gain employment in tribal communities or in support of tribal communities in the environmental, natural resource protection, and health and safety fields.

The panel specifically addressed the environmental science programs at two universities, Oglala Lakota College in Kyle, South Dakota and Northwest Indian College, in Bellingham, Washington. Based on input at the “All Nations Tribal College Environmental Program Capacity Building Workshop” in Des Moines, Washington, which was held last November at Highline Community College, panel members highlighted priority goals for program initiatives and to develop Native American environmental professionals, resulting in self-determined environmental stewardship and sustainability:

- Train-the-Trainer workshops development in the field on the

reservation which would include faculty and tribal staff

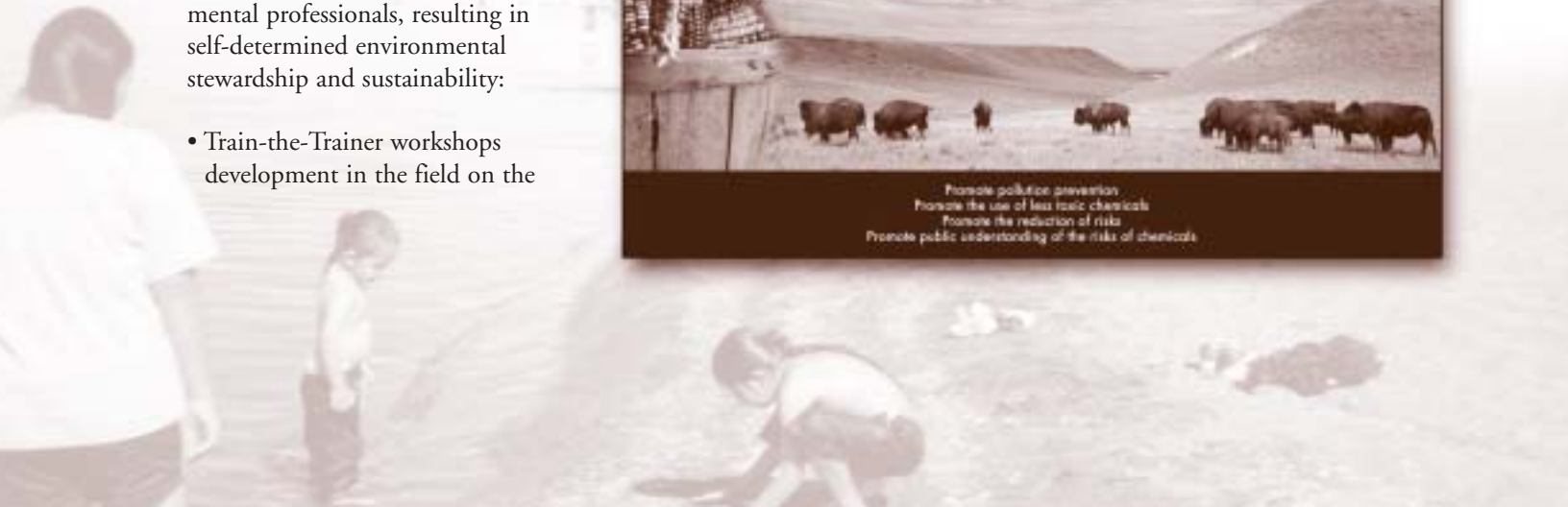
- Curriculum development by tribal colleges
- Funding release time for faculty to accomplish
- Annual Summer Fellows Institute’s that would address the following topics first:
 - Multi-media & web based training for faculty
 - Adapting ATEEC’s best management practices document on establishing and evaluating college programs
 - Government IPA’s (i.e., EPA Staff go to college as faculty/researchers and faculty go



to EPA sites)
 • Program financial resources.

Panel members included Kirk J. Laflin, Partnership for Environmental Technology Education (PETE); Dr. Kent Jensen, Oglala Lakota College, Professor; and Phillip Duran, Northwest Indian College, Dean; and Mary C. Lauterbach, EPA OPPT, Tribal Coordinator.

For more information, please contact Kirk J. Laflin, CET, Executive Director, at 584 Main Street, South Portland, ME 04106, 207-771-9020, 207-771-9028 (fax), KLafin@maine.rr.com



6th National Tribal Conference

“Cultural Perspectives in Policy Development”

A Tribal Perspective, by Angelo Joaquin, Jr.

Angelo Joaquin, Jr. is a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation. Mr. Joaquin participated in the “Building Tribal Capacity for Assessing Exposure and Risks Resulting from Subsistence Lifestyles” open discussion session at the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management. This article on policy development was written with a tribal perspective and represents the opinions of this contributor.

My presentation emphasized the importance to both EPA and Indian Nations of taking cultural perspectives into account for success in developing policies. This will mean more time, effort, resources and dollars on the parts of both for beneficial results.

I am a member of the Tohono O’odham Nation, the second largest Indian reservation in the U.S. and equal in size to Connecticut, located west of Tucson in southern Arizona. The Nation shares a 60-mile common boundary with the Republic of Mexico. Tribal enrollment of the Tohono O’odham, or “Desert People”, is approximately 22,000.

The Tohono O’odham Creation Story tells of four figures—two of human form and two of animal form—working together to create the world. It is important to note that humans and animals created plants. And how working in cooperation with each other is crucial in O’odham life. In fact, the O’odham Himdag, or way of life,

offers information on how a person is to be a part of the community. We believe there is no hierarchy in the community—that plants, animals and humans are equal. And that each must respect the others for life to continue in harmony.

A child learns about communal living through the stories and demonstrations of elders. For example, no child is taught to weave a basket. The child is expected to have the initiative to watch elder basket weavers and absorb information. In my opinion, O’odham have no methods of teaching, only ways of learning.

Many ask how farming can take place in a region that receives less than twelve inches of rain a year. The trick is to use the floodwater coming off the mountains. The entire watershed then acts to supplement the direct rainfall on the field. This entails preparing a field next to a normally dry wash. Through a series of berms, water is diverted into the field. The organic material such as twigs, leaves and others picked up by the water in its downward journey would be deposited on the field thereby replenishing the mineral content of the soil. These waterways must be protected as there are several renewed efforts among O’odham communities to farm in this manner today.

Diabetes among the O’odham can be partly attributed to the fact that we are no longer eating the foods that the Himdag says were created for us. Today, the western diet—containing foods that are high in fat and low in fiber—is the main

fare. Yet, research has proven that two tablespoons of cooked cholla cactus buds contain the same amount of calcium as an 8-ounce serving of milk and certainly without the fat content of milk.

A study conducted by Native Seeds/SEARCH¹ showed the benefits of eating desert foods. The team of U.S. and Australian researchers found that plants that grow in the desert contain substances to stay moist, mainly mucilage and gummy fibers. These substances, along with pectin found in the seed coats of tepary beans, take about four to six hours to digest. In this manner, they act to regulate the introduction of sugar into the blood during this period on a uniform level. Depending on the advanced stage of diabetes, this may be enough to allow the diabetic’s pancreas to produce insulin to work with the sugar.

Culturally relevant approaches must be taken in educating O’odham about diabetes. If one uses the term “exercise” to me, I think of activities that tend to be boring and tedious. However, a visitor to the Tohono O’odham Nation may have the opportunity to witness a game of toka, a field hockey game played by women. It is a brutal event involving curved mesquite poles and an “H-shaped” wooden puck. One will see women of all shapes and sizes, running around the field in pursuit of the puck.

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¹SEARCH-Southwest Endangered Aridland Resource Clearing house

They are sweaty, dusty and breathing hard but also laughing and cheering each other. If you were to ask them if they are exercising, they would say no. They might then explain they are engaged in a traditional activity and are thereby strengthening their cultural identities as O’odham.

One of the greatest challenges facing the Tohono O’odham Nation is pollution from airplane crashes. The Barry Goldwater Bombing Range is located to the west of the reservation. Airplane crashes are frequent, the most recent occurring about two weeks ago. The protection of traditional gathering areas must be undertaken to ensure that future generations of O’odham will enjoy the fruits of the area. The concept of land ownership is foreign to us. We believe strongly that the

Tohono was created for all O’odham and that we are but stewards who are responsible for presenting the land to future O’odham.

One must respect the cultural perspectives with regard to government regulation. In the late 1980s, I designed and implemented a tribal program to allow communities to make a decision about the operation of their water supplies. I traveled throughout the Nation talking about compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act. Many O’odham elders considered adding bleach to the water supply to combat coliform bacteria as “contaminating” the water supply.

Recently, the Bureau of Reclamation (BoR) distributed a card asking tribal members that they worked with, what was the most important fact to know in

order for BOR’s relationship to allow the best possible working situation. In a talk to the Phoenix office, I responded that the dilemma our tribe was in today made it sometimes seem as if we were indecisive. The delay in making decisions comes from the concern we have to stay true to our ancestors and our traditions, while balancing new information and the different manner with which to react to today’s situations.

Indian Nations and government agencies need to agree that time must be invested by both to better understand the different perspectives that exist. We must actively—and with great commitment—work as partners to present an enhanced environment to future generations—both Indian and non-Indian.

“What is On the Other Side of Yucca Mountain?”

A Tribal Perspective, by Lois Bressette

On February 14, 2002, Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham recommended Yucca Mountain as the site for storage of all U.S. irradiated reactor fuel and other high-level radioactive waste. Abraham’s recommendation will further pave the way for the federal government to withdraw another 260 square miles of Western Shoshone Nation, “Newe Sogobia,” homelands. Though Yucca Mountain is not scheduled to open until 2010, independent researchers at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission now has clearance to begin researching 24 years of data and to consider the site for a license. The Yucca Mountain site is a U.S. Department of Energy project located in Nye County, Nevada, approximately 100 miles northwest of Las Vegas.

The U.S. recognized the Western Shoshone sovereign territory when the Treaty of Peace and Friendship was signed at Ruby Valley, Nevada in 1863. The purpose of the treaty was to give the U.S. a right of way through Shoshone territory for railroads and stage lines. For 30 years, tribal families have struggled to survive against court battles, invasions, and recurrent confiscation of their livestock resulting the Treaty of Peace and Friendship. Most recently tribal members have battled new and expanded gold mining practices where core samples have been drilled nearly to their front door. In addition to devastating the mountain sides, their sustainable life-style is in jeopardy. Gold mining both pollutes and diverts massive quanti-

ties of water, leaving behind cyanide ponds which poison the land where they grow crops and feed the animals which they consume as part of their diet.

So what is on the other side of Yucca Mountain? The Shoshone people are concerned about their land and their sustainability.

Lois Bressette was a Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars intern and worked with OPPTS in Summer 2002. Lois attended the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management where impacts on the proposed Yucca Mountain Nuclear Waste Repository Project and public concerns about the project were discussed. This abridged article on Yucca Mountain was written with a tribal perspective and represents the opinions of this contributor.



Meet Our New AIEO Director Carol Jorgensen

EPA
Administrator
Christine Todd
Whitman
appointed
Carol Jorgensen
as Director of
the American
Indian
Environmental
Office on May



*AIEO Director,
Carol Jorgensen,
photo courtesy of
EPA photographer,
Steven Delaney.*

6, 2002. *OPPTS Tribal News* had the pleasure of interviewing Director Jorgensen for our Summer/Fall 2002 issue. Ms. Jorgensen is a Tlingit Indian of southeast Alaska and an active citizen who has been a true asset to her tribe and many tribal and federal organizations. Below, Ms. Jorgensen speaks with Mary Lauterbach, EPA OPPT and *OPPTS Tribal News* Editor.

Mary L., OPPT: Please introduce yourself to our readers.

Carol J., AIEO: I would first like to state that my Indian name is Shuk de Heit, and my Moiety and Clan name is Eagle Killerwhale. My husband Peter and I have six sons, 11 grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Peter is an Inupiat Eskimo from Kotzebue, Alaska.

To many people's surprise, I never really sought out a career. During my journey, however, I was District Sales Manager for Avon Cosmetics and managed 254 sales representatives over 4,000 miles of District in Alaska, which mainly consisted of Islands. I was a Deputy Director for the Alaska Department of Fish and Game, a City Manager of a small city on Chichagof Island, Alaska, Executive Director for the Arctic Marine Resources

Commission in Kotzebue, Alaska, District Ranger for two Districts in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan on the Hiawatha National Forest, and one of three Forest Supervisor's on the Tongass National Forest. I was the National Tribal Program Manager for the Forest Service, and earlier in my career worked for the Central Intelligence Agency, the Defense Intelligence Agency, the Army Security Agency, stationed in Austria, Bolivia and Afghanistan. I am presently serving as the Director for EPA's AIEO.

Mary L., OPPT: What do you believe are the most pressing environmental issues facing Indian Tribes and Alaskan Indian Villagers?

Carol J., AIEO: Cleaner water is a top priority. Most reservations are sandwiched between federal and state lands, and their waters are affected from the results of solid waste contamination. Water and land are important assets to a tribal community. And I have to say, all of EPA's noted issues are priorities in Indian country.

Mary L., OPPT: What can be used to address these environmental concerns you've mentioned?

Carol J., AIEO: In order to effectively communicate the seriousness of these issues, I think talking with the EPA regions would help a great deal. I would like to meet with representatives from each EPA region to share perspectives, share the issues of each region. I would then like to submit a 'trip' report to all EPA regions and tribes to initiate communication and networking. We should be connected, and help our EPA Administrator understand the concerns and issues of everyone.

Mary L., OPPT: What do you believe EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman would like to identify as the top priority in achieving environmental protection of American Indians and Alaska Native Villagers?

Carol J., AIEO: Administrator Whitman is focused on clean air, purer water, and protecting the lands. Also, she respects the government-to-government trust relationship, and she really wants to listen. Our job is to help her with this, to help her understand and hear everything.

Mary L., OPPT: As a Tlingit Indian, what are your views on the environmental problems resulting from PBTs in traditional Native food sources?

Carol J., AIEO: Traditional communities are seeing problems in the livers of fish and mammals resulting from mining of zinc, gold, and copper; and tailings. As a tribal member, I know that Indian Tribes and Alaskan Indian Villagers have a depth of expertise and knowledge of the environment and human health. This knowledge must be utilized in order to help communicate, educate, and address the problems resulting from PCBs. Tribes have chosen to have a subsistence life, and we cannot afford to lose them. They must maintain their culture, and we must help sustain them.

EPA's Strategic Plan

EPA's Strategic Plan Revision — *Water, Land, Air, Communities and Ecosystems, and Compliance and Environmental Stewardship*

Under EPA Administrator Christine Whitman, the Agency is currently revising its Strategic Plan, which outlines the Agency's mission, goals, and objectives, and is mandated by Congress under the Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) to be revised every three years. The Plan identifies the Agency's priorities for the next five years and beyond. The Strategic Plan serves as the basic framework for all of EPA's planning and budget processes and provides the structure for EPA to plan its programs, set priorities, and allocate resources. EPA's entire budget is tied to the objectives established in the Plan. . Also included in the Plan are national goals and objectives to protect the environment and safeguard human health. In late July, Administrator Whitman decided on a new, streamlined, five-goal structure for the Agency's Strategic Plan that focuses on the environmental outcomes that we are trying to achieve—air, water, land, communities and ecosystems, and compliance and environmental stewardship.

Consultation is an important component of the Plan revision process. At both the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) Conference and the 6th National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management in Reno, EPA solicited input and advice directly from tribes to include goal-setting for this revision of the Plan. Participants indicated that some of the greatest challenges facing EPA included addressing issues such as western consumption rates, endangered species protection, and risk management and risk

communication. Other significant EPA challenges included developing models that factor in subsistence issues and cultural uses of natural resources, taking a more holistic approach to environmental issues, and incorporating indigenous knowledge into EPA science and policy.

Some of the highest priorities identified by conference participants included surface water, ground water, waste water, air pollution, pollution prevention, risk reduction, waste management, domestic fire protection, high rates of thyroid cancer near nuclear facilities, and development of renewable energy sources. There was also considerable priority placed on a variety of cultural issues, including safeguarding traditional foods — especially in areas where alternatives may not be available — consideration of the large number of exposure vectors and high consumption rates in traditional and subsistence diets, and protection of cultural values and traditions.

To be more effective, participants felt that EPA could increase sensitivity to the government-to-government relationship and the need to work with individual tribes, establish central points of contact for EPA programs to help tribes navigate the bureaucracy, institute more staff exchanges to Indian country, address the need for technical support to help tribes set priorities, improve communication and consultation efforts, and make tribes feel more like true partners.

The Reno tribal environmental conferences and the Agency's other

early consultation efforts provided valuable input to the Agency in developing options for its new set of strategic goals. EPA developed several options for a new goal structure and obtained some short-turnaround feedback from the Tribal Caucus and other key partners prior to finalizing the set of options to be discussed by the Agency's senior management and presented to the Administrator for a final decision in July.

As the Agency enters into the next phase of the Strategic Plan revision process, consultation will continue to be a high priority. This fall, EPA will seek input from a broad range of partners and stakeholders, including tribes, states, federal agencies, the regulated community, environmental groups, public policy organizations and other interested parties, as it develops its outcome-based objectives. As part of this consultation effort, the Agency hosted a national meeting of partners and stakeholders in Washington, DC on October 16, 2002.

The Agency plans to release for public comment its draft objectives by late December, 2002 and a full text draft of the Strategic Plan by March 1, 2003. The final revised Strategic Plan will be delivered to Congress by September 30, 2003.

For more information on the Agency's Strategic Plan, please contact Alex Wolfe, EPA, 202-564-7581 or Delleane McKenzie at 202-564-6358.



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF
PREVENTION, PESTICIDES AND
TOXIC SUBSTANCES

October 8, 2002

Dear Colleagues and Citizens:

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to provide input to EPA's Strategic Plan, which will guide resource and program decisions over the next five years. EPA developed its first Strategic Plan under in 1997 and revised it in 2000. EPA's next Strategic Plan will cover resource and program directions from FY2003 through FY2008.

As we establish our strategic goals for the next 5 years and develop the strategies we will employ to achieve our objectives, we want to be sure that we have reached a broad range of interested and affected parties, benefitted from their input and advice, and prepared a sound, practical Plan that addresses national priorities for protecting the environment and human health and will achieve results. In particular, we are interested in your views on the following questions:

1. What are the most important human health and environmental challenges related to pesticides, industrial chemicals and pollution prevention that EPA should address in the next 10 years?
2. What specific strategies and activities should EPA strengthen or initiate to address those challenges?
3. What specific accomplishments should EPA commit to achieve by FY2008 or beyond related to pesticides and industrial chemicals? Please be as quantitative and outcome-oriented as possible in your suggestions.
4. What do you think are the most important changes EPA could make to become more effective and efficient in the pesticide, industrial chemicals and pollution prevention program areas?
5. What other suggestions do you have regarding future challenges, accomplishments, strategies, activities, effectiveness and efficiency of other EPA programs (e.g., water, air, waste, research, enforcement, etc.)?
6. What organizational challenges are you currently facing that impact your organization's ability to carry out its mission?

You can provide comments to us through EPA's E-Docket at <http://www.epa.gov/edocket>. On this site, you will be able to access EPA's current Strategic Plan, including OPPTS' current priorities under Goal 3 (Safe Food), Goal 4 (Preventing Pollution and Reducing Risk in Communities, Homes, Workplaces and Ecosystems) and Goal 6 (Reduction of Global and Cross-Border Environmental Risks). In order to ensure that we can consider your input for the first draft of the next strategic plan, we ask that you provide input by November 11, 2002.

Over the years, we have achieved many environmental successes by working together. While we have many challenges ahead, I am confident that by continuing our work together, we can continue this record of achievement.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Johnson
Assistant Administrator

OPPTS is using the E-docket for OPPTS stakeholders to provide input to the pesticides, industrial chemicals, and pollution prevention portion of the strategic plan. After November 11, 2002, there will be other opportunities for interested parties to provide input into the Plan in the upcoming months when the Agency's Goals, Objectives and Sub-objectives are released for public comment in December 2002 and when a full draft text of the entire plan is released for public comment in March 2003.

Four New Projects Seek to Improve Oil Recovery on Native American Lands

Adapted from DOE Fossil Energy Techline, August 12, 2002

An estimated 890 million barrels of oil and natural gas liquids and six trillion cubic feet of natural gas are thought to exist beneath Native American lands in the lower 48 states and Alaska. Since 1999, the Department of Energy (DOE) has sponsored a program to help tribes develop and manage these resources, and four new projects, described below, have been added to the department's Native American Initiative. Each project teams Native American tribes with oil producers and service companies to apply the latest technological innovations to increase recovery of oil from tribal lands.

Advanced Resources International

Advanced Resources International (ARI) will collaborate with the three affiliated tribes (Arikara, Mandan, and Hidatsa) and the Bureau of Indian Affairs to develop an integrated, non-invasive procedure to assess oil exploration potential in the Williston Basin on the Fort Berthold Indian Reservation in western North Dakota. Previous studies indicate a high potential for undiscovered oil and gas resources on the reservation. For more information, contact Scott Reeves, Advanced Resources International, 9801 Westheimer Suite 805, Houston, Texas 77042, sreeves@adv-res-hou.com

Golder Associates Inc.

Golder Associates Inc. will team with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, Red Willow Production Company,

Legacy Energy Corporation, Colorado School of Mines, Western Geco, Axis Geophysical, Eby Petrographic Services, and Schlumberger Oilfield Services to conduct a detailed reservoir study using cutting-edge three-dimensional, three-component (3D3C) seismic data. The goal is to improve existing predictive models. Recent advances in seismic acquisition and processing offer new ways to see smaller features with more confidence and to characterize the internal structure of reservoirs. For more information, contact Dr. Paul LaPointe, Golder Associates Inc., 18300 NE Union Hill Road, Redmond, Washington 98052, plapointe@golder.com.

Grand Resources Inc.

Grand Resources Inc. will evaluate horizontal waterflooding technology in the Bartlesville formation in the Woolaroc Field located in Osage County, Oklahoma. The Bartlesville sand is a shallow, naturally fractured reservoir with low permeability. Oilfields in the Osage Nation are in a mature stage of depletion, yet millions of barrels of potentially recoverable oil exist. The project addresses the failure of vertical waterflooding in low permeability fractured reservoirs, and the potentially higher success rate for horizontal water injection at lower parting pressures. Grand Resources Inc. will partner with the Osage Tribe, Dauben International Energy Consultants, and Dr. Leonid Germanovich. For more information, contact Scott Robinowitz, Grand Resources Inc.,

2448 East 81st Street, Suite 4040, Tulsa, Oklahoma 74137, scott@grandoil.com.

Jicarilla Apache Nation

Jicarilla Apache Nation will collaborate with Jicarilla Apache Energy Corporation and John D. Jones, Engineering Inc. to develop a feasibility study to design and construct an oil processing facility on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation in southeastern New Mexico. Oil and gas production has become a critical factor in the tribe's continued economic growth. The planned oil processing facility will provide the necessary infrastructure for expanded development of petroleum reserves on the Jicarilla Apache Reservation. For more information, contact Jesse D. Evans, Jicarilla Apache Nation., P.O. Box 507, Dulce, New Mexico 87528, jevans232000@yahoo.com.

Additional program information can be received by contacting Virginia Weyland, DOE National Energy Technology Laboratory, 918-699-2041, gweyland@npto.doe.gov or David E. Giamporcaro, EPA OPPT, Industry and Small Business Liaison, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. (MC7408M), Washington, D.C. 20460, 202-564-8107, 202-564-8813, or giamporcaro.david@epa.gov.



Tribe Seeks Tribal Pesticides Program Approval

Adapted from "Tribes Want to Enforce Rules Over Agricultural Chemicals," Lincoln Journal Star, Art Hovey, July 11, 2002

The Winnebago Tribe is seeking EPA Region 7's approval of a Tribal Pesticide Program to control the sale and use of agricultural chemicals on its reservation located primarily in Thurston County. The Tribe is concerned about chemical spills and chemicals that drift off weed and insect targets. Tribal Chairman John Blackhawk proposes that the tribe will respond quickly to these situations in order to protect their reservation and tribal members.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation and the Nebraska Agri-Business Association, an advocacy group for the state's agricultural chemical dealers, however are in disagreement and do not support

the tribe's request. The regulated group includes those who sell and use chemicals to control infestations of corn rootworms, musk thistles, and other crop and farm land pests.

The Nebraska Farm Bureau Federation President Bryce Neidig said farmers own 70 percent of the land on the reservation and claims that the tribe's intent is to regulate farmers by telling them where they can plant, what they can plant, and what chemicals they can use.

Blackhawk argues that land ownership by farmers without tribal connections is irrelevant. What should matter is that there is a need for more enforcement within reservation boundaries and that the

tribe can improve responsiveness to chemical spills and environmental threats resulting from pesticides use. The tribe is working from a timetable of six months to a year, but Luetta Flournoy, Branch Chief of the EPA Pesticides Office in Kansas City, said these things take time. "We are aware that there is a lot of concern among many entities," said Flournoy, "including the Nebraska Farm Bureau, including many non-tribal members in Thurston County."

Readers may contact Art Hovey at 402-523-4949 or ahovey@journalstar.com with questions or comments.

New Name, Same Mission

by Alison Sasnett, OPPTS Summer Intern

Recently, the National Pesticide Telecommunications Network (NPTN) became the National Pesticides Information Center (NPIC) and can now be reached at 1-800-858-7378 or <http://npic.orst.edu>. The NPIC has existed since 1978 when the Texas Tech University Health Sciences center launched the Pesticide Hazard Assessment Project. The project's main goal was to report pesticide incidents to EPA's Region 6 office. In 1995 the cooperative agreement to operate a NPTN was awarded to

Oregon State University. The funding for the newly named cooperative agreement continues to derive principally from the EPA with support from the University.

The functions of NPIC now include a broad spectrum of responsibilities. The organization serves the U.S., Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Mexico, and Canada. In fiscal year 2001, NPIC received 23,511 calls, the subjects of which ranged from fears about exposure and pesticides to inquiries about the proper use of pesticides and applicator

certification issues. The Network's website, which has received about 438,000 visitors, also has been a major success.

NPIC continues to add to its more than twenty years of success in educating the public about pesticide risk and usage. Each year the number of inquiries it receives increases, and its outreach has expanded to meet the needs of people throughout North America. For more information, please contact NPIC at 1-800-858-7378 or <http://npic.orst.edu>.

Events

ITCA Provides Pesticide Exposure Workshop

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA) partnered with the University of California Statewide Integrated Pest Management Program and the University of California at Berkeley Center for Occupational and Environmental Health Continuing Education Program to hold the “Pesticide Illnesses and Injuries Workshop for Tribal Community Health Care and Agricultural Professionals.” The workshop was held May 29 - 31, 2002 in Yuma, Arizona and Phoenix, Arizona.

The workshop provided information, resources, and training in the recognition, management and reporting of pesticide illnesses and injuries to health care clinicians and agriculture professionals. Participants received information on reporting requirements and pesticide use and were provided reference materials for recognizing and appropriately responding to pesticide exposure cases. The workshop addressed the technology available to conduct medical monitoring for pesticide exposures, and hands-on training activities by participants gave them ideas on how to provide interesting, effective training approaches for the agricultural community.

A variety of professionals attended the workshops, including fire fighters, doctors, farm worker trainers, health care physicians, tribal regulatory personnel, state regulatory personnel, agricultural growers, agricultural handlers, and interested community members. Instructors leading the training workshops included:

- Richard G. Ames, Ph.D., M.P.H., Chief Research Scientist, Pesticide



- Epidemiology Unit, Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment, California Environmental Protection Agency;
- Patrick J. O’Connor-Marer, Ph.D., Pesticide Safety Training Coordinator, UC Statewide Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Program, UC Davis;
- Michael O’ Malley, M.D., M.P.H., Staff Physician, Employee Health Services, UC Davis Medical Consultant, Worker Health and Safety Branch, California Department of Pesticide Regulation;
- Barry W. Wilson, Ph.D., Professor and Biologist, Department of Animal Science and Department of Environmental Toxicology, UC Davis;
- Louis Carlo, M.S., Assistant in Extension: Entomology, University of Arizona Cooperative Extension;
- Ernest Arvizu, Epidemiology Specialist, Pesticide Poisoning Surveillance Program, Office of Environmental Health, Arizona Department of Health Services;

- Jennifer L. Weber, Pesticide Safety Educator, UC Statewide IPM Program, UC Davis;
- Henry Ghiotto, Pesticide Inspector, Pesticide Enforcement, Quechan Tribe;
- Michael Vaughn, Pesticide Training Coordinator, Inter Tribal Council Of Arizona, Inc.;
- and Elaine Wilson, Pesticide Program Administrator, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.

The ability for agricultural professionals to recognize, respond to, report and prevent pesticide illnesses and injuries contributes to the health and well-being of tribal communities. ITCA training helps improve the accuracy of information given to regulatory agencies for follow up, investigation or enforcement action, if necessary. For additional information, please contact Michael Vaughn, Pesticide Program Coordinator, Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc., 2214 N. Central Avenue, Suite 100, Phoenix, Arizona 85004, 602-258-4822, michael.vaughn@itcaonline.com.

Events

A New LifeLine for Tribes from OPP

by Alison Sasnett

For some time, tribes have been telling EPA of a need for change in the Agency's exposure risk assessment methodologies. Currently, risk assessment software packages model human health exposure risks using mainstream American population data, but fail to adequately model possible risks to populations whose behaviors fall outside of mainstream expectations. Tribes have indicated their desire for the development of improved risk assessment tools that will allow a better capture of unique pesticide and toxic exposure risks that may result from their traditional culture and daily activities.

In response to tribal requests, EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP), with support from the Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances (OPPTS), is piloting a new project to augment the capabilities of the existing LifeLine risk assessment software. The resulting modifications to this widely accepted, state-of-the-art risk assessment tool will enable the Agency, tribes, and other interested parties to evaluate pesticide and toxic exposure risks from food, water, residential, or other sources that may accrue uniquely in sub-populations that engage in traditional Native American practices. The LifeLine tribal project will provide this new assessment ability by creating discrete tribal modules in existing LifeLine software, where data representing mainstream America is replaced with relevant information on the life preferences, cultural practices, and world environments of tribal populations.

In recent years, software risk

assessment models have become increasingly important tools for public health professionals, regulatory scientists, industry representatives, and other groups interested in estimating human health risks accompanying exposures to varying levels and combinations of environmental pollutants. These estimates, or risk assessments, are used differently by varying parties.

Assessments may influence high-level decisions on toxic chemical clean-up or may be used to support funding decisions for data development and to set government enforcement priorities. They may be published by industry to support the introduction of new chemical products or expanded product uses. They also play a critical role in the process by which government regulators set maximum "tolerance levels" for human exposures to pesticides and other toxic chemicals. Given the numbers, and the wide variation in reasons that powerful coalitions are interested in risk assessment results, it seems reasonable that tribal sub-populations may find it to their benefit to not only have their life ways considered in the fundamental structure of the assessment software, but also to sit at the table as empowered participants in the interpretation of results. Through the tribal LifeLine project, EPA is working to develop tools that it believes will support both of these tribal interests.

Once developed, the new LifeLine tribal modules will enable federal regulators of pesticides and other toxic substances to better capture and assess exposure risks for tribal populations and to

include an evaluation of those assessments when they determine maximum allowable chemical exposure limits for individual members of the American public. The new software will also be made available, without fee, to tribal risk assessors. Tribal risk assessors will also be able to enter their own, population-specific information in order to evaluate the effects of different types or rates of chemical exposures and present relevant findings during federal chemical evaluation and tolerance setting processes.

The LifeLine risk assessment software is presently used by EPA, states, universities, and other private and public entities. The software, initially funded by EPA and the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is produced and owned by The LifeLine Group, a non-profit organization created specifically to develop technically excellent, open, and available tools for assessing chemical exposure risks. All input data and all calculation methodologies used in formulating Lifeline outputs are subject to public review. None of the critical software architecture or decision coding is hidden in "black box" environments, which could skew outputs, and support particular interests, without user knowledge.

Despite its potential benefits, EPA continues to hear from tribes who have concerns

continued on page 16

about the tribal LifeLine pilot project. One recurring set of concerns involves data ownership: who will control the statistics and data entered into or generated by the program? Some tribes are also worried that sensitive/sacred sites will be compromised if they become public knowledge. Others are concerned that releasing information about traditional behavior patterns may have unwanted consequences.

In response, OPP insists that the tribal LifeLine pilot project will create tribal modules using data that is already publicly available from a variety of sources. The project may find new connections among these public data sources and put data together in ways that have not been considered before, but, the data are already out there. When building these modules, OPP does not want, and will not knowingly use, confidential information from a tribe or any other source because all data used to build these modules will become part of the public domain. Universal availability and transparency of its basic software are part of the unique premise behind the work of The LifeLine Group. Therefore, tribes in the chosen biographical area (BGA) must ensure that relevant public data, and other data that tribes may choose to share with us during module design, is interpreted correctly by The LifeLine Group programmers who will design the new software, as well as conduct preliminary function checks. Tribal involvement at pivotal points in the development process is critical in order to maximize the benefits of this project to Indian country.

When a tribal module has

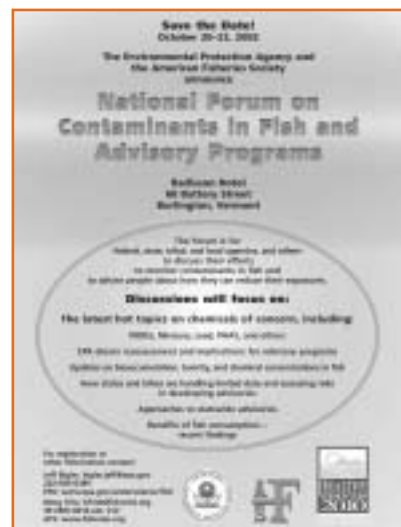
EPA OPP is pleased to announce that the Nilavena Consortium of Native Alaska Villages in the Lake Iliamna/Clark Lake region of Alaska has partnered with us to become the first of the tribal groups that we will be working with during the initial year of the tribal LifeLine project. The location was selected with general guidance from the Alaska Inter-Tribal Council, which also provided us with contact information for Alaska natives. The biogeographical area that includes the Nilavena Consortium was determined to be a good starting point for this risk assessment project in Alaska because it includes a population of reasonable size, with tribal members living in villages scattered throughout the region and engaging in clearly defined traditional life practices. In addition, consortium members have been able to suggest likely sources for much of the information the new software will need to incorporate to maximize its ability to accurately model area natives

passed its final quality check by programmers, tribal reviewers, and EPA, it will be released for general use by EPA risk assessors, tribal risk assessors, and any other group that may be interested in it. These users may run LifeLine models based on relevant residue information, real or hypothetical, that they decide to enter. Any outputs resulting from such runs remain the property of the software user, unless he or she chooses to share them. In other words, once the new software modules are complete, they will be given, free of charge, to any requesting party. Results of modeling runs remain under the control of the user, who has no obligation to report them to EPA, any other government or non-government entity, or to the LifeLine Group.

Tribes in several geographic locations in the contiguous 48 states have shown an interest in having the tribal LifeLine risk assessment pilot sited with them. OPP continues to engage in discussions with these tribes and expect to reach a final determination on the placement of the second pilot

soon. For further information, contact Karen Rudek, EPA OPP, Project Officer, Tribal LifeLine Project, 703-305-6005, rudek.karen@epa.gov.

The National Forum on Contaminants in Fish Advisory Programs was held on October 20-22, 2002 in Burlington, Vermont. The forum was co-sponsored by EPA, the American Fisheries Society, and the state of Vermont.



National Tribal Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Conference II Kansas City, Kansas, November 19-21, 2002

The National Tribal Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Conference will take place at the Jack Reardon Civic Center in Kansas City, Kansas on November 19-21, 2002. The conference is being sponsored by EPA Region 7, the Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, and the U.S. EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance and American Indian Environmental Office. Conference attendees will participate in a three-day working conference that will include several plenary sessions, break-out sessions, and program presentations. Scheduled plenary sessions include (1) the 21st Century Tribal Environmental Office, the

Characteristics of the Tribal Environmental Office for Tribal Resources Protection, (2) Tribal/Public Involvement in Natural Resource Protection, (3) the Characteristics of an Effective Tribal Land Administrative System, (4) Compliance Issues in FIFRA and Public Water Supply Supervision, (5) Treatment in the Same Manner as a State, (6) Recent Court Decisions that Impact Future Tribal Enforcement Litigations, (7) Tribal Research and Reference Sources, (8) Databases and Resources, (9) Internet Research, and (10) Resource Personnel.

Break-out session topics will cover Tribal Approval Options,

Environmental Enforcement Building Blocks, Implementation and Development of Tribal Enforcement and Compliance Programs, and Cooperative Enforcement of an Environmental Enforcement Code.

Additional presentations include Developing Compliance Assistance and Compliance Monitoring Programs, Enforcement Response Policies, Supplemental Environmental Projects for Penalty Payments, and Final Roundtable.

For more information, please contact Dawnette Owens, at 605-343-6054 or 800-243-9133.

Department of Agriculture Rural Utilities Service Offers Grant Program

The Rural Utilities Service (RUS) announces a pilot grant program for the provision of broadband transmission service in rural America. For fiscal year 2002, \$20 million in grants will be made available through a national competition to applicants proposing to provide broadband transmission service on a community-oriented connectivity basis. The community-oriented connectivity approach will target rural, economically-challenged communities and offer a means

for the deployment of broadband transmission services to rural schools, libraries, education centers, healthcare providers, law enforcement agencies, public safety organizations, as well as residents and businesses. This all-encompassing connectivity concept will give small, rural communities a chance to benefit from the advanced technologies that are necessary to foster economic growth, provide quality education and healthcare opportunities, and increase and enhance public safety efforts.

Comments regarding the information collection requirements under the Paperwork Reduction Act should have been received on or before September 6, 2002, to be assured of consideration. For further information, contact Roberta D. Purcell, Assistant Administrator, Telecommunications Program, Rural Utilities Service, Mailstop 1590, 1400 Independence Avenue SW., Washington, DC 20250-1590, 202-720-9554, 202-720-0810 (fax).

Tribal Water Quality Standards Publication Issued

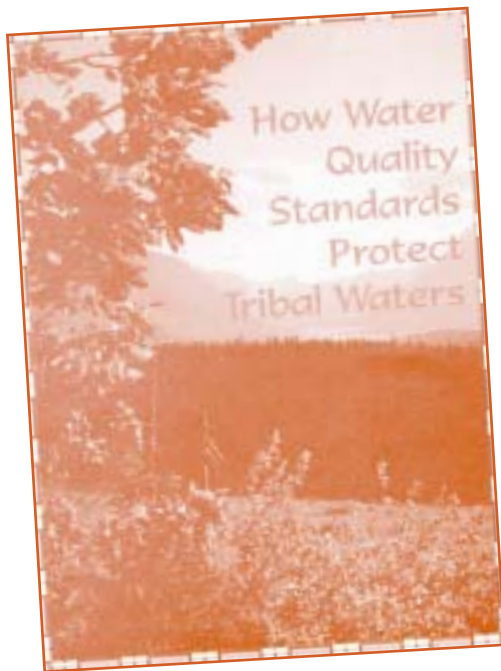
EPA's Office of Water recently released an outreach publication, "How Water Quality Standards Protect Tribal Waters" (EPA 823-B-02-002). Water quality standards are laws or regulations that Indian tribes, which are authorized to administer the

program, adopt to enhance the quality of their waters and protect human health. Water quality standards are the cornerstone of the nation's surface water protection program and are key to implementing the water quality framework of the Clean Water Act (CWA).

The outreach publication provides an introduction to the water quality standards program, discusses the benefits of a water quality standards program on reservation lands, answers frequently asked questions about the process to obtain authorization from EPA to conduct the water quality standards program, and provides information to help tribes develop their own water quality standards.

Two case studies are included in the publication, including the Fort Peck Reservation, home to the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes, located in Montana and the Seminole Tribe of Florida. The case studies highlight the tribes' efforts to use biological criteria in their water quality standards and the use of water quality standards to solve a severe nutrient problem on the Big Cypress Reservation, respectively.

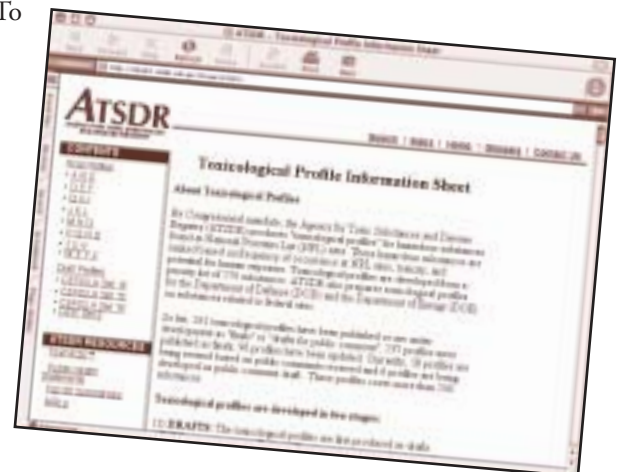
Contact Eleanor Jackson, EPA Office of Water, at 202-566-0052 or jackson.eleanor@epa.gov to obtain copies of the publication. You may also contact Frances Desselle, EPA Office of Water, at 202-566-0375 or desselle.frances@epa.gov for more information.



ATSDR Toxicological Profiles Now on CD

The ATSDR Toxicological Profiles from the Center for Disease Control are now available on CD-ROM. The CD contains 159 toxicological profiles and 5 interaction profiles. Toxicological profiles are produced for hazardous substances found at National Priorities List (NPL) sites. These hazardous substances are ranked based on frequency of occurrence at NPL sites, toxicity, and potential for human exposure. Toxicological profiles are developed from a

priority list of 275 substances. To order a free copy of ATSDR ToxProfiles 2002, contact the ATSDR Information Center at 888-42-ATSDR (888-422-8737), <http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov>, or atsdric@cdc.gov.



EPA Region 5 Awards PBT Funds for Dioxin Research

On May 22, 2002, EPA Region 5 awarded \$62,400 to the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission (GLIFWC) in Odanah, Wisconsin to analyze Lake Superior fish for dioxin contamination. Specifically, this award will enable GLIFWC to test 44 samples of four species of Lake Superior fish, including Lake Trout, Whitefish, Lake Herring, and Siscowet Trout.

The 44 samples were collected last year during a previous fish contamination study and archived for this analysis. Current study analyses will include fish fillets, with and without skin, and fatty tissue, in order to assess the effectiveness of dressing game fish before cooking and consumption. These results will close a gap in our understanding of dioxin exposures, especially among subsistence fishers. The laboratory analysis began in September 2002, and results are expected about one year later.

“Dioxin” refers to a class of chlorinated compounds, [poly]chlorodibenzo-p-dioxins, that have been identified as toxic and carcinogenic. Dioxins and furans, also are known as Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxics (PBTs), which are contaminants that tend stay in the environment after being released and to collect increasingly in the food chain. Since 1998, EPA has awarded grants for specific projects in each regional office that responds to PBTs.

For information on the Lake Superior Fish project, please contact Seth Dibblee, EPA Region 5 Project Officer, 312-885-5992, dibblee.seth@epa.gov or Kory



Groetsch, GLIFWC Project Manager, 715-682-6619, groetsch@glifwc.org. For general information on the PBT grants program, contact Paul Matthai, EPA OPPTS, 202-564-8839, matthai.paul@epa.gov.

Polychlorodibenzo-dioxins (PCDDs) and polychlorodibenzo-furans (PCDFs) are formed as byproducts during the manufacture of chlorinated phenols and during incineration processes. There exists 75 congeners, or compounds, of PCDDs and 135 congeners of PCDFs. The degree of toxicity varies between congeners.



PCDDs and PCDFs have been found to accumulate in the edible portions of fish, with several of the Great Lakes fish consumption advisories being attributed to dioxins contamination. However, limited data exists in the U.S. for commonly harvested fish species of Lake Superior, and in order to address this data gap, the Great Lakes Indian Fish and Wildlife Commission was awarded a grant to analyze the fillet tissue of five species of commonly harvested and consumed Lake Superior fish.

The samples were collected, processed and archived in 1999. These samples were previously analyzed for mercury, PCBs, toxaphene, and chlordane, as well as a suite of other chlorinated persistent chemicals. The methods and results of the previous study were highlighted in the EPA guidance manual for sampling and analyzing fish for consumption advisories (EPA-823-B-00-007). The dioxin data will be compared to concentrations used by the state governments of Minnesota, Michigan, and Wisconsin, as well as federal government agencies, including FDA and EPA, for fish consumption advice and commercial sale.



Persistent, Bioaccumulative Toxics Program

Persistent, bioaccumulative toxic pollutants (PBTs) are highly toxic, long-lasting substances that can build up in the food chain to levels that are harmful to human health and the ecosystem. They are associated with a range of adverse human health effects, including effects of the nervous system, reproductive and developmental problems, cancer, and genetic impacts. EPA's challenge in reducing risks from PBTs stem

from the pollutant's ability to travel long distances, to transfer easily among air, water, and land, and to linger for generations in people and the environment. The populations at risk, especially to the classified PBTs mercury, dioxins, and polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs), are children and the developing fetus.

Although, much work has been done to reduce the risk associated with these chemicals, the nation still finds them in its fish supply. The total number of advisories in the U.S. increased by 80 percent from 1993 to 1997, and the number of waterbodies under advisory increased from 1,278 to 2,299. Only 12

EPA is committed to protecting children and women of child-bearing years from exposure to PBTs, and reducing the concentration of PBTs in our environment.

states and U.S. territories have remained at the same level or have had a decrease in the number of advisories since 1993. In the other 38 states, advisories to restrict or avoid eating fish have increased. Six states have increased advisories by more than 30 percent, and 13 states have added statewide advisories applying to all fresh water, all coastal waters, or both, all due to an increase in PBT contamination. For more information, contact Sam Sasnett, EPA OPPT, 202-564-8858 or sasnett.samuel@epa.gov.

EPA's First 12 Priority PBT Pollutants, from the Canada-U.S. Binational Toxics Strategy

- Aldrin/Dieldrin
- Benzo(a)pyrene
- Chlordane
- DDT, DDP, and DDE
- Hexachlorobenzene
- Alkyl-lead
- Mercury and Mercury Compounds
- Mirex
- Octachlorostyrene
- PCBs
- Dioxins and Furans
- Toxaphene

NMAI Pow Wow

The Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian held its first-ever nationwide pow wow on the National Mall during the National Indian Heritage month on September 14-15, 2002. OPPTS showed its support by sponsoring a booth at this event. Pow wows are social gatherings of hundreds of Native Americans who follow dances started centuries ago by their ancestors and that continually evolve to include contemporary aspects. The pow wow event featured traditional foods, drum music and dance and was attended by Natives and non-Native Americans. The Smithsonian's pow wow, an intertribal and, indeed, free public event, was held on the Mall next to the site of the

National Museum of the American Indian, currently under construction and scheduled to open in Fall 2004. There were dancers representing hundreds of tribal nations in full regalia that competed in several dance categories, including Men and Women's senior (50 and over); Men's fancy dance, grass and traditional (Northern and Southern); Women's jingle dress, fancy shawl and traditional (Northern and Southern); Teens (13-17); Juniors (6-12) and Tiny Tots (5 and under). More than \$77,000 in prizes were awarded to the top five finishers in each category. Drum contests featured groups of 10 to 12 members each, and family members in those contests sang

familial, traditional songs that often were handed down from one generation to the next. The host drums were Black Lodge (Blackfeet) from Washington state and Cozad (Kiowa) from Oklahoma. Native foods included Indian tacos, frybread and corn soup, and authentic Native arts and crafts were sold directly from noted jewelers and artisans.

For additional information about the pow wow, the general public may call 202-357-3164, ext. 159 for a recorded message or visit the museum's Web site at www.AmericanIndian.si.edu. Readers may also visit www.nmai.si.edu.



Resources

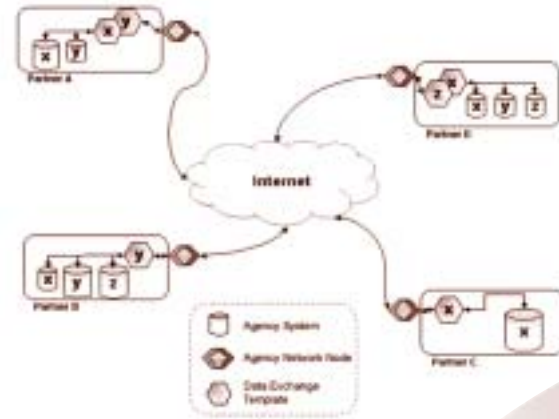
EPA Announces Information Exchange Network Grants

Adapted from U.S. Newswire, August 8, 2002

EPA Administrator Christie Whitman announced in August 2002 that \$25 million in environmental information grants were awarded to 44 states, 17 tribes, and 1 U.S. territory to work with EPA in developing the National Environmental Information Exchange Network. The Exchange Network is a joint project for sharing environmental data between EPA, states, and other partners over the Internet. To accomplish this, it is necessary for network participants to develop hardware and software that enable their computer systems to communicate and exchange data with EPA databases. The environmental information grants will fund this important work by states and other participants. Completion of this network will simplify reporting by industry and greatly improve the quantity and quality of the environmental information EPA provides to the public.

“The grants announced today will move us closer to a network that gives EPA, its partners and citizens the best environmental data possible. Completion of this network will consolidate air, water, waste and toxics data, simplify industry’s reporting requirements, and provide the public with meaningful, real-time access to environmental information,” said Whitman. “By combining different types of data, citizens will have access to a complete picture of environmental conditions where they live and work.”

The grant funds will be used for environmental information projects that promote the following:



- exchanging environmental information with other states and partners using common formats;
- integrating different types of data within states, including air, water, waste and toxics;
- reconciling inconsistencies between different data reporting sources; and
- creating a single node (or one central computer network location for exchange of environ-

mental information) for submission of data to EPA.

For more information on EPA’s National Environmental Information Exchange Network grants, please visit www.epa.gov/neengprg/index.html or contact Suzanne Ackerman, U.S. EPA, 202-564-7819, ackerman.suzanne@epa.gov

List of Tribal Information Exchange Network Grant Recipients

- Big Valley Band, California, \$99,366
- Bois Forte/Chippewa, Minnesota, \$100,000
- Cahto Tribe, California, \$98,375
- Central Council Tlingit/Haida Indians, Alaska, \$299,941
- Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma, \$100,000
- Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, Oregon, \$300,000
- Delaware Tribe, Oklahoma, \$100,000
- Hualapai Tribe, Arizona, \$100,000
- Mississippi Band/Choctaw Indians, \$100,000
- Navajo Nation, Arizona, \$100,000
- Northern Cheyenne Tribes, Montana, \$96,515
- Poarch Band/Creeks, Alabama, \$54,630
- Shoshone/Arapaho Tribes, Wyoming, \$100,000
- St. Croix Chippewa, Wisconsin, \$98,873
- St. Regis Mohawk Tribes, New York, \$100,000
- Tanana Chiefs Conference, Alaska, \$297,100
- Tulalip Tribes of Washington, \$96,588

EPA's Pollution Prevention Grant Program

by Kathleen Maconaughey

As a result of the Pollution Prevention Act of 1990, the national policy establishing that pollution should be prevented or reduced at the source whenever feasible, EPA established the Pollution Prevention (P2) grant program within the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT). This grant program was designed to promote source reduction to small and medium sized businesses through funding on site technical assistance, training, outreach and education, regulatory integration, demonstration projects, and awards programs. The main goals of the P2 program is to build pollution prevention capabilities within state and tribal governments; test innovative pollution prevention approaches and methodologies; to keep communication lines open between state, local, and tribal governments; to target environmental problems; and to award grants to aid in funding significant environmental issues.

Every year, EPA has published specific criteria for proposals submitted under the P2 grant program. Eligible applicants for this program include any state agency or instrumentality (including state funded universities) and all federally-recognized Indian tribes. Private universities, private non-for-profit organizations, and individuals cannot receive grants unless teamed with state, local, or tribal governments. Eligible applicants are encouraged to establish partnerships with businesses and other environmental assistance providers.

This past year EPA used five national program criteria to evaluate proposals submitted under

the P2 grant program. The first is to promote multimedia pollution prevention. Applicants must explain how their project will encourage source reduction to actively prevent pollution across environmental media. Programs should reflect comprehensive and coordinated pollution prevention planning and implementation efforts. P2 programs should develop multimedia prevention activities that provide technical assistance to businesses, institutionalize multimedia P2 as an environmental management priority, or initiate demonstration projects that test and support innovative pollution prevention approaches and methodologies.

The second criterion is to advance environmental goals. P2 programs can only remain valuable if they can demonstrate how their actions will help advance stated goals. EPA would like to ensure that the pollution prevention program is integrated and that these funds provide a service that supports the state's or tribe's strategic plan.

The third criterion is to promote accomplishments within the state's or tribe's environmental programs. EPA realizes the importance of documenting the effectiveness of a program and added this application criteria to create the necessary communication link between the regulatory program and the P2 program activities. By periodically documenting the proposed activities and accomplishments, grantees will help media program managers understand the benefits of their delivered services

The fourth criterion is to promote partnerships. For the past

several years, EPA has required P2 grant applicants to identify major environmental assistance providers in their area and to work with these organizations to educate businesses on pollution prevention. These partners can include university-based technical assistance and cooperative extension programs, and other assistance programs offered within the state. Partnerships are also encouraged with regional and national programs such as the Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange centers, National Institute of Standards and Technology programs, Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Compliance Assistance Centers, and EPA's Small Business Assistance Programs.

The fifth criterion is to identify measures of success. Applicants are encouraged to identify how and by what criteria they are tracking the effectiveness of the activity. Measures of success could be measures of direct environmental improvement or linked to such measures. Many EPA regional offices have negotiated with their states specific measurement structures that may provide appropriate frameworks for measuring the effectiveness of pollution prevention programs.

Applications submitted to the P2 grant program should include proposed objectives or plans addressing state or tribal pollution prevention capabilities, prevention of the cross-media transfer of pollutants, state or tribal community pollution prevention goals and/or needs, integration with other states, tribal or federal

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programs, measures of success, and long-term funding mechanisms. Proposal deadlines are determined by each region. Traditionally, the request for proposals is published in the Federal Register in November/December and the applications are due to the appropriate regional office by March/April. Funding decisions are made by June.

More than \$75 million has been awarded to more than 100 state and tribal organizations since the P2 program was established in 1989. EPA expects to have approximately \$5 million in grant and cooperative agreement funds available for fiscal year 2003 pollution prevention activities. This successful program has supported funding to many projects that have improved the environment and helped businesses to prevent pollution. By funding these grants, EPA has successfully created a safer, healthier environment and taken one step further in protecting our nation from the many pollutants that harm land, air, water, and human health.

For more information on previously funded grants by region, visit www.epa.gov/p2/grants/ppis/ppis.htm#summaries. The P2 web site also lists P2 grant program achievements in past years. For more information on other federal available grants, visit www.cfda.gov.

Kathleen Maconaughey was an OPPTS intern in Summer 2002. Kathleen completed the original research for this article on the P2 grant program, and Christopher Kent, EPA, Pollution Prevention Division, submitted final edits for publication.

P2 Regional Contacts and Information

Region 1

1 Congress Street, Suite 1100,
Boston, Massachusetts 02114-
2023

Jim Bryson, 617-918-1524,
Tribal Toxics
Abby Swaine, 617-918-1841,
Pollution Prevention

Region 2

290 Broadway, New York, New
York 10007-1866

Adrian Enache, 732-321-6769,
Tribal Toxics

Christine Yost, 212-637-3564,
Tribal Toxics

Deborah Freeman, 212-637-
3730, Pollution Prevention

Marcia Seidner, 212-637-3584,
Pollution Prevention

Region 4

61 Forsyth Street, SW, Atlanta,
Georgia 30303-8960

Dan Ahern, 404-562-9028,
Tribal Toxic and Pollution

Prevention

Roseanne Rudd, 404-562-8998,
Tribal Toxic

Region 5

77 West Jackson Boulevard,
Chicago, Illinois 60604-3507

Emma Avant, 312-886-7899,
Tribal Toxics

Dolly Tong, 312-886-1019,
Pollution Prevention

Region 6

Fountain Place, 1445 Ross
Avenue, 12th Floor, Suite 1200,
Dallas, Texas 75202-2733

Jerry Collins,
214-665-7562, Tribal
Toxics

Joy Campbell, 214-665-
8036, Pollution Prevention

Region 7

901 N. 5th Street, Kansas City,
Kansas 66101

Margaret Stockdale, 913-551-
7936, Tribal Toxics

Mary Carter, 913-551-7350,
Pollution Prevention

Region 8

999 18th Street, Suite 300,
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

Dave Combs, 303-312-6021,
Tribal Toxics

Linda Walters, 303-312-6385,
Pollution Prevention

Region 9

75 Hawthorne Street, San
Francisco, California 94105

Pat Maravilla, 415-947-4177,
Tribal Toxics

John Katz, 415-972-3283,
Pollution Prevention

Leif Magnuson, 415-972-3286,
Pollution Prevention

Eileen Sheehan, 415-972-3287,
Pollution Prevention

Region 10

1200 Sixth Avenue, Seattle,
Washington 98101

Fran Stefan, 206-553-6639,
Tribal Toxics and Pollution
Prevention

EPA's Performance Partnership Grant Program

by Kathleen Maconaughey

A Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) is an EPA grant under which a state, interstate agency, tribe, or Intertribal Consortium can choose to combine two or more environmental program grants into a single grant. EPA began a pilot PPG program in March 1995 and Congress permanently authorized the award of PPGs in EPA's appropriations acts in 1996 and 1998 (Omnibus Consolidated Rescissions and Appropriations Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-134, 110 Stat. 1321, 1321-299 (1996) and the FY 1998 Appropriations Act (Pub. L. 105-65, 111 Stat. 1344, 1373 (1997))). EPA published regulations implementing the Tribal PPG program, as well as the categorical programs and the General Assistance Program for Indians, on January 16, 2001. That regulation became effective for grants awarded after April 17, 2001. The regulation is 40 CFR Part 35, Subpart B (§§35.500 - 35.735) and it can be found at:

http://www.access.gpo.gov/nara/cfr/waisidx_02/40cfr35_02.html.

A PPG is a single grant awarded to tribes and Intertribal Consortia which allows the recipient to combine funds from two or more categorical grants into a single grant. The award of a PPG:

- Reduces paper work and accounting burdens. A PPG recipient can negotiate a single work plan covering activities of all programs included in a PPG; develop a single budget; account for expenditures under the work plan, not in accordance with their original funding sources; and negotiate a

joint evaluation process for the PPG, rather than submitting reports for each categorical grant program.

- Allows a recipient to direct funds where they are most needed. The recipient negotiates a work plan with EPA using federal and cost share funds in the best way to address the recipient's environmental and public health problems. In cases where a tribe's priorities are not consistent with EPA guidance, the Regional Administrator must consult with National Program Manager in EPA Headquarters before approving the PPG. Some tribes have negotiated Tribal/EPA Environmental Agreements (TEA) under EPA's National Environmental Performance Partnership System (NEPPS). A TEA can provide the basis for a work plan, or it can be the work plan, if the TEA meets all the work plan requirements of the regulation.
- Permits the use of funds to address multi-media issues and initiatives, such as children's health protection programs, multi-media inspections, compliance assistance programs, and ecosystem management. Addressing such multi-media issues was often difficult under traditional categorical grants because there was no single source of funds designed to address them.
- Lowers the cost share required under some programs included in a PPG. The PPG cost share is the sum of the cost shares for each program included in the PPG

Other Tribal Grants Provided by EPA include:

- Direct Implementation Tribal Cooperative Agreements
- Pesticide Environmental Stewardship Regional Grants
- Indian Environmental General Assistance Program
- TSCA Title IV State Lead Grants Certification of Lead-Based Paint Professionals

More information regarding these grants can be found at The Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance web site, www.cfda.gov/public/browse_by_typast.asp.

determined as follows. For programs which do not require cost shares, such as GAP, EPA does not require the recipient to provide a cost share under a PPG. For each program with a cost share requirement of five percent or less, the PPG cost share will be the same as the cost share for the program. For a program with a cost share greater than five percent, EPA will require a tribal recipient to provide a cost share of five percent for the first two years; after that, the Regional Administrator will determine through an objective assessment whether the tribe meets socio-economic indicators that demonstrate the ability of the tribe to provide a cost share greater than five percent. If the Regional Administrator determines the tribe can provide more than a five percent cost share, the Regional

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Administrator will increase the required cost share up to a maximum of 10 percent. If the Regional Administrator determines that the tribe does not meet such indicators, the cost share will remain at five percent. Further, the Regional Administrator may waive the required PPG cost share at the request of the tribe or Intertribal Consortium if, based on an objective assessment of socio-economic indicators, fulfilling the cost share requirement would impose undue hardship on the tribe. The American Indian Environmental Office is developing the criteria under which cost share determinations will be made.

The grant programs which tribes may include in a PPG are funded under EPA's

State and Tribal Assistance Grant (STAG) account and are listed in §35.501(a) of the regulation (see above).

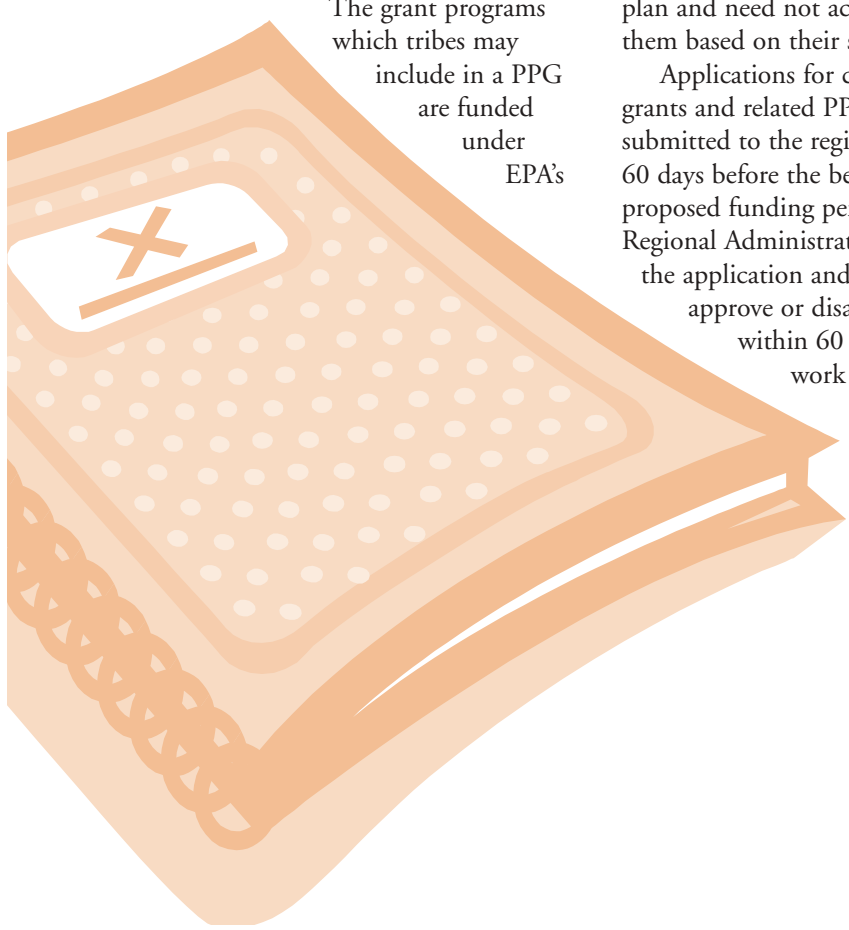
Before a tribe can include funds from an EPA categorical program or GAP in a PPG, it generally must meet the requirements for that program. For example, if a program requires treatment in a manner similar to a State, the tribe must satisfy that requirement in order to qualify for the grant. Requirements that restrict how a specific program's funds can be used after award, however, are not applicable to a PPG, because after funds are awarded in a PPG, the recipient may use them for cross-media activities or strategies in accordance with the approved work plan and need not account for them based on their source.

Applications for categorical grants and related PPGs should be submitted to the regional contact 60 days before the beginning of the proposed funding period. The EPA Regional Administrator will review the application and either approve or disapprove it within 60 days. The work plan must include the

components to be funded under the grant, the estimated work years and estimated funding amounts for each work plan component, commitments (outputs and outcomes) for each work plan component and a time frame for their accomplishment, a performance evaluation process and reporting schedule, and the roles/responsibilities of the recipient and EPA in carrying out the work plan commitments.

Any questions or concerns on the PPG program can be directed to each region's contact. The information presented here has been obtained from the PPG web site at www.epa.gov/ow/PPG/ppgg.pdf. Combining efforts and creating partnerships through Performance Partnership Grants will help in our common goal to protect our environment.

Kathleen Maconaughey was an OPPTS intern in Summer 2002. Kathleen completed the original research for this article on PPGs, and Scott McMoran, EPA, submitted final edits for publication.



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PPGs are a great way for states and tribes to receive grant money in an efficient manner. These grants allow for many separate grants to be compiled into one single PPG. Unfortunately many tribes have not taken advantage of this successful program. The following interviews are with tribal spokespersons that have taken the initiative and have received, in some cases, several PPGs. These interviews are not meant to represent all tribes that have received PPGs, but rather to give the opinions of a few who have.

Interview with Sharri Venno, Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians

For what project did you receive your PPG grant?

We have received PPG grants annually since 1996. Program dollars bundled into our PPGs over the years have supported projects related to CWA 106, CWA 104b3, CWA 319, Radon, P2, GAP, and PWSS.

How much money was your tribe awarded and how long was the award process?

The original award in 1996 totaled approximately \$45,000. This year our tribe will receive more than \$400,000 through the PPG process. We began participating in the Performance Partnership Program early on. The Tribe and EPA Region 1 worked out a mutually agreeable process regarding how to best implement/access the program, especially in working out a format for the annual work plan. The process will extend from six to eight months from beginning to end.

Would you consider this program a success? In what ways

did your tribe and the environment in your region benefit from receiving this grant?

This program works very well for us. With the limited funds awarded to us as a small tribe with a small land base, we can't afford to hire staff that work solely on individual environmental programs. With PPGs, we don't have to account for time spent on different programs which for us would be a considerable administrative burden. Reporting, progress and financial, is streamlined and coordinated as is the application process. We answer to one project officer and one grant specialist. While we make progress on all environmental programs included in our PPG, we can target our efforts on our most pressing and critical environmental needs and we can easily integrate those activities that are compatible. Planning and executing an environmental program is much more effective when you aren't restricted by having to determine which grant pays for how much of which salary, or activity or portion of combined activities. With such flexible funding, we have been able to hire and retain experienced natural resource/environmental staff that work together on water quality, environmental health and environmental education issues.

To address our first priority, water quality, we have developed a strong monitoring program that tracks water quality throughout our watershed as most impairment comes from activities upstream and off-reservation. Our water quality data is used by the state Department of Environmental Protection and has resulted in stricter discharge limits for the local waste water treatment plant. While in the field collecting data,

our staff has also identified and reported sewer overflows, contaminated soil leaking oil into a stream, bacterial contamination from leaking sewer pipes, and erosion problems. Our greatest success regarding direct environmental improvement in water quality is through nonpoint source management supported by CWA 319 and Pollution Prevention funds. Over the years, we have installed and maintain a number of best management practices throughout tribal lands that prevent soil, pesticides and fertilizers from washing into our streams, pond, and river. We strive to be a model landowner in our watershed. The way we address water quality issues is a good example of how we integrate environmental protection under the PPG. Our monitoring staff supported by CWA 106 funds also contribute time collecting fish tissue for mercury testing, a project largely supported by a CAA grant not included in our PPG. They also engage in nonpoint source assessment and mitigation planning, an activity supported by CWA 319 funds.

To address our environmental health issues, we have monitored homes of tribal families for radon and helped our health department test children for blood lead contamination. We inform tribal members of environmental health issues such as radon, lead and fish consumption advisories for mercury and DDT through a quarterly departmental newsletter. Our Departmental newsletter is also an excellent example of the benefits of integrated environmental protection funding. The newsletter can educate and inform our community about all our activities without requiring us to plan or track the time and expen-

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ditures associated with each separate news article.

Are there any suggestions you have to improve the PPG grant program for future participants, either in the information provided as to what these grants are and how to apply, the actual process of applying for a grant, the grant program itself, or any other areas you felt could use improvement?

I think it is very important that EPA not retreat from the spirit of the Performance Partnership Program. Alleviating administrative burden and providing flexibility has improved our environmental performance. It is extremely difficult to be productive when administering many small pots of funding. You spend a lot of time on grant management instead of grant implementation and you are less able to use those funds to achieve real environmental results.

Unfortunately, we have recently been pressed to track the activities we undertake with the PPG by individual environmental program. This contradicts and deviates from the intent and benefits of the program.

I also think EPA should expand the PPG program to cover as many individual environmental programs as possible. We would like to include our CAA 103 grant in our PPG but the funding for some reason is not eligible.

Are you planning to apply for another grant anytime soon?

We apply for PPG funding every year.

Would you recommend this program to other tribes as a good source for providing money and helping to protect the environment and most importantly, the people living in it?

Its hard for me to make a blanket statement about PPGs as I have heard there is some inconsistency in the way EPA Regions implement the program. However, I highly endorse the concepts behind Performance Partnership, not only as a way to reduce the administrative burden of managing a variety of separate environmental programs and focus environmental protection funding where it is most needed, but also as an administrative basis for approaching environmental protection in more coordinated and multimedia way. A single, large budget can much more easily support integrated environmental management than can numerous, small, media-specific budgets where funding is tied to certain kinds of activities.

Interview with Lenore Volturino, Pala Band of Mission Indians

For what project did you receive your PPG grant?

Gap, 106, 319, Pesticides (program and enforcement)

Would you consider this program a success? In what ways did your tribe and the environment in your region benefit from receiving this grant?

This program has been very successful. The PPG grant reduced the amount of paperwork, reduced the Tribal in-kind match amount, and saved time because all grant applications and reports are due at the same time. By combining cross-media EPA programs into one grant, environmental issues can be accomplished more effectively because the Tribe is forced to consider Tribal objectives for all media at the same time. This helps avoid cross-media conflicts.

Are there any suggestions you have to improve the PPG grant program for future participants, either in the information provided as to what these grants are and how to apply, the actual process of applying for a grant, the grant program itself, or any other areas you felt could use improvement?

A sample application from another tribal PPG may help someone who is writing this type of grant for the first time. Although project officers are also helpful in answering questions during the application process. Another suggestion is to have a two year funding cycle for the first PPG rather than a four year cycle. This way any mistakes or problems can be caught early and the tribe can evaluate how well the grant is working for them.

Are you planning to apply for another grant anytime soon?

Not at this time.

Would you recommend this program to other tribes as a good source for providing money and helping to protect the environment and most importantly, the people living in it?

Absolutely! The time and resources freed up by this type of grant are well worth it.

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Interview with Ken Norton, Hoopa Valley Tribe, California

For what project did you receive your PPG grant?

The grants that are currently administered under our PPG umbrella include CWA 106, 319, and General Assistance Program.

How much money was your tribe awarded?

The annual budget for our PPG program has averaged \$325,000 since 1998. The Hoopa Valley Tribe (HVT) was one of the first tribes to enter into a cooperative PPG with EPA in Region 9.

Would you consider this program a success? In what ways did your tribe and the environment in your region benefit from receiving this grant?

Since 1998 the HVT has participated in the PPG program and has proven its capability and knowledge to perform and administer a successful program. Under the PPG, HVT has developed a successful water quality-monitoring program including extensive data collection and a comprehensive water sampling Quality Assurance Program Plan. We have also received EPA certified water quality standards for waters within our jurisdiction, and will be able to regulate water contamination from entering the Reservation. Primarily the PPG activities focus on water quality enhancement and protection on the Hoopa Valley Indian Reservation. However, PPG activities have been expanded to include air quality, wetlands protection, solid waste community education, pesticide management, environmental assessment documentation, and community environmental education.

Are there any suggestions you have to improve the PPG grant program for future participants, either in the information provided as to what these grants are and how to apply, the actual process of applying for a grant, the grant program itself, or any other areas you felt could use improvement?

The advice I would recommend to tribes that wish to enter into a PPG agreement with EPA is to make sure that their expenditures are allowable and justifiable under the PPG regulations. It is very important that PPG program managers stick to the work-plan and supporting budgets. All too often department directors view the PPG as a big pot of free money that can be used for many different purposes. What needs to be emphasized is that the PPG is a compilation of grants and work-plans that still have task deliverables that are tied directly to EPA approved budgets.

Interview With Kevin McKernan, Yurok Tribe

For what project did you receive your PPG grant?

Clean Water Act (CWA) 106 - Yurok Water Quality Program
CWA 104 - Klamath River TMDL Development
CWA 319 - Tectah Watershed Restoration - Riparian Planting
General Assistance Program (GAP) - Yurok Environmental Program Development
Federal Insecticide Fungicide Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) 23a1 - Yurok Forest
Herbicide Water Quality Monitoring

How much money was your tribe awarded and how long was the award process?

We received \$579,835 federal, and \$23,754 Tribal & Private match, \$603,589 total. The award process was a little less than a year. We prepared one PPG application that included all the award amounts and workplans. The PPG will last three years, and we add annual grants as they are awarded (e.g. GAP, Pesticides, FY03 CWA)

Would you consider this program a success? In what ways did your tribe and the environment in your region benefit from receiving this grant?

Yes. The tribe benefitted from the reduced financial burden of preparing, receiving, administering, drawing down and closing out multiple EPA grants. The Tribal Environmental Program, the primary department utilizing the PPG, has benefitted from the increased flexibility in addressing changing needs, wage and cost rates, sampling protocol modifications and fiscal year transitions. The environment has benefitted from the ability of our program address environmental problems as they evolve. Predicting environmental issues a year ahead of time (as done with the timing of grant proposals, awards and project periods) is just that, a prediction. Often conditions change, project periods are longer or shorter than expected due to extraneous circumstances and thus, the PPG allows for the flexibility to address these challenges in a way that is most appropriate and effective for the environment and the tribe.

Are there any suggestions you have to improve the PPG grant program for future participants, either in the information provided as to what these grants are and how to apply, the actual process of

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applying for a grant, the grant program itself, or any other areas you felt could use improvement?

The purpose of the PPG is flexibility, efficiency and ultimately, the best achievable environmental results. Clean Air Act (CAA) grants are, for the most part, missing from the multi-media approach for tribes since most tribes operate their air programs under the CAA 103 program, not eligible for inclusion into a PPG. EPA's Air Divisions seem to be hesitant in their support of tribes transitioning into CAA 105 grants when compared with EPA's Water Division. CAA 105 grants are eligible for PPG. Either CAA 103 grants need to be included in PPG eligible grants or EPA's Air Division needs to encourage and facilitate more tribes toward CAA 105 programs. I would encourage tribes with large programs and multiple EPA grants, 3 or more, to consider a PPG.

Are you planning to apply for another grant anytime soon?

Our PPG will last for three years. We apply for individual grants annually and modify the PPG to include them on the federal fiscal year cycle. We will close out the existing PPG at the end of FY04 and prepare a new PPG application at that time.

Would you recommend this program to other tribes as a good source for providing money and helping to protect the environment and most importantly, the people living in it?

I would recommend it for tribes with larger, established environmental programs and a sound financial infrastructure. Technically, the PPG is not a "source" of funding, but rather a mechanism for efficiently managing EPA grants.

Interview with Don Bay, Hualapai Tribe of Northwestern Arizona

For what project did you receive your PPG grant?

Our first PPG contained General Assistance Program and Section 106 Water Pollution Control funding and was for two years. Our second PPG has General Assistance Program, Section 106 Water Pollution Control and Section 319 Nonpoint Source Pollution Control Program Funding and is for four years. We are currently beginning the second year of our second PPG.

How much money was your tribe awarded and how long was the award process?

The first PPG was for \$353,178 for two years. The second PPG has been funded to date at \$540, 240. The first PPG took about six months to fund from start to finish. The second PPG took about three months.

Would you consider this program a success? In what ways did your tribe and the environment in your region benefit from receiving this grant?

Yes, we are extremely happy with the PPG program format. It has allowed us more flexibility and streamlined the reporting process. It allows the tribe to focus more on tribal environmental priorities.

Are there any suggestions you have to improve the PPG grant program for future participants, either in the information provided as to what these grants are and how to apply, the actual process of applying for a grant, the grant program itself, or any other areas you felt could use improvement?

Negotiations with program managers can be difficult, but once one PPG officer is assigned to the grant, the process goes very smoothly.

Are you planning to apply for another grant anytime soon?

Yes, we will probably apply again in 2006 when our current PPG expires.

Would you recommend this program to other tribes as a good source for providing money and helping to protect the environment and most importantly, the people living in it?

Yes, we would highly recommend the PPG to tribes.

OPP Tribal Program Announces Grant Awards for FY 2002

by Alison Sasnett

EPA's Office of Pesticide Programs (OPP) is pleased to announce the completion of the award process for fiscal year (FY) 2002 *Tribal Water Quality and Special Pesticide Projects* cooperative agreements. This year OPP received 30 proposals that met the basic requirements for consideration under this competitive grant program. These "pre-qualifying" proposals were subjected to a more thorough evaluation, including in-depth reviews by EPA grants specialists and experts in the technical aspects of the various proposed projects. In the final steps of the award decision process, evaluation panel members met as a group to discuss each proposal in depth.

In all proposals, evaluators looked for projects that met the requirements of the *Federal Register* solicitation, appeared to have a high likelihood of successful results for the tribe, provided innovative approaches to pesticide use and management, and furthered OPP's goals of protecting human life and the environment in Indian Country. This year there was an increase in the number of submissions. Many tribes submitted well conceived project proposals that included comprehensive background information, plans for maximizing the impacts of tribal technical expertise, ideas for partnering with other tribal and non-tribal entities, and other innovative approaches for maximizing the benefits of the project to tribal communities.

This year, OPP is pleased to award a total of \$447,700 for the

following 10 projects under the *Tribal Water Quality and Special Pesticide Projects* grant program.

Cortina Rancheria was awarded \$39,138 for their creative proposal to use goats as an alternative to pesticides for the control of noxious weeds. The tribe will purchase a goat herd, hire someone to tend the goats, purchase a truck to transport them, and then use the goats along road-sides and other areas to eat noxious weeds rather than spraying pesticides to get rid of the weeds. At the end of the grant, provisions have been made which will allow the tribe to keep the equipment they have purchased and continue with this method of weed control without receiving further funding from EPA.

Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa received \$48,487 to conduct a study that will include a comprehensive evaluation of the effects of run-off from three golf courses. Run-off from the golf courses may impact the reservation's wild rice crops, drinking water, and medicinal plants. Golf-courses are typically a major consumer of pesticides. This study is expected to be useful both to EPA and to other parts of Indian country that may face environmental impacts from this pesticide source.

A number of the remaining successful proposals this year involved assessment of the impacts of pesticides on tribal water supplies and culturally significant plants and animals. For these purposes OPP is pleased to award \$50,000 to the **Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa**

Indians; \$26,000 as an addendum to a previous grant to the **Ho Chunk Nation**; \$37,979 to the **Nottasweppi Huron Band of Potawatomi**; \$50,000 to the **Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma**; and \$50,000 to the **Flandreau Santee Sioux**.

Funding from the 2002 *Tribal Water Quality and Special Pesticide Projects* grant program will also be used to help several tribes manage pesticide use in Indian country. The **Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe** will use their \$46,212 to establish a pesticide regulatory program for the reservation. The **White Mountain Apache Tribe** will apply its \$50,000 to increasing public awareness of the dangers of pesticide use through establishment of an outreach program to their youth (20 and under) who comprise 50percent of the reservation's population. Finally, the **Yurok Tribe** plans to work with local forest management services on their reservation to establish alternatives to pesticide usage control.

OPP expects great successes from this year's tribal projects. In FY 2003, OPP again plans to solicit proposals under its *Tribal Water Quality and Special Pesticide Projects* grant program. If your tribe may be interested in submitting a project proposal, please watch for the solicitation notice for this grant program early next year. You may also visit www.epa.gov or contact Karen Rudek at 703-305-6005 or rudek.karen@epa.gov for more information.

Tips for Writing Successful Grant Proposals

As they reviewed this year's proposals for Tribal Water Quality and Special Pesticide Projects grant funding, members of the OPP evaluation panel noted similar kinds of difficulties with several submissions. The suggestions that follow are meant to highlight some formatting and information delivery considerations that can give your proposal an additional edge in the evaluation process.

Things to think about:

- Someone other than the person who writes the proposal should proofread it before it is sent to EPA. Make sure all pages are included and ordered correctly. Check for typographical errors, especially those "cut and paste" mistakes that occur so easily when word processors are used. A proposal that is well written and well presented stands out before discussions of content even begin. First impressions are important!
- Make sure all pages are numbered. EPA must make multiple copies of all proposals that are submitted. If the pages aren't numbered, it can be very difficult to be sure all pages are back in the original order. Also, provide a table of contents at the beginning of the proposal package, listing appendices, as well as section, table, and figure titles. "Hunting for the next page" can be a huge distraction during proposal evaluations.



- Following the outlined format is important. This format can be found in the Federal Register Request for Proposal (RFP) notice that announces OPP's solicitation. Be sure all the information required by the RFP is included in the proposal package before it is mailed. An RFP will identify certain project requirements and may identify other qualities that will be given additional weight during evaluation. When your proposal uses similar section headings and content arrangement that are provided in the RFP, it is easier for proposal evaluators to verify that all required information is included and to compare proposals submitted by different tribes.

The proposal title should quickly tell evaluators what he or she can expect to read. If your project will measure the levels of Chemical X and Chemical Y in surface water in the Z watershed, make sure this is stated specifically and clearly in the title. If it will look at the impacts of drift from Pesticide A on B, C, and D cultural plants on the reservation, make sure that is mentioned as well. Generic titles like "Water Sampling

Project" or "Pesticide Grant Proposal" do not help a project immediately stand out in a reviewer's mind.

Please provide background information on your tribe. The evaluation team needs to know where the reservation is located, reservation population, reservation size, and the size of the "project" area in relation to the size of the pesticide threat. Members of the review panel may have expertise in areas such as chemistry and biology, environmental assessment, monitoring and protection, all phases of pesticide management, endangered/protected species, grant administration, and other fields that qualify the group to make judgements on the funding eligibility and technical merits of your proposal. They may not have previous knowledge of your tribe and may not have access, beyond what is included in your proposal, to background information that gives important context to the proposed project.

If the project is building on previous work done by your tribe, the background section of your proposal should include basic information on the previous study or project, including known history of pesticide use. If this new proposal is intended to fill existing data gaps, your proposal should mention

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Resources

that. The proposal background should include an overview of any research has already been done, relevant past successes and problems or failures, how problems were addressed or how the tribe plans to address them, and generally what is already in place as a foundation for any new activities being proposed. EPA evaluators should not be expected to “assume” that necessary foundation activities have been completed or undertaken if these are not mentioned in the background portion of your new proposal.

If sampling and testing for pesticide contaminants are part of the proposed project, then your proposal should explain what pesticides you will test for and why. If sampling and testing will be compared to an already established baseline or trend, also be sure that is mentioned.

Your proposal should be concise, and within the maximum length suggested in the Federal Register notice. If additional information will add substantively to an evaluator’s understanding of the project and its benefits to your tribe and the environment, that information may be included in appendices to the proposal package. Appendices often include such things as:

- Maps of the reservation or project areas
- Maps of the watershed or water bodies to be monitored
- Scale of tribal area compared to surrounding chemical inputs or threats, and
- Extent of tribal agricultural production or oversight of commercial agriculture or other pesticide operations (e.g., forestry, right-of-way, golf courses, range management).

Finally, OPP has heard that some grant writers have found hands-on training in successful grant proposal writing of benefit. Training may be available from EPA and other federal agencies or from tribal organizations and other groups. If you are interested in learning more about writing successful grant proposals, and training is not available or feasible, consider contacting your EPA region and asking whether it will provide a copy of a previously successful grant application that can be used as a model. There also are some excellent grant proposal writing books on the market that may be of assistance. For more information, please contact Karen Rudek at 703-305-6005 or rudek.karen@epa.gov.

National Interagency Fire Apprenticeship

A National Interagency Fire Apprenticeship is being sponsored by the U.S. Department of Interior, the National Park Service, and the U.S. Department of Agricultural Forest Service. Students will receive wildland firefighting training through the accredited Wildland Firefighting Apprenticeship Program. The Apprenticeship Program requires 4,000 hours of work processes to be completed. Work experience is gained at a variety of duty locations during the program. Apprentices will participate in initial attack, extended attack, large fire incidents, fire rehabilitation projects or restoration assignments

as part of a hand crew, engine, or helicopter module. They also will mitigate safety hazards in the work environment, review and write job hazard analyses, and conduct safety briefings during prescribed fire and wildland fire activities. Finally, apprentices will conduct fire ground proficiency drills, obtain weather forecasts and fire intelligence, maintain fire equipment, and participate in the planning, preparation, implementation, and monitoring phases of wildland fire use and vegetation treatments. Other duties may include dispatch and prevention education functions and fire business practices, such as timekeeping, record keeping, fire

reports, medical forms, and incident check-in and demobilizations.

For further information, please contact April R. Willson, Assistant Regional Forester for Civil Rights, at 503-808-2818, 503-808-2210 (fax), awillson@fs.fed.us.



Fire Consumes Apache Land

Adapted from NYTimes, "Away From the TV Cameras, Fire Consumes Apache Land," Charlie LeDuff

Summer 2002 will be remembered for the numerous wild fires in the U.S. Some of these wild fires have impacted tribal lands, as well as domestic areas. Earlier this year, in June 2002, the nation focused their attention on the wild fires that consumed several thousand acres in Show Low, Arizona, a resort town 40 miles northeast of the area of White Mountain Apache. The wild fires brought widespread and lasting economic damage to Apache country. The White Mountain Apache territory, a 1.6 million-acre reservation, is home to 13,500 people.

Sixty percent of the areas affected by the wild fires is comprised of Indian land. Specifically, more than 200,000 acres of the 350,000 acres of timber that was destroyed belonged to the White Mountain Apache territory. About 1,500 firefighters battled the blaze on the southern and western flanks, about 2,500 north and east around the towns of Show Low, Heber-Overgaard and Pinedale.

The burning wild fires truly affected the regions economy. The Hon Dah Resort and Casino, the second-largest employer in the White Mountain region after the county government, brings in more than \$130 million a year, and was closed for several weeks during its busiest season of the year, under normal conditions. The tribe also operates Sun Rise Ski Resort, and other potential losses of income come from the damage to wildlife. The tribe sold about 65 permits to hunt elk on the reservation last year, as well as bear and mountain lion hunts.

Like many other wildfire incidents, publicizing the efforts of community members and officials can only aid in the recovery process. Making others aware of the entire situation and aftermath is extremely crucial. For more information on the wild fires affecting the lands of the White Mountain Apache community, as well as other regional areas, please contact the White Mountain Environmental Office, White Mountain Apache, P.O. Box 1690, Whiteriver, Arizona 85941.

The White Mountain Apache Tribe's Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division was a recipient of the 2002 *NTA Trust Award* from the Native Tourism Alliance. The award was presented to the White Mountain Apache on September 27, 2002 at the Indian Country Tourism USA, a conference and trade show in Denver, Colorado.

The Apache Tribe's accomplishments by their Wildlife and Outdoor Recreation Division feature an exemplary recreation and tourism enterprise that is a model for sustainable resource management in the global tourism industry. The reservation offers a diverse array of natural bounty, rich with forests, lakes, wildlife and recreational opportunities. The indigenous Apache people cherish a traditional culture that is alive and strong.

The values and mission of the White Mountain Apache find a sustainable focus in three major areas, including culture (celebration and perpetuation of White Mountain Apache heritage), natural resources (implementation of stewardship programs that restore and preserve the integrity of their natural landscapes) and tribal economy (creation of enterprises from recreation and tourism that provide high-quality jobs and business opportunities for tribal members).

Some of the recreation and tourism activities supported on tribal lands are cultural events, camping, hiking, fishing, picnicking, boating, hunting, river running and canyoneering. The reservation is home to historic Fort Apache, which houses the Apache Culture Center; the Hon-dah Resort, Casino and Conference Center; the Hon-Dah Ski and Outdoor Sport Shop; Sunrise Park Ski Resort; and the White Mountain Apache Fair and Rodeo.

Readers may contact Raymond Endfield, Jr., Executive Director of the White Mountain Apache Tribe, at 928-338-1230 to learn more about White Mountain Apache.

A Personal Summary of the Sokagoan Ojibwe's Crandon Mine Site

by Brandon Glenn

In June 2002, I had the honor of attending a gathering of people on the banks of the Wolf River, on the Mole Lake Indian Reservation, to celebrate, to help, and to learn from the Sokagoan Chippewa community's success in opposing the Crandon Mine development. The North American Indigenous Mining Summit, hosted by the Sokagoan Chippewa Community of Mole Lake, Project Underground, and the Indigenous Environmental Network, included an assembly of engineers, environmentalists, attorneys, powerful orators, decorated veterans, youth, and elders that rejuvenated my mind, body, mission, and spirit. As Fran Van Zile, a tribal matriarch and opponent to the mine since 1976, summed it up as she served up the coffee when we arrived in a cold drizzle with glad hearts, "Yup, sure is good to see everyone back in Mole Lake." In 1994, there was a similar gathering over fishing rights and the people's ongoing battle against a growing conglomeration of the planet's most powerful mining interest over the Crandon Mine site.

The Sokagoan Ojibwe were known as "the Lost Tribe" because the legal title for their land was lost when the ship carrying their Treaty of 1854 sank in Lake Superior. In 1937, the Sokagoan Mole Lake Band finally received their federal recognition and as a result received title to 12 square miles of their homeland, at the headwaters of the Wolf River. In 1975, a corporation discovered and promptly laid claim to one of the richest deposits of metals in North America, buried

"Once a tribe is given TAS (Treatment As a State) status, it has the power to require upstream off-reservation dischargers, conducting activities that may be economically valuable to the state (e.g., zinc and copper mining), to make sure that their activities do not result in contamination of the down-stream on reservation waters."

— Circuit Judge Diane P. Wood, Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals, September 2001

beneath the tribe's sacred Spirit Hill, known as the Crandon Mine site. The Crandon site is one mile from the Sokagoan people's Rice Lake, one of last remaining ancient wild rice beds in Wisconsin. It lies five miles from the Forest County Potawatomi and is upstream from the Menominee Nation.

Based on the company's estimates at the time, development of the ores and reclamation of the site were projected to be completed by 2003. From 1986 to 1992, due to a drop in the price of metals, however, the company lost interest in the development of the copper, zinc and precious metals, but returned once the markets turned. In the meantime, the Ojibwe tribes had grown resilient and formed alliances of their own. The Ojibwe exercised their rights to spearfish, a cultural tradition guaranteed in their treaties, in the lakes previously ceded to the U.S.

Under the guise of concerned

environmentalists, racist hate groups distributed propaganda about the "decimation" of the fish by native tribes to stir up animosity within other non-native groups and communities. Tribal elders were beaten, people were run off of the road, and even when National Guard helicopters were deployed, the hostility still continued.

To combat this, the Midwest Treaty Network (MTN) was established in 1989 to support tribal sovereignty and treaty rights with an alliance of Native American and non-native groups. The MTN went on to train some 2,000 volunteers as Witnesses for Non-Violence, in the spirit of Ghandi and based on methods that had proved effective in dealing with human rights violations in Central America. They lent their support to the tribal people, documented the harassment and the violence, and tried to resolve disputes before they became physically violent.

Eventually, the members of non-native groups even began to realize the power that tribes had in federal court with the support of EPA, specifically a tribe's right to establish its own water quality standards under section 303 of the Clean Water Act, as amended by Congress in 1987.

By 1992, some members of non-native groups that had previously battled and heckled tribal members exercising their treaty rights, realized that they had been used. The fact that the Natives

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never decimated more than three percent of the fish in Northern Wisconsin came to light, far less than what was claimed by the rabble rousers. Non-native fisherman came to respect the tribes' monitoring programs of the Walleye fish resource as superior to those of Wisconsin's Department of Natural Resources. By 1993, both Native Americans and members of non-native groups united against the mining corporation's attempts to develop the Lynne Mine along the Willow River and opposed the Ladysmith Mine along the Flambeau River, all with a mutual concern for the quality of their shared environment and an affinity for fish. In spite of the pipe bombs, the racial taunting, the sniper fire, and the proliferation of bumper stickers that read "Save a Walleye - Spear an Indian," the Sokagoan exercised their ancestral rights to the fish and the resources of their homelands.

When the mining corporation that initiated the Crandon Mine proposal returned to Mole Lake to renew development, the Sokagoan were already assessing their water quality. By 1994, the tribe submitted their water quality standards to EPA for review in the attempt to protect their wild rice beds and water supply from the groundwater reductions, sulfuric acid drainage, heavy metal contamination, and cyanide poisoning that would result from the proposed mine. Over the course of its development, the proposed mine was expected to generate some 44 million tons of waste and require the use of cyanide for extraction of the metals, at a rate of up to 200 tons per year. Once back-filled and flooded, in the interests of reclamation, the company's own data showed that the mine could serve

as a source of contamination for the following 200,000 years. According to the Department of Interior's Fish and Wildlife Service, the reclaimed site could poison the groundwater for up to 9,000 years. In response, the corporation offered to monitor the site for the forty years following the closing of the mine.

To this day, Native Americans and First Nations from North America will barter what ever they have to trade from their own lands for the wild rice from this region, including dried caribou, smoked salmon, dried chile, Pendleton blankets, or beadwork.

In the initial corporate environmental assessment, the wild rice that is a central basis of the Sokagoan's diet, culture, and spirituality were described as "lake weeds." According to Fran Van Zile, "Mining may destroy our wild rice. My whole way of being as an Indian would be destroyed. I can't imagine being without it. And there is no substitute for this lake's rice." In a recent survey, 86 percent of Chippewa families residing in their homelands rely on hunting and fishing for food, and over 90 percent rely on gardening, gathering rice, and harvesting wild plants.

In 1995 the tribe's water quality standards were accepted by EPA en lieu of the lower standards required by Wisconsin state regulations. Also, the Midwest Treaty Network (MTN) launched the Wolf Watershed Educational Project (WWEP) campaign, organized with a speaking tour of 22 communities that would be affected by the proposed mine. The opposition to their defense of the headwaters and way of life from development constituted a multi-national corporation with backing from the state governor and \$111 billion in

annual revenues reported for 1993 alone. From the very beginning, and many felt this was crucial, the affiliates of the opposition to the Crandon Mine decided to stick together and to present the material as a unified force. In an affirmation of what had already been accomplished, Zoltan Grossman of the Midwest Treaty Network's Wolf Watershed Educational Project stated, "The Crandon proposal has already united former adversaries over treaty fishing rights into an alliance to protect the fishery from mining companies. It has not only brought together tribes with sportfishers, but environmentalists with unionists, and rural residents with urban students."

The campaign rapidly picked up constituents, interest, and momentum. By 1996, when the grassroots alliance rallied at Rhinelander, where the local corporate headquarters were located, the alliance was comprised of 30 different groups (including four sovereign tribal nations and the local chapter of Trout Unlimited) and was more than a thousand strong. By 1997, the WWEP Wolf River Watershed Education Project continued to grow and reached 20 more communities in the following year. In retaliation to what the company admitted was the best organized anti-mining campaign it had ever tangled with, Crandon Mine spent \$2 million to bear with a televised media blitz

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combined with a lobbying effort at the state capital. The WWEP fought back with raw tenacity, clarity of purpose, and the 66 radio spots that they could afford. "If our ancestors were willing to lay down their lives for this territory, certainly we can sacrifice the money, time and efforts for those who will live here in future generations," stated Ken Fish, a decorated veteran of Vietnam and Director of the

To this day, Native Americans and First Nations from North America will barter what ever they have to trade from their own lands for the wild rice from this region, including dried caribou, smoked salmon, dried chile, Pendleton blankets, or beadwork.

Menominee Treaty Rights and Mining Impacts Office.

By 1998 the corporation bowed out and cut its losses. The mining corporation sold the project to another corporate associate. Meanwhile, the WWEP rallied at the Wisconsin state capital as the legislature passed a bill in support of a moratorium on all sulfide mining in the state utilizing cyanide. In tribute, an international mining journal paid homage to the achievement in stating that the WWEP is one example of what is becoming a very real threat to the global mining industry. Still, the state itself remained hungry for the long awaited tax revenue from the 50 million tons of copper and zinc, along with development of the lesser quantities of silver, gold and lead, and fought EPA attorneys, the

WWEP, and the people of Mole Lake, over their water quality standards, all the way to Washington, D.C.

The wheels of justice grind slow and without intending any disrespect for the efforts of the advocates, the stacks of paperwork, or the years of people's lives that were dedicated to this endeavor, I will briefly cover the lawsuits in rapid fashion. The state courts upheld the Sokagoan Mole Lake Band's water quality standards in Spring 1999. The Seventh Circuit Court of Appeals again found favorable the Mole Lake Band in September 2001. In May 2001, on behalf of the Bush administration, Solicitor General Ted Olson filed a brief in support of the water quality standards and urged the Supreme Court to do the same. On June 4, 2001, it was announced throughout the nation and within Indian country that the Supreme Court Justices rejected Wisconsin's opposition without so much as a public comment for legal review. One week later we were gathered together along the Wolf River with the Sokagoan band to thank the Creator, to learn from the leadership of the grassroots alliance, to create strategies for the future, and to admire a powerful rain storm over Rice Lake.

Currently, the coalition has continued their endeavors with this month's announcement of a detailed proposal to designate the 5,000-acre Crandon site as a public conservation area. The Wolf River Headwaters Protection Purchase would be controlled by an integrated board of tribal, local, and state representatives dedicated to

maintaining the cultural and ecological value of the area through low-impact sustainable development. Lisa Waukau, chairwoman of the Menominee Indian Tribe, in summing up the unilateral, multi-racial interest and benefits of the proposal, simply stated, "A Crandon mine purchase makes sense so that future generations...will enjoy the clean water, natural resources and a pristine environment just as we and our ancestors have enjoyed."

For all that was accomplished and for my personal education into this ongoing success I personally want to thank Sokagoan Mole Lake Tribal Elders, the MTN/WWEP, Menominee Treaty Rights and Mining Impacts, Trout Unlimited - Wolf River Chapter, the Indigenous Environmental Network, the Indigenous Mining Campaign Project, and especially Clayton Thomas Muller for whom laughter, physical labor, and spirituality are one and the same. For more information on this ongoing work, how to help, or to learn more about related issues, contact the MTN at 800-445-8615 or www.treatyland.com. For additional resources, visit www.alphacdc.com, www.nocrandonmine.com, www.wrpc.net, www.ienearth.org, and www.moles.org.

Brandon Glenn was an Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) intern and worked with OPPTS in Summer 2002. Brandon attended The Northern American Indigenous Mining Summit in June 2002. This article on the Crandon Mine site was written with a tribal perspective and represents the opinions of this contributor.



EPA Study Finds Pollutants in Columbia River

Adapted from "Toxic Fish Imperil Tribes, EPA Study Finds Pollutants in Diet Threaten 4 Groups in the Columbia Basin," Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Lisa Stiffler, July 31, 2002

EPA released results from a study in July 2002 concluding that members of four tribes in the Columbia River Basin have a higher risk for cancer and other diseases compared with the general public, largely due to higher rates of fish consumption. The four tribes surveyed about their diet include the Yakamas, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation and the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs. These tribes are located in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

EPA's research into tribal health began in 1989 as a partnership with the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission. EPA and tribal researchers found that the traditional diet includes fish consumption at rates six to eleven times higher than the national average. Adults consume an average of 48 fish meals a month. The recent study in 2002 measured contamination of both resident fish, such as sturgeon, and migratory fish, such as coho, chinook and steelhead, and risk was assessed for non-cancer diseases, such as effects on the liver, immune system and development. The fish were analyzed for 132 chemicals, including pesticides, metals, PCBs, banned pesticides such as DDT, and dioxin and dioxin-like

compounds. Ninety-two pollutants were found.

Due to higher rates of fish consumption in a traditional diet, the study found that the hazard level was 8 for salmon and trout, but it soared to 100 for sturgeon and mountain whitefish, two resident fish.¹ For children eating the largest amounts of fish, the hazard risk was nearly twice as high.

Many researchers feel that the problem isn't the fish, but the chemicals that contaminate it, including pesticides that run off irrigated farmland, waste from mining operations, and pollution from industrial sites. There are no current projects investigating contamination sources basinwide, but some smaller projects are underway, including an EPA Superfund cleanup at Portland Harbor in the lower Willamette River and an investigation of contamination in Lake Roosevelt, a portion of the Columbia in north-eastern Washington.

OPPTS Tribal News has planned to feature an update to this article in the upcoming Winter 2002 Special Commemorative issue that will be based on the research of former OPPTS Summer Intern Brandon "Little Elk" Glenn.

¹ A hazard level is calculated by comparing how much of a chemical can be safely eaten with how much is actually being eaten. A hazard level of 1 is considered safe. EPA scientists emphasize that the amount of fish sampled in the study was small and only two dozen fishing locations were tested. The risks are also based on the assumption that someone eats the same kind of fish over their entire lifetime.

Attn: Educators, Environmental Managers, Children's Day Cares and Community Activities Managers

OPPTS and the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) would like to announce their joint sponsorship of an upcoming OPPTS Tribal News Kids Page Design Contest. Kids in grades K through 12 will have a chance to imagine, create and design their version of a Kids Page that has an environmental theme. Contestants will be required to submit their page designs by March 30, 2003 to NTEC. Each submittal will be judged by criteria identified by NTEC, and the three top winners will be selected. First, second, and third place winners will have their kid page designs displayed in the newsletter and other NTEC outreach materials. The winners also will receive special acknowledgment from EPA and NTEC along with other assorted prizes. More information regarding the contest can be found in upcoming issues of the *OPPTS Tribal News* and on NTEC's web site. In the meantime, please feel free to contact Mary Lauterbach, EPA, OPPTS, at 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC 7408M), Washington, DC 20460, lauterbach.mary@epa.gov or contact Jerry Pardilla at NTEC at 505-242-2175.

Meet the Summer Interns

Every year the Office of Prevention, Pesticides and Toxic Substances has summer interns to assist in numerous projects. Our summer interns come from very different backgrounds and bring with them new, innovative ideas and concepts. Many thanks for their hard work and dedication to this Summer/Fall issue.

Alison Sasnett

Alison Sasnett was born on January 27, 1983, in Virginia, where she grew up and currently attends school. She developed an affinity for writing at a very early age. This is what inspired her to take a summer position with EPA's summer internship program where she could contribute to OPPTS Tribal News. Although writing or journalism is not her chosen career path, she greatly enjoys it. Alison attends the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University and hopes to complete graduate studies at its College of Veterinary Medicine in the future.

Katie Maconaughey

Katie Maconaughey is thrilled to work on this Summer/Fall 2002 issue. Working on the tribal newsletter and helping EPA staff, including Mary Lauterbach and Phil Robinson, has proven to be a very rewarding experience. Katie has learned much about Indian country and tribal issues, and working in the nation's capital also has been very exciting.

Katie was sad to leave her cozy cubicle, but cheerfully returned to the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University where she

continues her undergraduate program in Theatre Arts, with a focus on performance. Starting her second year at college will allow at least three more summers in her home of Fairfax County, Virginia, which might lead her back to EPA next summer. Katie would like to thank all of the kind people she has met at OPPT for their generosity and guidance and appreciates the chance to work with such an interesting office.

Lois Bressette

Lois Bressette is a graduate student in the Public Administration program at Northern Michigan University in Marquette, Michigan. Lois was a Washington Center for Internships and Academic Seminars intern and worked in Summer 2002 with OPPT. Lois, born and raised in Marquette, is a member of the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community.

Brandon "Little Elk" Glenn

Brandon Little Elk Glenn is a Crow Indian from the Big Horn Mountains. After graduating from Stanford University's Energy Program in the Earth Systems Department, he was employed as

an engineer, scientist, and lecturer. For 2 years he worked on power project development utilizing renewable energy generation and distributed generation on tribal lands for a net environmental decrease of greenhouse gas and carbon emissions from traditional coal-fired power plants. This work also supported analysis in the increasing danger of radioactive waste from fission reactors. Elk abruptly left work in 1999 to defend his tribe's water rights and the exploitation of tribal resources from coal companies and energy corporations. He is currently pursuing his Master of Sciences degree at the University of California (Berkeley) with the Energy Resources Group, considered by many to be the finest conglomeration of economists, physicists, environmental scientists, and engineers dedicated to environmentally-sustainable energy development. Brandon was an Environmental Careers Organization (ECO) intern and worked with OPPT in Summer 2002.

You have to listen! You must keep your ear on the heartbeat of the generations!

-Muriel Miguel,
Kuna/Rappahannock

OPPTS Mission Statement

- ▶ *Protect and improve human health and the environment*
- ▶ *Achieve risk reduction, sustainability, and environmental justice*
- ▶ *Promote safer designs and use of materials, products, and disposal methods through pollution prevention*
- ▶ *Inform and educate the public on the risks associated with pesticides and toxic substances.*



Ancient Wisdom Advancing Modern Science & Technology, 15th Annual NAISEF hosted in Albuquerque, New Mexico

The American Indian Science & Engineering Society (AISES) and its supporters once again set the pace for the 15th annual National American Indian Science & Engineering Fair (NAISEF), March 21-23, 2002 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. NAISEF's major sponsors included AT&T, Intel, the Shell Oil Foundation, and Compaq. Other sponsors and supporters included TAMSCO Telecommunications Division, Wal-Mart, Target, Rain Project, Applebee's, Custom Steel, U.S. Patent Office, Hannahville



NAISEF College Fair representatives Jill Gully from Skidmore, New York and Alex Sando from New Mexico Tech.

Indian School, International Science & Engineering Fair Advisory Council, and the Indian Resource Development at New Mexico State University.

The generosity of all AISES sponsors and volunteers helps maintain the goals and vision of AISES to provide incentives and support to American Indian students as they move forward in their educational career. NAISEF, established in 1988, provides a critical opportunity for students to do hands-on science; conduct research; and interact with professional role models in science, mathematics and engineering. International rules and guidelines

provide direction for NAISEF as an affiliated fair to the International Science & Engineering Fair (ISEF). International guidelines enable qualifying students to enter any science fair including the INTEL ISEF. In addition, international guidelines are an excellent learning experience for younger scientists as they prepare for the grueling trials of future international competition.

During this year's science and engineering fair, many American Indian students, attending the fifth through twelfth grades, participated in the Invention Convention where students gathered at tables to "invent" things from donated supplies given to them in identical bags, a Math Competition, the Internet Café, and the first annual NAISEF College Fair, which was open to the general public. All participating NAISEF students are members of the AISES Affiliated Schools Program, which includes 150 schools from 17 states. A total of 550 talented American Indian students from 90 schools and 60 tribes displayed 460 projects, and of these 460 projects, six grand award winners were selected from the high school division, and as a result, received the opportunity to attend the International Science and Engineering Fair in Louisville, Kentucky, May 12-19, 2002.

For more information or to participate as a judge, sponsor, or student(s), please contact the AISES K-12 Affiliated Schools Program at 505-765-1052 or www.aises.org. More information regarding science fair rules and guidelines can be found at www.sciserv.org/isef.



This year's grand prize award winners are, from left to right, alternate Kimberly Mann, 11th grade, Wingate High School, New Mexico; alternate: Martina Day, 10th grade, Turtle Mountain High School, North Dakota; Jenna Parisien, 10th grade, Turtle Mountain High School, North Dakota; Christine Concho, 12th grade, Barstow High School, California; Alicia Ortega, 9th grade, Pojoaque High School, New Mexico; Cheriena Ben, 11th grade, Choctaw Central High School, Mississippi; Sasheen Peltier, 10th grade, Turtle Mountain High School, North Dakota; and Justin Deese, 11th grade, Purnell Swett High School, North Carolina.



Shown from left to right in the picture above, student Gary Richards (Oglala Lakota) from Little Wound Middle School in South Dakota, explains his project, "Mni Wasasapi (the Water Treatment Plant)," to traditional Judges, Ernie Correa (Isletal/Laguna) from Sandia Labs and Eugene Lujan (Santa Ana) also from Sandia Labs.



Johnson Cody Chee from Wingate Middle School in New Mexico, patiently waits for his project, "A Stinky Situation," to be judged.

Mark Your Calendars!

November 2002

19-21

National Tribal Environmental Enforcement and Compliance Conference II

EPA Region 7, OECA, AIEO, ITCA

Jack Reardon Civic Center

Kansas City, Kansas

Dawnette Owens, 605-343-6054, 800-243-9133

December 2002

2-6

HazMat Explo 6 Conference

Las Vegas, NV

www.hazmatexplo.org,

702-768-0887

9-12

National Environmental Justice Advisory Council

EPA Office of Environmental Justice

Baltimore, Maryland

Danny Gogal, 202-564-2576

February 2003

8-13

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians (ATNI) Winter

Conference

ATNI

Portland, Oregon

www.atnitribes.org, 503-249-5779

22-26

National Congress of American Indians (NCAI)

NCAI Indian Council Winter

Session

Wyndham Hotel

Washington, DC

www.ncai.org, 202-466-7767

EPA Web sites and Hot Lines

EPA	www.epa.gov
OPP	www.epa.gov/pesticides/
OPPT	www.epa.gov/opptintr
Pollution Prevention	www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home
American Indian Environmental Office	www.epa.gov/indian
Asbestos Ombudsman Hotline	1-800-368-5888
EPCRA Hotline	1-800-535-0202
Lead Hotline	1-800-532-3394
National Pesticide Telecommunication (NPTN) Hotline	www.ace.orst.edu/info/nptn 1-800-858-7378
TSCA Hotline	202-554-1404

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