



**National Tribal Air Association**

# NTAA Weekly Update

Week of April 24<sup>th</sup> – April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2017

[If you have difficulty reading this email, click here to view it online.](#)

## Table of Contents

TOP STORIES.....	2
HEADLINES .....	2
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i> .....	2
<i>Climate Change/Energy</i> .....	3
<i>Toxics/Mobile Sources</i> .....	4
<i>Indoor Air Quality</i> .....	4
<i>Photos from the field</i> .....	4
UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS .....	5
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i> .....	5
<i>Climate Change / Energy</i> .....	8
<i>Toxic / Mobile Sources</i> .....	9
<i>Indoor Air Quality</i> .....	9
RESOURCES .....	9
<i>Now Hiring!</i> .....	9
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i> .....	10
<i>Climate Change/Energy</i> .....	11
<i>Toxics / Mobile Sources</i> .....	11
<i>Indoor Air Quality</i> .....	11
FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES.....	12
<i>Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes</i> .....	12
<i>Climate Change/Energy</i> .....	13
<i>Toxics/Mobile Sources</i> .....	13
<i>Indoor Air Quality</i> .....	13

## TOP STORIES

### **NTAA Partners on Funding Letter to EPA's Administrator Pruitt**

On Monday, April 24, 2017, NTAA submitted a joint letter on the importance of full funding for air quality programs with the [National Association of Clean Air Agencies](#), the [National Tribal Caucus of EPA's National Tribal Operations Committee](#) and the [Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center's Steering Committee](#). [Click here](#) to read the letter.

### **See you Tucson next week at NTFAQ!**

NTAA will be busy at the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality in Tucson next week, so the NTAA Weekly Update will resume on Wednesday, May 10<sup>th</sup>. Also, keep an eye open on [NTAA's website](#) for Policy Response Kits for Tribes to use to respond to funding and regulatory reform issues that will impact Tribal Air Programs!

Inside Sources - [Tribal Representatives Offer Little Cooperation on EPA Regulatory Reform](#)

Climate Wire - [Experts question if EPA will consider thousands of comments](#)

American Lung Association - [American Lung Association report finds 4 in 10 Americans live in counties with unhealthful levels of air pollution](#)

AP – [Advocates fan out in global show of support for science](#)

Reuters – [Trump to set new executive orders on environment, energy this week](#)

## HEADLINES

### ***Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes***

Washington Post - [Zinke to review more than 2 dozen national monuments 'to make sure the people have a voice'](#)

Washington Examiner – [Native American groups plan to overrun Trump hotel in Washington](#)

MSNBC - [Trump's EPA chief keeps finding himself in hot water](#)

Native Sun News – [Indian reservations were losers in dam projects](#)

Colorlines – [Montana Tribes Want Keystone XL Away From Their Drinking Water](#)

Colorlines – [What Do the Most Polluted U.S. Cities Look Like?](#)

BBC - [Air pollution: 'Heart disease link found'](#)

Washington Post - [EPA plans to offer buyouts as part of Trump push to shrink workforce](#)

EPA - [EPA Launches Back-To-Basics Agenda at Pennsylvania Coal Mine](#)

EPA – [EPA Settles with Westward Seafoods for Violating Federal Clean Air Rules in Dutch Harbor, Alaska](#)

National Association of Clean Air Agencies – [Washington Update](#)

## ***Climate Change/Energy***

Santa Fe New Mexican - [PNM moves toward coal-free energy plan](#)

Climate Central - [We Just Breached the 410 Parts Per Million Threshold](#)

CNN Money – [If Trump wants to save U.S. infrastructure, he needs to care about climate change](#)

Christian Science Monitor – [When climate change was part of the farm bill](#)

Washington Post - [Scientists just found telltale evidence of an ancient methane explosion in the Arctic](#)

Vox – [This interactive map shows why renewables and natural gas are taking over the US](#)

ARS Technica – [If you live inland, don't think sea level won't affect you](#)

Quartz – [More and more fossil fuel companies support a carbon tax – here's a running list](#)

NPR – [Chew On This For Earth Day: How Our Diets Impact The Planet](#)

### ***Toxics/Mobile Sources***

National Law Review - [EPA Announces Grants to Reduce Emissions from Diesel Engines](#)

The Hill – [Volkswagen to pay \\$2.8B fine for emissions cheating](#)

Vox – [Trump wants to make it easier to drill in national parks. We mapped the 42 parks at risk.](#)

Native Sun News – [Rape of the He' Sapa: From gold to uranium](#)

### ***Indoor Air Quality***

Humanosphere – [Study: Empowering women reduces exposure to indoor air pollution](#)

Fox 6 Now – [The real risks of radon](#)

Mesothelioma and Asbestos Awareness Center – [How to Improve Indoor Air Quality](#)

### ***Photos from the field***

Midwest Energy News – [Industry report: Midwest and Great Plains lead wind energy expansion](#)



*Photo credit: Sebastian Celis/Creative Commons*

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS**

### ***Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes***

**NTAA Upcoming Calls.** The toll-free number is 1-800-309-2350. If you do not need to call toll free, or would like to help conserve NTAA funding, you can call 1-805-309-2350. Both numbers use code 928-523-0526#.

Contact [Andy.Bessler@nau.edu](mailto:Andy.Bessler@nau.edu) if you have any questions about any call!

<p><b>Indoor Air Quality Work Group:</b> Join this call to contribute to Indoor Air Quality solutions</p>	<p>Thursday, May 11, 2pm ET</p>
---	---------------------------------

<b>Volkswagen Settlement Work Group:</b> Join this call to stay informed on the VW Settlement	Thursday, May 18, 2pm ET
<b>NTAA/EPA Policy call:</b> Receive updates from EPA	Thursday, May 25, 2pm ET

**EPA Office of Water announces participation opportunities and activities related to the Safe Drinking Water Act and Clean Water Act.**

- **Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Forthcoming Proposal to Revise the Definition of “Waters of the United States”**

Tribes will have until June 20, 2017, to comment on the new definition. Two informational webinars are planned, as noted below, and additional meetings or webinars may be scheduled. To stay up to date on this effort, please visit EPA’s Tribal Consultation website: <https://tcots.epa.gov>. For more information, see the EPA’s Clean Water Rule website: <https://www.epa.gov/cleanwaterrule>.

Webinar schedule:

Thursday, April 27, 2017 (2:00 – 3:30 PM ET). To register: <https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/wotus2/event/registration.html>; Call-in 1-866-299-3188, code 202-566-0657

Thursday, May 18, 2017 (1:30 – 3:30 PM ET). To register: [http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/cwa\\_wotus/event/registration.html](http://epawebconferencing.acms.com/cwa_wotus/event/registration.html); Call-in 1-866-299-3188, code 202-566-0657

- **Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Draft Sample Memorandum of Understanding for Contaminated Sediment Sites**

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes on draft sample language that could be used in memoranda of understanding (MOUs) between EPA's Regions and tribes and/or states at contaminated sediment Superfund sites. The draft sample MOU for review and comment and the letter to tribal leaders initiating consultation and coordination are available at EPA’s Tribal Consultation website (<https://tcots.epa.gov>) under "Memorandum of Understanding for Contaminated Sediment Sites." The deadline to review and comment on the draft sample MOU is May 12, 2017. For questions, please contact Anthony Austin ([austin.anthony@epa.gov](mailto:austin.anthony@epa.gov)).

- **Registration Open for the 2017 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF).**

This year's Tribal Lands and Environment forum will be held at the COX Business Center in Tulsa, Oklahoma, August 14-17, 2017. The Forum will feature trainings, field trips, and breakout sessions focused on solid/hazardous waste management, brownfields, UST/LUSTs, Superfund sites, and emergency response. Tribal water program topics will include breakout sessions, trainings, and field trips related to water quality, drinking water, and habitat restoration (including wetlands, streams, and fisheries). Registration for the event is now open. For those interested in presenting at the 2017 TLEF, either during a breakout session or training session, proposals are being accepted until May 12. For more information and to register: [http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr\\_tlef](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef).

**See you next week! Registration for the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) is now open!** The National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) provides an opportunity to meet, exchange ideas, and discuss current topics relevant to tribes in air quality and climate change. [Click here for all details and registration.](#)

### **2017 Exchange Network National Meeting**

**May 16-18, 2017**

#### **Sheraton Philadelphia Society Hill**

More information: [www.exchangenetwork.net/en2017](http://www.exchangenetwork.net/en2017)

The theme for EN2017 is "Innovation and Partnership." During the meeting, we will be exploring examples of:

- How innovation can cross Federal, State, Territorial, and Tribal boundaries;
- How working creatively together as Partners can identify innovative solutions;
- How Partnerships are the new "best practice;" and
- How we can all employ innovation in our daily work.

**TRAVEL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRIBES.** The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) will provide a limited number of travel scholarships to eligible individuals representing federally recognized Tribes and/or eligible Tribal organizations. Support for airfare, mileage, lodging, and per diem is available. Funding will be allocated on a first-come, first-served basis. For more information or to request a scholarship, please contact ITEP's Lydia Scheer at [lydia.scheer@nau.edu](mailto:lydia.scheer@nau.edu)

**The U.S. EPA 2017 International Emission Inventory Conference** will be held at the Hyatt Regency Baltimore on the Inner Harbor Hotel in Baltimore, MD August 14-18, 2017. This conference will focus on how emission inventories meet the challenges posed by improving emissions inventory science and also streamline inventory creation processes to improve the resulting inventories. [Click here](#) to learn more about the conference and how to submit abstracts.

**ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is now online!** [Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

**The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional's (ITEP's) [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#)** includes conferences, trainings, webinars and other events related to tribes and climate change. [Click here](#) for ITEP's other trainings and events. [Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. New courses have been added, so check it out!

**[ITEP's 2017 AIAQTP Course Schedule](#)**

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program Course Calendar:

Course Title	Dates	Location
2017		
Introduction to Tribal Air Quality	June 6-9	Flagstaff, AZ
Quality Assurance (QA) Fundamentals	Open	Online
Building Performance: Improving Energy Efficiency & IAQ in Cold Climates	Open	Online
Radon Fundamentals	Open	Online
Emissions Inventory - Fundamentals	Closed	Online
Emissions Inventory - Advanced	Closed	Online
Wildfire and Air Quality	Dates TBD	Online

Note: This schedule is subject to change. [Click here](#) for up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications. If you have questions regarding the pre-requisites or your eligibility for this course, please contact Patricia Ellsworth, Air Quality Curriculum Coordinator, at [Patricia.Ellsworth@nau.edu](mailto:Patricia.Ellsworth@nau.edu) or phone 928-523-6721. For more information, please visit [ITEP's website](#).

***Climate Change / Energy***

## ***Toxic / Mobile Sources***

The National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) has established a [repository for state and local agency information and links](#) pertaining to the Volkswagen (VW) settlement and the Mitigation Trust Fund. The information accessible from the repository includes state and local agency webpages, public outreach materials, drafts of documents, etc.

## ***Indoor Air Quality***

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

# **RESOURCES**

## ***Now Hiring!***

### **Office of Environmental Resource Management (OERM) is hiring a Tribal Climate Science Liaison**

The Tribal Climate Science Liaison will serve as a technical expert on climate change issues, resource vulnerability, and climate adaptation actions to Tribal nations in the USET region, and more broadly in the combined region comprising the Department of Interior's Northeast Climate Science Center and Southeast Climate Science Center (NE CSC and SE CSC). The Tribal Climate Science Liaison will be responsible to develop and implement a communication, education and outreach program; identify climate research needs and priorities; and provide climate adaptation planning support to Tribal nations. He/she will also integrate program and research results into budget documents, annual reports, or other documents. The Tribal Climate Science Liaison will participate in a network of Tribal climate science liaisons within the Climate Science Center system; and a national workgroup of Tribal organizations, Tribal colleges, and other partners to address policy and resource issues associated with Tribal climate resilience. This position will be based at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst.

Position posted: April 5, 2017

Closing date: Open until filled

More information: Tammy Neptune [tneptune@usetinc.org](mailto:tneptune@usetinc.org)

**BIA Student Internship Job Announcements**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Office of Trust Services (OTS) is continually seeking scientists and technicians in a range of STEM-related disciplines to protect, conserve, utilize, and manage Indian forest and agricultural lands and resources, including water and power. BIA is recruiting for several internship positions working across various Agriculture and Rangeland Management or Forestry and Wildland Fire Management programs. Students can intern with the BIA or with a tribal related program. Intern job vacancy announcements are posted to USAJOBS and can be found at [www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads](http://www.usajobs.gov/StudentsAndGrads).

**King County Department of Natural Resources, Water, and Land Resources** is recruiting staff for the summer to support King County's stream benthic macroinvertebrate monitoring program. This opportunity is for a few months in the summer and would be ideal for someone in college or starting out in their career to get some experience in benthic macroinvertebrate sampling in a robust and well-established monitoring program. Contact Deb Lester for more information: [Deborah.Lester@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Deborah.Lester@kingcounty.gov)

***Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes***

**EPA Region 10 Tribal Newsletter for April 2017 is now available.** You can find [the newsletter here](#). New: If you'd like to subscribe to the monthly newsletters to receive them directly, you can now easily do that online. Click the following link, add your email in the yellow box, and click submit: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/region-10-tribal-newsletter>

**Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge**

Six federal agencies have announced a Wildland Fire Sensors Challenge seeking an accurate, lower-cost, and low-maintenance air quality monitoring system that can be used during a wildfire or controlled fire. The data provided by the sensor system will help federal, state, local and tribal agencies protect the health of first responders and communities affected by the smoke.

Developers are encouraged to submit a prototype sensor system that measures fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>), carbon monoxide (CO), ozone (O<sub>3</sub>) and carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>). The system should be capable of rapid deployment and continuous real-time monitoring of highly dynamic air pollution levels during a

fire event. Developers should also aim for designs that are easy to use and self-powered; include location data; and wirelessly transmit data to a central data-receiving station.

Written submissions are due by **Nov. 22, 2017** and prototypes must be submitted by **Jan. 5, 2018**. The sensor systems will be evaluated in government specialty labs based on 1) accuracy over a wide range of pollutant levels, 2) system cost, and 3) operation requirements relevant for wildland fire deployment. All developers who submit prototypes will receive direct feedback on laboratory tests and end user review.

The Challenge total award pool is \$60,000, which may be awarded in total to one winner if all the requirements are met, or divided into several partial awards. Prize winner(s) will be selected following the conclusion of judging in summer 2018.

To learn more, visit: [www.challenge.gov/challenge/wildland-fire-sensors-challenge](http://www.challenge.gov/challenge/wildland-fire-sensors-challenge)

## ***Climate Change/Energy***

## ***Toxics / Mobile Sources***

## ***Indoor Air Quality***

### **IAQ and Managing Asthma Video**

Working Together to Address Asthma in Tribal Communities in the Northwest: Asthma disproportionately impacts tribal communities, and conditions in homes can impact respiratory health. EPA Region 10 is working with a team of partners in the Northwest to help improve indoor air quality and better manage asthma by building community support networks involving clinical, housing, environment, and social services programs. These networks can provide home visits that involve patient education, home assessments, and changes to the home that improve health. In this video, hear from EPA and tribal leaders and representatives about the asthma and healthy homes work happening in the Pacific Northwest.

Short URL: <https://youtu.be/gGsYZ-ftUpI>

URL: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gGsYZ-ftUpI&feature=youtu.be>

**U.S. HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) Code Talk:**  
[Codetalk Homepage:](#)

*Back to Table of Contents*

## **FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES**

### ***Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes***

#### **North American Commission for Environmental Cooperation (CEC) Launches Youth Innovation Challenge**

This is a chance to win \$5000 USD and present the concept to Environmental Ministers! CEC is seeking youth (ages 18-26) to pitch their entrepreneurial ideas to advance sustainability in North America. The deadline to submit concepts is April 30<sup>th</sup>. [More information found here.](#)

#### **EPA Issues Request for Proposals (RFP) for FY17 and FY18 Tribal Wetland Program Development Grants. Proposals are due June 5, 2017.**

Wetland Program Development Grants (WPDGs) assist state, tribal, local government (S/T/LG) agencies and interstate/intertribal entities in developing or refining state/tribal/local programs which protect, manage, and restore wetlands. The primary focus of these grants is to develop/refine state/tribal wetland programs. EPA has issued a RFP soliciting proposals from eligible applicants to develop or refine tribal wetland programs. Tribes and intertribal consortia are eligible to apply under this announcement. Non-profit organizations are not eligible to compete under this RFP. The total amount of federal funding available under this announcement is approximately \$2,644,800 (\$1,191,800 expected from FY17 and \$1,453,000 expected from FY18) depending on Agency funding levels, which may vary from year to year, and other applicable considerations. Awards will likely range from \$25,000 to \$300,000 in federal funds. It is anticipated that the assistance agreements awarded under this announcement will have one- to four-year project periods starting after October 1, 2017. The project period for assistance agreements under this announcement may be no more than four years. For more information and to view the RFP:<https://www.epa.gov/wetlands/tribal-wetland-program-development-grant-request-proposals>. For questions, please contact Myra Price at [price.myra@epa.gov](mailto:price.myra@epa.gov).

#### **U.S. EPA Air Grants and Funding:**

EPA's Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) announces competitive funding announcements for projects and programs relating to [air quality](#), [transportation](#), [climate change](#), [indoor air](#) and other related topics. [This page](#) provides access to information about current funding opportunities under 'Open Announcements' and also provides as a reference tool, all previously

announced funding announcements listed below and in archives under ‘Closed Announcements’.

## ***Climate Change/Energy***

### ***Toxics/Mobile Sources***

#### **DERA Funding Available: 2017 Clean Diesel Funding Assistance Program**

Deadline for Proposals - June 20, 2017

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is excited to announce the availability of \$11 million in Diesel Emission Reduction Program (DERA) funds to support projects aimed at reducing emissions from the nation's existing fleet of older diesel engines. Under this competition, between 20 and 80 awards are anticipated to be made to eligible applicants.

Eligible applicants include regional, state, local or tribal agencies, or port authorities, with jurisdiction over transportation or air quality. Nonprofit organizations may apply if they provide pollution reduction or educational services to diesel fleet owners or have, as their principal purpose, the promotion of transportation or air quality.

Learn More at: [www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants](http://www.epa.gov/cleandiesel/clean-diesel-national-grants).

If you have questions, please contact [cleandiesel@epa.gov](mailto:cleandiesel@epa.gov).

## ***Indoor Air Quality***

### **HUD’s Indian Community Development Block Grant Program**

Closing date for Applications: May 18, 2017

The purpose of the ICDBG program is the development of viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of decent housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities primarily for persons with low and moderate incomes as defined in 24 CFR 1003.4.

More information can be found [here](#).

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*

## **Most Recent Listing: EPA Rules from the Federal Register**

There are no contents of the Federal Register for Wednesday, April 26, 2017. (Past copies can be accessed [here](#)).

*There are no EPA listings in today's Federal Register*

You have received this email as a subscriber to the NTAA Weekly Update. To unsubscribe or modify your subscriptions, click the appropriate link below:

[Unsubscribe](#)

[Modify your Subscription](#)

*[Back to Table of Contents](#)*