



WRAP

TRIBAL NEWS

July 2006

New WRAP Co-Director

Lewis McLeod has joined the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC) in the position of WRAP Co-Director. Lewis comes to NTEC and the WRAP from EPA Region 10 where he served as a Tribal Coordinator and Project Officer. Prior to this, Lewis worked for the air program of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. Lewis is well-equipped for the WRAP Co-Director position as he has more than 10 years experience with the organization, having served in a number of different roles. Lewis assumes all management and administrative responsibilities for WRAP tribal matters immediately. Tribal travel requests, however, should go through Ken Cronin at NTEC's office. Lewis may be contacted at 406-675-3166 or lmcleod@ntec.org.

Plan to Attend the Next WRAP Board Meeting

The next WRAP Board meeting is scheduled for September 13-14 at the Grouse Mountain Lodge in Whitefish, Montana. Among the items likely to be discussed include:

- Update on 2018 reasonable progress goals for regional haze;
- Status of stationary source control programs for regional haze including BART;
- 2007-2008 Work Plan and Grant Application for the WRAP;
- Update on the greenhouse gas emissions inventory project;
- Informational piece on Green Tags; and
- Report out from the July 17-18 meeting in Denver concerning voluntary greenhouse gas registries.

Unlike other such meetings, Board representatives plan to provide recreational time for meeting participants by having a field trip to Glacier National Park. To accommodate this field trip which will last until evening, the meeting on Wednesday, September 13, will last only two hours, taking place from 8:00-10:00 a.m., and individuals will depart shortly thereafter to the park. The Board will reconvene at the Lodge on Thursday, September 14 at 8:00 a.m. with the intent of finally adjourning at 12:00 noon.

The Tribal Caucus will be having a meeting, preceding that of the Board's, on September 11-12 at the same location. Information about hotel reservations may be found on the WRAP website at www.wrapair.org. Please note that the room block for the Board meeting will be held only until Friday, July 28.

Comments Sought for 308 Regional Haze Tribal Guidance Document

Currently, the 309 Tribal Guidance and Tribal Implementation Plan author, Rosanne Sanchez, is seeking input on a new guidance document for Regional Haze under section 308 of the rule. This guidance document, which will be similar to the one written for section 309, will attempt to answer questions a tribe may have regarding an alternative pathway to approaching a Regional Haze TIP. A workgroup is being sought to participate in monthly calls to review the work that is being generated. If interested, please contact Ms. Sanchez at 505.222.9583 or at rosanne.sanchez@state.nm.us for a copy of the material being written. The first workgroup

call is scheduled for July 24 at 10:00 a.m. (MDT). The call in number is 1-888-387-8686, pin number is 9758908#.

TDDWG RFPs to Be Sent Out Soon

Two Requests for Proposals (RFPs) are being prepared by the Tribal Data Development Work Group (TDDWG) and will soon be ready for publication. These RFPs are designed to facilitate tribal participation in the WRAP and to assist tribes in getting the most out of the WRAP technical products.

The first one, entitled “*Analysis of State and Federal Regional Haze Implementation Plans for Tribal Implications/Issues,*” proposes to hire a contractor that will read each of the RH SIPs and FIPs being produced and provide an analysis of these for potential issues of interest or concern to tribes. The contractor will also be available as a resource to tribes who would like assistance in understanding the SIPs and FIPs.

The second RFP is entitled “*Provide Technical Assistance to Native American Tribes in the Western Regional Air Program (WRAP) Region Pertaining to Regional Haze.*” Its purpose is to assist tribes in accessing the modeling, monitoring, and emissions inventory data that has been compiled into the WRAP’s Technical Support System. This is the system that states and tribes will access to form the foundation for regional haze SIPs and TIPS. The TSS is scheduled for completion in October 2006.

Both of these projects will continue through December 2007. For more information, please contact Tamera Dawes, TDDWG Co-Chair, tamera.dawes@itcaonline.com, or Ken Cronin at kcronin@ntec.org.

Montana Withdraws from Regional Haze Work

In a letter dated June 19, Richard Opper, Director of the Montana Department of Environmental Quality, informed stakeholders that due to increased regulatory demands and stagnant federal funding, the state is being forced to focus on its core air quality programs and has discontinued work on its Regional Haze SIP. Staff have been reassigned, and the state expects that the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will have to pick up this work and do a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP). NTEC staff have contacted the EPA in Region 8 to remind them that any FIP should also include consultation with the tribes in Montana. WRAP staff have also stated that the tribes in Montana who want to participate in the WRAP may continue to do so as they have in the past. While Montana officials have made no indication the state intends to withdraw from the WRAP, its doing so would have no effect on the membership of tribes within that state. Opper’s letter was distributed to WRAP tribal representatives by Ken Cronin via email.

TDDWG FY06-07 Budget Request Largely Successful

During the recent negotiations for the WRAP budget, the TDDWG was successful in getting fully funded on its highest priority project: Tribal Emissions Inventories. This includes training and technical assistance for TEISS, the TEISS license fee, and a new element that involves reconciling the tribal data from the EIs created through TEISS with the existing state data. The TDDWG’s second priority, the Tribal Representative Analysis of the IMPROVE Network, was only partially funded, at about 50 percent of the requested amount. A third project, involving Tribal Road Dust data, was not funded in this period. While the TDDWG did not get everything it requested, it is only one of the few workgroups/forums that have received any new funding in light of the drastic budget cuts faced by the WRAP. The Planning Team will present the proposed budget to the WRAP Board for approval in September at the meeting in Whitefish, Montana. For more information, please contact Tamera Dawes, TDDWG Co-Chair, tamera.dawes@itcaonline.com, or Ken Cronin at kcronin@ntec.org.

This monthly newssheet is a collaboration of the National Tribal Environmental Council's (NTEC's) air program staff assigned to work with the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP), and condenses for the reader the activities and issues of the various forums, committees, and workgroups of the WRAP as they pertain to the tribes within the WRAP region. WRAP - a partnership of the western states (including Alaska), tribes within those states and other stakeholders - is funded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, with the purpose of developing data, tools, and policies needed to improve visibility in parks and wilderness areas across the West. More information on WRAP may be found on its website, www.wrapair.org, while NTEC's website is located at www.ntec.org. If you have questions or suggestions regarding this newssheet, please contact Sandra Sac Parker, Editor and NTEC air program communications specialist, at 505/242-2175 ext. 104 or e-mail sparker@ntec.org.

