



WRAP

TRIBAL NEWS

August 2006

Welcome to the Newest WRAP Member Tribe!

Ohkay Owingeh (formerly known as the Pueblo of San Juan), located north of Santa Fe, New Mexico, is the latest tribe to officially join the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP). Although the tribe is not seeking a seat on the board at this time, its tribal council unanimously passed a resolution approving membership during its August 9 meeting, and authorized Charles Lujan and Lawrence Cata as its official representatives. Charles is the tribe's environmental director while Lawrence serves as the assistant director.

WRAP Workplan and Future Funding Strategy Under Way

The general WRAP strategy for 2007-2008 is to ensure completion of WRAP's technical work within the current budget. In the face of sharp budget cuts, one question will be where to find the resources to maintain the WRAP regional haze technical products so that they are available to states and tribes to measure progress in reducing regional haze by 2064. Another topic, which has been discussed in several tribal venues, is the expansion of WRAP to address other air quality issues of regional importance besides regional haze, such as climate change and mercury. Lewis Mcleod, WRAP Tribal Co-Director, is seeking input from all interested tribal representatives on what they see as possible issues for the WRAP to address, and the role of tribes in the future of the WRAP. He will be making a report of his findings to the WRAP Board on Sept. 13-14, so please contact him soon if you would like to voice your opinion. Lewis can be reached at lmcleod@ntec.org or 253/203-5547.

There will a special conference call of the WRAP Tribal Caucus on Sept. 6 (2:30 p.m. MT, 1:30 p.m. PT, and 12:30 p.m. Alaska) to give as much opportunity for tribal input as possible, especially for those that will not be able to attend the Tribal Caucus meeting on Sept. 11-12. The phone number for the call is 888-387-8686 and the room number is 9758908#.

FLMs and Regional Haze Plans in the West

A letter was recently drafted and sent by the Federal Land Managers to each of the state air directors in the WRAP region. The intent of this letter was to provide general insights to the directors about FLM concerns regarding regional haze state implementation plans (SIPs) and baseline, natural condition and uniform rate; emission inventories; area of influence; reasonable progress goals and long-term strategy; fire; regional consistency; verification and contingencies; and coordination and consultation. A copy of the draft letter has also been made available to the National Tribal Environmental Council for distribution to tribes within the WRAP region for a three-fold purpose. First, the letter provides a means for keeping tribes informed of communications between the FLMs who have a trust responsibility to tribes and states who don't have such a responsibility. Second, the letter provides a potential basis of future discussion(s) between these states and tribes that could be affected by a SIP. Third, the letter provides valuable insight for those tribes considering development of a regional haze implementation plan. Distribution of the letter has already begun. If you don't receive a copy of the letter by the end of August, please contact Bob Gruenig via e-mail at bgruenig@ntec.org or via phone at 505/242-2175 ext. 103 and he will make sure that you obtain a copy.

IMPROVE Network Reductions Proposed

The IMPROVE Steering Committee has proposed a prioritized list of possible IMPROVE site decommissioning in response to as much as a 15 percent reduction in monitoring support from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) starting with the FY 2007-2008 federal budget. Users have been asked to provide site-specific comments to the Steering Committee, including factors not used in the analysis that would bear on any final priority. While there are no tribal IMPROVE monitors on the proposed list, there has been much attention from individual states and tribes on this list, and a lot of discussion about the importance of the IMPROVE monitoring for the ongoing requirements of the regional haze program. See the report and proposed list at <http://www.wrapair.org/forums/aoh/meetings/060726den/IMPROVEsiteReductionPlanPresentation1.ppt>

Alaska Representative Communities Emission Inventory Completed

The long-awaited Alaska Representative Communities Emission Inventory has been completed. The purpose of the work was to characterize emissions from a representative sample of 13 small Alaska Native communities to enable initial emissions estimates for other communities without the need to do detailed emissions inventories. Included in the findings was that in some villages as much or more wood burning occurs in summer as in winter, due to summer campfires. Also, fugitive dust from motor vehicle use on unpaved streets is a big source category. The study also provided valuable lessons about conducting community surveys and other data gathering techniques. Jerry Pardilla, Alaska Native Outreach Coordinator, is currently scheduling meetings to complete the very important task of bringing these results back to the communities themselves. See the report and presentation at: http://wrapair.org/forums/ef/meetings/060712m/0607_AK_Rep_Comm_EI_Project_Update.pdf or http://wrapair.org/forums/ef/meetings/060712m/0607_AK_Rep_Comm_EI_Project_Update.ppt

WRAP Comments on Proposed EPA Headquarters Guidance on Consultation

The EPA published draft proposed headquarters guidance to regions on meeting consultation requirements for SIPs and TIPs. The Air Managers Committee and the Implementation Workgroup developed and submitted comments. The general themes are that the WRAP has a process of consultation that will satisfy the rule requirements and suggests that additional headquarters guidance could create unnecessary processes. Comments on the draft guidance are due in early August. [\(Click Here\)](#) for the draft guidance. [\(Click Here\)](#) for the WRAP comments.

RFPs issued by Tribal Data Development Work Group

On July 21, the Tribal Data Development Work Group (TDDWG) issued two Requests for Proposals (RFPs). The first, entitled *Analysis of Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans for Tribal Implications/Issues*, will assist tribes by providing technical assistance for their understanding of the regional haze SIPs and a professional analysis of each SIP for possible tribal implications.

The second RFP, *Provide Technical Assistance to Native American Tribes in the Western Regional Air Partnership (WRAP) Region pertaining to Regional Haze*, will assist tribes by providing access to the monitoring, modeling, and emissions inventory data that the WRAP has spent millions of dollars collecting. In essence, this project will provide interested tribes with the technical information that they would need to produce a Tribal Implementation Plan for regional haze.

Both RFP's are available on the WRAP website at <http://www.wrapair.org/tribal/index.htm>

Tom Webb (EPA) Leaves the WRAP and Regional Haze Program

After 10 years in the regional haze program working closely with states and tribes in the WRAP, Tom Webb from the Region 9 EPA Office has left for another position within the agency. In his position, Tom will be serving as a national “lead region” coordinator for EPA’s Office of the Chief Financial Officer (budget, planning, accountability) and Office of the Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resource Management (human resources, grants, contract). Over the years, Tom has made many valuable contributions to the WRAP’s committees, forums and workgroups and also has acted as the primary project officer for the WRAP. Most recently, he was providing input on the tribal-specific work being performed in support of Section 308 implementation plans. Please feel free to drop Tom a note via e-mail (Webb.Thomas@epamail.epa.gov) about his new position and to thank him for all his work within the WRAP.

Tribal Data Development Work Group Meeting Held

On July 26-27, the TDDWG held a quarterly meeting in Lapwai, Idaho, hosted by the Nez Perce Tribe. Highlights include an excellent presentation by Julie Simpson about the tribe’s air program, review and finalization of the FY06-07 TDDWG workplan, and a tour of the tribe’s air monitoring sites.



Julie Simpson giving a presentation about the Nez Perce Tribe’s Air Quality Program.

Mary Fauci provides information about the tribe’s air toxics monitoring program.



Comments from the Co-Director

Good day to everyone out there in Indian Country! Man has this been a busy July! Bob Gruenig sure didn't waste any time getting me into the loop.

I am truly impressed with the work being done by tribes in the WRAP. I offer my **Kudos** to everyone. When I was a participant in the process I always felt that we weren't doing enough to protect tribes from those trying to erode our sovereignty further, but I can now see I was wrong.

The editor of this fine news document told me I had to be brief so let me get right to it and let you know what I have been doing towards the effort:

Participated in conference calls 6, 7, 10, 14, 20, & 24th. These calls were for the Technical Oversight Committee, Attribution of Haze, Regional Program Officer, Planning Team Committee on the 14th and 24th, and finally the TDDWG on the 20th.

Attended the following meetings; Fire Emission Joint Forum, Emission Forum, Green House Gas Registry Meeting, Technical Support System Work Group, and finally the TDDWG meeting in Lewiston, ID (Thanks Nez Perce for hosting).

Just a short update on the July Climate Change meeting held in Denver the 17th and 18th of July. The meeting was really interesting, but most of it wasn't very informative as to what and where tribes fit in the process. From what I was hearing about the different registries, there will be a cost to tribes, just like to states, to register the pollutants involved with the greenhouse gases and I don't think tribes are in a position to do that. There is a meeting on the 6th and 7th of September in San Francisco to give a short Climate Change Registry 101 course. If anyone is interested in this presentation let me know by calling 406-675-3166 or email me @ lmcleod@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.

