



WRAP

TRIBAL NEWS

January 2007

Comment Period for FIP for Tribal Lands Extended

The comment period for the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA's) proposed Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) for Tribal Lands, which includes two New Source Review (NSR) Rules for air quality protection in tribal jurisdictional areas, has been extended for a second time. The new deadline for submitting comments is March 20, 2007. The signed copy of the comment period extension notice will be posted on the EPA's NSR webpage at www.epa.gov/nsr and its Tribal Air webpage at www.epa.gov/oar/tribal.

The first rule, known as the minor NSR rule, would apply to new and modified small (or minor) stationary sources. It would also apply to minor modifications at large (or major) stationary sources. A minor source is one that generally emits less than 100 tons per year of a target air pollutant. A major source emits over 100 tons per year.

The second rule, known as the nonattainment major NSR rule, would apply to new major stationary sources and major sources that undergo significant modifications in areas of Indian country that are designated as not attaining the National Ambient Air Quality Standards.

For further information, please contact either Jessica Montañez at the EPA, phone 919-541-3407, e-mail montanez.jessica@epa.gov; or Bob Gruenig, WRAP senior policy analyst, 505-242-2175 ext. 103, bgruenig@ntec.org.

Report on TDDWG Meeting

On January 23-24, the Tribal Data Development Work Group (TDDWG) met in Palm Springs, California. The primary focus was on moving the various TDDWG projects forward. There are currently four projects that the TDDWG is sponsoring:

1. Analysis of Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans for Tribal Implications/Issues. Contractor: MACTEC
2. Provide Technical Assistance to Native American Tribes in the WRAP Region pertaining to Regional Haze. Contractor: ENVIRON
3. Tribal Environmental Inventory project (includes TEISS training, etc). Contractor: ITEP
4. Phase II of the Representative Analysis of the IMPROVE Network.

Sharon Kersteter of MACTEC was present to discuss the "Analysis of Regional Haze State and Federal Implementation Plans for Tribal Implications/Issues" project, including revising some of the timelines. The TDDWG gave final approval to the first three project scopes of work, giving the go-ahead to finalize these contracts.

Three tribes were chosen to participate in the pilot project phase of Project 2: Fort Belknap, Campo, and Southern Ute. These tribes were selected for their diversity in size, amount of data available, and location. The pilot project will enable the TDDWG to determine how much time/resources will be required per tribe, which will allow it to determine how many tribes will be able to participate in this project. Any tribe that is

interested in participating should contact Kermit Snow at c2nites2000@yahoo.com.

There was also a lengthy discussion on how to maximize the value to tribes of Project 4 which led to a substantial reworking of the draft scope of work. Any questions on these projects can be directed to Kermit Snow or to Ken Cronin at kcronin@ntec.org.

Improving Air Quality in Indian County Workshop

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, in coordination with the National Tribal Environmental Council (NTEC), the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, and the National Tribal Air Association, will hold a training workshop titled "Improve and Protect Air Quality in Indian Country" in the Seattle, Washington, area on March 20-22.

Attendees will learn how air quality is impacted by sources outside Indian country, how Federal, state and local air programs regulate sources, when public input is most effective, and become familiar with tools to build relationships with outside agencies to further air quality improvements. The workshop is FREE and NTEC will provide travel/hotel/meal reimbursement for eligible applicants. Submit an on-line application and get more information at <http://projects.pechan.com/epa/tribalWorkshops/index.cfm>. **The application deadline is February 15.**

Comments from the Co-Director

Well, here we are again, at the beginning of a new year and a lot of new work on the horizon and an energized crew here at NTEC. Hello, everyone out there in Indian Country!!

As you can see below it was a pretty slow month for face-to-face meetings during the month of December 2006, but I made up for it in conference calls. The Idaho Environmental Summit was a huge success. Congratulations go out to Julie, Gwen Carter and her crew for the fine coordination they handled to pull this summit off. There was a very strong mix of air quality and water quality issues that received a tremendous amount of attention. I had the opportunity to mix and mingle with a number of people who displayed a sincere interest in the WRAP process, so maybe we will experience a revitalization of the forums and workgroups. I was given the opportunity to make a presentation about the WRAP and along with Idaho DEQ we were able to explain a small portion of the work ahead of the states in developing their State Implementation Plans for the Regional Haze Rule.

Good things continue to take place. My activities for the month of December included the following conference calls and meeting;

Participated in conference calls: 11th Inter RPO Call, 12th Tribal Caucus Call & Dust Forum Call (2), 13th AOH Call, 14th New Technical Analysis Forum Call, 18th AWMA Conference Call, 19th EDMS/ARS Conf Call, 21st IWG Conference Call, 22nd Multi-Registry MOU Working Group Conference Call .

Attended the following meeting; Idaho Environmental Summit

On a much sadder note I must mention the passing of Daniel Ellanak, and express our (NTEC's) sincere condolences for Katherine's loss as well as ours. Daniel was the kind of guy that gave all he had and still found a reserve when he was called upon. We mourn with you, Katherine, and pray to the Creator that Daniel is at rest now.

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, at 505/242-2175 ext. 104 or e-mail sparker@ntec.org.

