



Highlights of the National Tribal Water Council Mid-Year Activities

The National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) is providing a highlight of its activities for the first half of the year. The following is a summary of the NTWC's completed and ongoing activities.

Consultation Opportunities and NTWC Responses

The NTWC submitted a comment letter for the following consultation opportunities:

- Joint comment letter from the NTWC and the Universal Access to Clean Water for Tribal Communities to support the HUD/IHS Housing-related Infrastructure for Tribal Communities; submitted on January 8, 2025.
- Joint comment letter from the NTWC and the National Tribal Caucus on the *EPA's Notice of Consultation and Coordination on Upcoming Effort to Revise the Definition of "Waters of the United States"*; submitted on April 15, 2025.

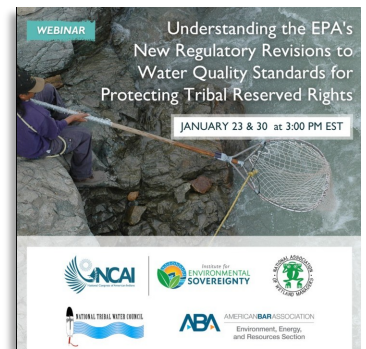
The Council is currently working on drafting a comment letter for the following consultation opportunity:

- *EPA's Upcoming Efforts to Address Implementation Challenges Associated with CWA Section 401*, comments are due September 7, 2025.

Outreach and Engagement Opportunities

The NTWC members connect with Indian Country by conducting presentations and attending meetings to promote tribal water program priorities and concerns.

The National Congress of American Indians (NCAI), in collaboration with the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) and the National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM), held a two-part webinar series on the Tribal Reserved Rights Rule on January 23 and 30, 2025. The series focused on the U.S. EPA's newly finalized rule, which revises 40 CFR Part 131 to require the EPA and states to consider Tribal reserved rights, such as fishing, hunting, and gathering, when establishing or revising water quality standards. The recordings of the webinars are available on the NCAI's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/@NcaiOrg1944>



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NEWSLETTER

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NTWC Mid-Year Activities Summary *(continued)*

2025 NTWC & EPA Office of Water Spring In-Person Meeting



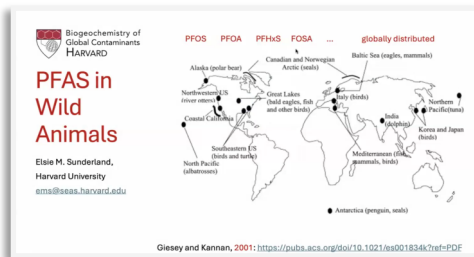
The NTWC and the U.S. EPA Office of Water held its 2025 spring in-person meeting on May 21-22, 2025, at the William D. Ruckelshaus Conference Center, EPA Headquarters in Washington, D.C. NTWC members met with EPA staff and discussed topics related to the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act during this two-day meeting. A highlight of this meeting was featured in the June 2025 newsletter.

Tribal PFAS Working Group

The NTWC members participate in the Tribal PFAS Working Group, along with other members from the Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, and the Tribal Pesticide Program Council.

The NTWC and the Tribal PFAS Working Group submitted comment letters for the following consultation opportunities:

- *EPA's Draft Human Health Ambient Water Quality Criteria of PFOA, PFOS, and PFBS*; submitted on February 20, 2025.
- *EPA's Draft Sewage Sludge Risk Assessment for PFOA and PFOS*; submitted on April 15, 2025.



Additionally, the Tribal PFAS Working Group hosted a webinar on June 12, 2025, with special guest speaker Dr. Elise Sunderland, Harvard University, that presented on “Model Predicts PFAS Buildup in Wild Animals.” The webinar recording is available on the NTWC’s MediaSpace page: <https://mediaspace.nau.edu/channel/National+Tribal+Water+Council/116196612>

The Tribal PFAS Working Group co-leads Page Hingst and Dianne Barton will be providing a one-day workshop titled “The World of Emerging Contaminants” during the 2025 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum on August 18, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Ongoing and Upcoming Activities for the Remainder of 2025

The NTWC’s ongoing work includes the following:

- Refining its core priorities for the next two years, 2025-2026
- Holding its 2025 NTWC Fall In-Person Meeting in October 2025
- Continuing to recruit NTWC membership to fill three (3) member vacancies for a Region 3 Representative and two At-Large Representatives.

Follow both the **National Tribal Water Council** and **Tribal PFAS Working Group** on Facebook and stay up to date with all our activities.

@NationalTribalWaterCouncil



@TribalPFASWorkGroup

CONSIDER JOINING OUR WATER COUNCIL



SCAN HERE
for the application

WHO WE ARE

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water quality.

WHAT WE DO

- **Policy Response:** Conducts analysis of water policies and initiatives that impact Tribes and responds by preparing comment letters, white papers, or briefs.
- **Information Exchange:** Engage and collaborate with national, regional, tribal organizations, or working groups.
- **Set Priorities:** Publish a biennial "Tribal Water Priorities" document that identifies Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) priorities.

OPEN POSITIONS: REGION 3 & AT-LARGE REPS

The Council is accepting applications from tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization to fill three (3) vacancies.

- **Region 3:** Tribal water professionals from Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia)
- **At-Large:** Tribal water professionals from Regions 1 to 10 to fill two (2) vacancies for the At-Large positions.

Tribal water professionals with knowledge in the CWA and SDWA are encouraged to apply. Also, an applicant with a background in water infrastructure, drinking water, wastewater, and operations and maintenance, is a plus but not required.

WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

Member duties include, but not limited to:

- Participating in monthly virtual calls;
- Attending two in-person meetings annually; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu.

<https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

National NPS Biennial Workshop, October 27-29, 2025

The National NPS Biennial Workshop will be held on October 27-29, 2025, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This event offers an opportunity for CWA Section 319 state, territorial, and Tribal grantees to convene on national programmatic and knowledge sharing and technical assistance. The national NPS program and planning committee are developing robust Tribal specific sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Outreach for Tribal speakers and session participants will be happening throughout the summer. If you are interested to be involved with planning, please reach out to Margot Buckelew (Buckelew.margot@epa.gov). Additionally, if interested to attend, registration is open and you may [Register for the workshop here](#).

EPA Pacific Northwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training, November 17-20, 2025

The training will address Clean Water Act (CWA) programs including Section 106, Section 319, Section 303(d), water quality standards, and wetlands and will be useful to Tribes who work on these programs or are interested in pursuing Treatment in a similar manner as a State (TAS) status for one or more programs. The training workshop is targeted to Tribes who conduct water quality monitoring, issue water quality certifications, and address water quality issues, nonpoint source pollution, and impaired waters/TMDLs. Tribal staff from across the country are invited, although there will be a focus on examples and applications for Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

The training workshop is free to attend, and registration is open! For more information, please visit: <https://nawm.org/trainings/pacific-northwest-tribal-clean-water-act-training>

EVENTS & WEBINARS

Tribal Exchange Network Group - Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions

Held the third Thursday of every month from 10:00-11:30 AM (Pacific)

<https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/trainings-events>

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing online, in-person, and blended trainings. To register or to view the 2025 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Worker Safety Course: August 26-28, 2025 (Phoenix, AZ)

EPA Drinking Water Training Webinar

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>

- August 20, 2025: Introduction to the Updated Return to Compliance (RTC) Table Webinar

EPA Water Utility Resilience Events

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

- August 21, 2025: Cybersecurity Refresher
- August 28, 2025: EPA Water Cybersecurity Assessment Tool Training

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

- August 20, 2025: Microplastics

TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Proposed renewal of the NPDES Stormwater Construction General Permit

Deadline: September 5, 2025

The EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on the proposed renewal of the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Stormwater Construction General Permit (CGP). Under Clean Water Act section 402(p)(2) and (p)(6) and 40 CFR 122.26(a)(1)(ii), (a)(9)(i)(B) (b)(14)(x), and (b)(15), stormwater discharges from certain construction activities into waters of the United States must be authorized by a state or EPA-issued NPDES permit.

The CGP regulates stormwater discharges from construction activities (including, but not limited to, clearing, grading, excavating, and stockpiling) that disturb one or more acres, or smaller sites that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale that disturb one or more acres in areas where EPA is the permitting authority. EPA renews this permit every five years, and the current CGP is scheduled to expire on February 17, 2027. EPA is the NPDES permitting authority in most Indian Country lands. Additional information about the CGP can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-construction-activities>.

Tribes may submit written consultation comments and request one-on-one consultation meetings via email to Lauren Mosesso at mosesso.lauren@epa.gov.

EPA's Upcoming Efforts to Address Implementation Challenges Associated with CWA Section 401

Deadline: September 7, 2025

The EPA is initiating consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes on regulatory uncertainty or implementation challenges associated with Clean Water Act Section 401 certification process as defined in the 2023 Water Quality Certification Improvement Rule. The tribal consultation kick-off webinar is scheduled on July 23, 2025 (2-4 PM ET), to register: [Registration Link](#)

Tribes may submit written consultation comments at any time during the Tribal consultation and coordination process via email to cwa401@epa.gov. If you would like to request government-to-government consultation with the agency on this action, please have your staff contact the agency via email to cwa401@epa.gov by September 7, 2025. For questions, please contact: Lauren Kasperek, cwa401@epa.gov, (202) 564-3351.

The notification letter and consultation plan can be found on the EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System: <https://tcots.epa.gov>. Additional information on CWA Section 401 and this notice can be found on the [EPA's CWA Section 401 webpage](#).

Memorandum on Clarification regarding the Application of Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification: On May 21, 2025, [EPA issued a memorandum](#) that clarified the significant but limited role that states and Tribes play in the federal licensing and permitting processes under Clean Water Act Section 401. The direction provided in this memorandum reflects the [existing requirements](#) of the agency's CWA section 401 certification rule issued in 2023, without changes or updates.

NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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email: itep@nau.edu



*Bryozoan - West Twin Lake, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa;
Their presence is often an indicator of clean, healthy water.*