



# Native Voices



**NAU** NORTHERN ARIZONA UNIVERSITY

Office of Native American Initiatives

One Tribe, One Earth

March 2021

**Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals**  
PO Box 15004  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011-5004  
Ph: 928-523-9555  
Fax: 928-523-1266  
[nau.edu/itep](http://nau.edu/itep)

**Contact Us!**

*Ann Marie Chischilly*  
Director  
[Ann-Marie.Chischilly@nau.edu](mailto:Ann-Marie.Chischilly@nau.edu)

*Mehrdad Khatibi*  
Assistant Director  
[Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu](mailto:Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu)

**AIAQTP**  
*Christal Black*  
Program Coordinator, Sr.  
[Christal.Black@nau.edu](mailto:Christal.Black@nau.edu)

*Sharlene Brown*  
Administrative Services Assistant, Senior  
[Sharlene.Brown@nau.edu](mailto:Sharlene.Brown@nau.edu)

*Nashelly Meneses*  
Instructional Specialist, Sr,  
[Nashelly.Meneses@nau.edu](mailto:Nashelly.Meneses@nau.edu)

*Natasha Fulton*  
Technical Training Analyst  
[Natasha.Fulton@nau.edu](mailto:Natasha.Fulton@nau.edu)

*Lydia Scheer*

## Welcome to the Native Voices newsletter!

The March 2021 issue features:

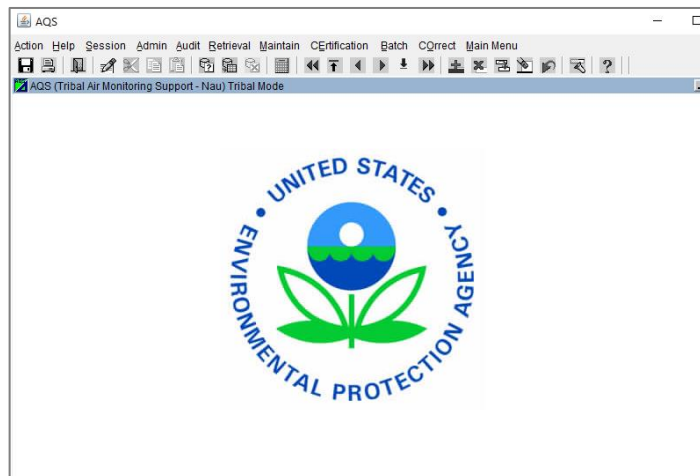
- [Air Quality System Basics](#)
- [Respond to the TAMS Technical Needs Assessment](#)
- [Upcoming Events](#)
- [In case you missed it...](#)

**Let us know what you think:**  
[Submit your comments or suggestions about the Native Voices Newsletter](#)

### Air Quality System Basics

**By Mike King, Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center, Technical Training Analyst**

You may have heard the acronym “AQS” spoken a few times within the air quality monitoring arena, or possibly within your own tribal air program. If you are curious as to what the acronym “AQS” represents, it is the Air Quality System (AQS) database. Be sure to add “AQS” to your list of EPA acronyms, as this is an important one. For those that might be unfamiliar, AQS is an EPA-administered database for handling the storage and retrieval of information pertaining to ambient or outdoor air pollutants and meteorological data.



The U.S. EPA Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS) oversees the AQS database to receive and store air quality data collected from thousands of air monitors operated by EPA, state, local and tribal air monitoring agencies.

*Image, left: AQS Database home screen.*

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to provide a national database of ambient air pollution data containing criteria pollutant data (SO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>2</sub>, O<sub>3</sub>, CO, PM<sub>10</sub>, PM<sub>2.5</sub> and Pb), air toxic data, photochemical assessment data, and meteorological data. In addition, the database contains descriptive monitoring site information, which includes geographic location and operator information as well as data quality assurance and control information. Overall, the purpose of the AQS database is to assist in the collection and maintenance of air quality data in order to establish and enforce air quality standards set forth by the CAA.

Manager  
[Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu](mailto:Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu)

### [TAMS Center](#)

Chris Lee  
TAMS Co-Director  
[Christopher.Lee@nau.edu](mailto:Christopher.Lee@nau.edu)

Hayden Hardie  
EPA Co-Director  
[Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov](mailto:Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov)

Darlene Santos  
Administrative Associate  
[Darlene.Santos@nau.edu](mailto:Darlene.Santos@nau.edu)

Melinda Ronca-Battista  
Research Associate  
[Melinda.Ronca-Battista@nau.edu](mailto:Melinda.Ronca-Battista@nau.edu)

Angelique Luedeker  
IT Support Analyst  
[Angelique.Luedeker@nau.edu](mailto:Angelique.Luedeker@nau.edu)

Mike King  
Technical Training Analyst  
[Michael.King@nau.edu](mailto:Michael.King@nau.edu)

Josephine Kamkoff  
Community Program  
Coordinator  
[Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu](mailto:Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu)

### [Environmental Education Outreach Program](#)

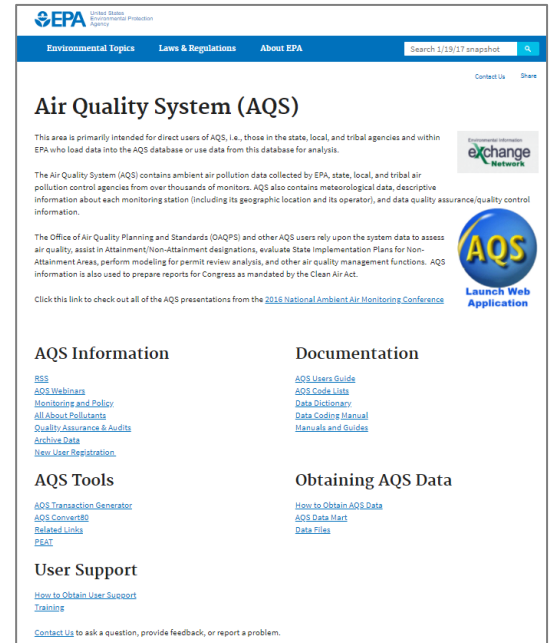
Mansel Nelson  
Program Director  
[Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu](mailto:Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu)

Josephine Kamkoff  
Community Program  
Coordinator  
[Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu](mailto:Josephine.Kamkoff@nau.edu)

The AQS database uses Oracle database software. You can access the database via your web browsers (i.e. Chrome, Internet Explorer) at [www.epa.gov/aqs](http://www.epa.gov/aqs).

You will need to download Java runtime at <https://java.com/en/download/>. If you already have Java runtime, you might get prompted to update the program to a newer version. For AQS use, you can use the new version and accept the installation.

*Image, right: AQS website page.*



Keep in mind the data is not reported in real-time, but reporting agencies are required to upload data to AQS every ninety (90) days with data subject to quality assurance review prior to uploading. AQS is also used to assess air quality for attainment/non-attainment designations, perform air dispersion modeling, and prepare reports as mandated by the CAA for Congress, but in our case this may include tribal council or leadership.

### **Join us for a two-part webinar series on March 23 and March 30, 2021**

TAMS Center and EPA OAQPS will host a two-part webinar series titled, “Air Quality System Basics.” The webinar series will focus on providing basic information on topics such as:

- How to gain access credentials to AQS,
- How to login to AQS, and
- How to retrieve data from AQS and the New AQS Support Process.

There will also be a demonstration of short “How to Videos” located on [EPA’s AQS training website](#). Other more technical topics will include *Data Coding and Transaction Formats*, *How to establish a Site and Monitor in AQS*, and *How to Load and Correct data in AQS*. If you are interested in learning more about AQS, you may register for the series below:

- **Register for AQS Basics Webinar 1:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8183656662852822797>
- **Register for AQS Basics Webinar 2:**  
<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5848888801247317261>

For more information, contact [Christal.Black@nau.edu](mailto:Christal.Black@nau.edu) or [Michael.King@nau.edu](mailto:Michael.King@nau.edu).

*Michael King is also available to provide technical assistance with installation, operation, and troubleshooting of air monitoring and meteorological equipment. Please contact Christopher Lee, TAMS-ITEP Co-Director, at [Christopher.Lee@nau.edu](mailto:Christopher.Lee@nau.edu) or 702-784-8278 for further information on the TAMS Center professional assistance (PA) services.*

**For more information:**

[ITEP Training](#)

[Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities](#)

[ITEP Climate Change Program](#)

[National Tribal Air Association](#)

[ITEP Videos & Media](#)

[EPA Tribal Air and Climate Resources](#)

## Respond to the TAMS Technical Needs Assessment

The Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center developed an online Technical Needs Assessment form to identify the technical support requirements of tribal air quality programs nationwide. The goal of this Needs Assessment is to aid in the development of services that better meet tribal air quality program goals and objectives. The form asks for specific information related to both ambient air quality and indoor air quality concerns that affect Tribes. Input obtained through this online questionnaire will help identify focus areas and support needs so that future technical training and support can be tailored to Tribes. [Complete the form online](#) by April 30, 2021.

If you have questions, feel free to contact either of the TAMS Co-Directors, Christopher Lee ([Christopher.Lee@nau.edu](mailto:Christopher.Lee@nau.edu), 702-784-8278) or Hayden Hardie ([Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov](mailto:Hardie.Hayden@epa.gov), 702-784-8232).

## Upcoming Events

### *National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)*

**May 17-20, 2021, Virtual**

Visit the [NTFAQ webpage](#) for more information.



## In case you missed it...

### [Webinars hosted by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals:](#)

- September 23, 2020: ITEP Research Education on Air and Cardiovascular Health (REACH)
- September 29, 2020: Planning an Air Quality Project
- October 13, 2020: Emission Inventories, Your Questions Answered
- October 26th to November 20, 2020: Reviewing Air Quality Permits
- November 11, 2020: Road Dust Webinar #4: Sharing Community Experiences (Part 2)
- November 12, 2020: Introduction to Air Monitoring and Remote Professional Assistance
- December 1, 7, 15, 2020: Webinar Series - Woodstove Operation and Maintenance in Indian Country

This publication was developed under Assistance Agreement IT- 83590501 awarded by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. It has not been formally reviewed by EPA. The views expressed in this document are solely those of Arizona Board of Regents/Northern Arizona University and EPA does not endorse any products or commercial services mentioned in this publication.

\*\*\*You are receiving this email because you are subscribed to ITEP's Native Voices Listserv. To manage your ITEP listserv subscriptions, go to <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/listsrv/>. Thank you!\*\*\*