Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter!

■ New National Steering Committee for Waste Management and Response
Todd Barnell, TSWEAP Program Coordinator Senior

As part of ITEP’s ongoing work in the fields of solid and hazardous waste management, brownfields and land remediation, and emergency response, we are currently accepting applications for a national steering committee.

The primary role of Steering Committee members will be to ensure tribal input and assist with successfully establishing a tribally-relevant waste management and response training, technical assistance, and research program in partnership with the US Environmental Protection Agency’s Office of Solid Waste Emergency Response (OSWER) and ITEP. The Steering Committee will be composed of professionals working for tribes in the fields of solid waste, hazardous waste, brownfields, and emergency and remedial response.

The members of the Steering Committee will be appointed to two-year terms, initially, and will work with ITEP and EPA OSWER staff to develop a charter for the committee.

Applications for the Steering Committee will be accepted by ITEP up to July 1 2009. At that time a selection committee, composed of staff from ITEP, OSWER, USEPA Regional offices, and tribal programs, will review the applications and make final selections. Successful applicants will be notified of their selection in September 2009 and will meet for the first time in November 2009.

If you would like an application for the Steering Committee, please contact Roberta Tohannie at Roberta.Tohannie@nau.edu and she will email you an electronic application.

We are also soliciting applications from tribal staff who would like to serve on the selection committee. This committee will review applications for the steering committee and make the final selection of applicants. If you are interested in serving on the selection committee, please feel free to call me at 928-523-3840. The deadline for applications is May 1, 2009.

Meet Our Staff:

■ Todd Barnell, Program Coordinator, Senior
Todd joined ITEP in 2002 and has managed TSWEAP since 2006. Prior to joining ITEP Mr. Barnell worked for The Nature Conservancy and as a field researcher on ecology and climate projects.
928-523-3840
Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

■ John Mead, Program Coordinator Senior, ECI
John has been with ITEP since 2002. In the past he has managed our Wastewater Training Program and worked on a green building project as well as ECI. In 2008 he began managing the ECI program.
928-523-2005
John.Mead@nau.edu

■ Roberta Tohannie, Program Coordinator, TSWEAP
As a member of ITEP since 2007, Roberta assists in the coordination of TSWEAP and ECI activities. She has worked on tribal rangeland research, forest restoration projects, and higher education programs.
928-523-2082
Roberta.Tohannie@nau.edu

■ Pam Malone, Program Coordinator, ECI
Pam joined ITEP in 2008. She provides research and trainings for Tribes
John Mead (JM): Scott, can you briefly describe what needs arose on Sandia that prompted you to obtain federal inspector credentials?

Scott Bulgrin (SB): I don’t know if I can be brief about it but.... The Pueblo of Sandia decided to pursue Federal Inspector Credentials from the USEPA under the Clean Water Act: NPDES Authority because of the Pueblo of Sandia’s unique location. The Pueblo of Sandia is located in central New Mexico and is bordered by the City of Albuquerque to the south, the Town of Bernalillo to the north, and the Village of Corrales and City of Rio Rancho to the west. With respect to NPDES permittees there are three wastewater treatment plant (WWTP) discharges and one Municipal Separate Storm Sewer System (MS4) discharge that enter into the Pueblo of Sandia’s subreach of the Middle Rio Grande. With these permittees, the Pueblo of Sandia has been extensively involved with the NPDES program with respect to permitting, compliance and enforcement.

JM: How long did the credential process take from the time you applied to when you received your credentials and did you have any trouble finding the required training courses?

SB: The Pueblo of Sandia initiated the credential process with a letter to the USEPA Region 6 on June 16, 2006 and received Federal Credentials on October 9, 2007. Training? There was no need for any stinkin’ training! Just kidding. Yes, training courses are needed and specified if federal credentials are sought. The time frame for completion of training and scheduling of courses are two aspects that needed to be taken in consideration if credentials are pursued. Luckily, the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals puts on two of the required courses for credential process - their basic inspector training and their media specific training. Both of these are offered at least once a year. I recommend both trainings to any tribal professional wishing to conduct inspections.

JM: Now that you have the inspector credential, how do you see that as a benefit to the tribe?

SB: By my obtaining federal inspector credentials the Pueblo of Sandia has benefitted by my ability to conduct NPDES inspections on behalf of the EPA, respond to spills and problems in a timely manner, and assist EPA in compliance and enforcement activities which protect the environment and natural resources of the Pueblo of Sandia.

JM: What advice would you offer to other tribal environmental professionals who are contemplating acquiring federal inspector credentials?

SB: Tribal environmental professionals know what is important to their Tribe, Pueblo or Native American
Nation. Since each is sovereign and unique I recommend each closely examine the pros and cons of acquiring federal inspector credentials. If after serious consideration, this is the route they would like to take I say go for it, but remember the federal credentials are given to an individual, not to an entity, take time to acquire, and are media specific. Also remember there are no laws or regulations that state that a Native American community cannot create their own inspection programs under Tribal codes and laws if they so desire.

---

**ITEP’s new course: Tribal Code Development**

Pam Malone, ECI Program Coordinator

When ITEP began to develop a Tribal Code Development course, the topic of tribes and code development presented an enormous research task. We were determined to develop a course in ITEP’s unique training style that would cover topics, issues, and course material on code development in a three-day training course which emphasized the tribal perspective. Upon examining the research and listening to folks from several tribes and agencies, we determined that there was a void in training that ITEP and our ECI program understood to be a real need in Indian Country.

So, the ECI program staff rolled up their sleeves and worked to develop this course. It was understood that no matter how daunting the task, a Tribal Code Development course needed to be developed for tribes.

Work on the course initially began by conducting research into existing Tribal Codes, and the list was enormous. Instead of developing a technical assistance approach, we reviewed the research and began to view the course as a series of case studies with a focus on code development in a variety of environmental media. The media topics chosen were Brownfields/Response, Solid Waste, Air and Water Quality.

After the new course was advertised, we received 51 applications from tribal professionals; however, due to budget restrictions we were limited to accepting 26 participants for the course. The course was entirely taught by Tribal Instructors from Southern Ute, Pueblo of Santa Clara, Pueblo of Sandia, and Shoshone-Bannock tribes with hands on experience in Brownfields/Response, Solid Waste, Air and Water Quality. The tribal instructor’s presentations covered code development topics such as establishing environmental policies, strategy implementation, general uses and standards, importance of community and tribal leadership input and approval, jurisdiction and authority issues, and last but not least compliance and enforcement.

During the course, many participants expressed the need to educate tribal leadership about the many aspects and stages of code development. An expressed benefit from each participant was the opportunity to network and openly discuss ideas that fit into the process of developing their tribal codes, stories about making recommendations to their tribal leaders or council, and sharing experiences implementing their tribal codes with respect to regional, state, and federal government agencies.

Many of the participants expressed satisfaction with the tribal code development course and stated that clearly, ITEP’s courses provide education, resources, and support to Tribes in their protection of tribal natural resources and addressing environmental and health issues for non-tribal and tribal members. ITEP staff will continue working with tribal instructors to incorporate suggestions for changes and to refine this course, which will be offered a second time in FY 2010.

*For information on our next Tribal Code Development course, or other ECI courses, please contact one of the ECI staff.*
Upcoming Training Opportunities:
The TSWEAP program has three upcoming courses:

- Developing a Tribal Integrated Solid Waste Management Plan, May 19-21 in Portland, OR
- Addressing and Managing Illegal Dumps in Indian Country, July 21-23 in Denver, CO
- Source Reduction Strategies for Tribal Solid Waste Programs, September 22-24 in Minneapolis, MN

The ECI program has two upcoming courses:

- Tribal Basic Inspector Training, April 21-23 in Denver, CO
- TBA, August 18-20 in St. Paul, MN