Meet Our Staff:

- **Todd Barnell**, Program Manager, TSWEAP and TWRAP
  Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

- **Jennifer Williams**, Program Coordinator Sr, TWRAP, and NTTCP
  Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

- **John Mead**, Program Coordinator Sr, TWRAP, and NTTCP
  John.Mead@nau.edu

- **Roberta Tohannie**, Program Coordinator, TSWEAP, TWRAP, and NNWDP
  Roberta.Tohannie@nau.edu

- **Full Circle Network**
  Did someone forward this newsletter to you? Send an email to Todd Barnell to subscribe or unsubscribe to the newsletter. Archived issues can be found at:
  www4.nau.edu/itep/waste

**Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter**

![Cleanup work begins on the Catholic 40 site.](image)

- **Quapaw Tribe Announces First Tribally-Managed Superfund Site Cleanup in the Nation**

  For the first time in the history of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Superfund Cleanup program, a tribe will be leading and managing the cleanup of a property with a Superfund site. The Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma has initiated the cleanup of the Catholic 40 site, which is located within the Tar Creek Superfund Site in Northeast Oklahoma. This site is southeast of Quapaw, Oklahoma and is owned by the Quapaw Tribe.

  In 1892, the Catholic Church constructed a church and boarding school where many Quapaw Tribal members attended church and school until 1927 when the Catholic Church closed the facilities. In 1937, the Catholic Church leased the property for mining, which resulted in the site being largely covered by mine tailings (locally known as chat), which is contaminated with heavy metals. The ruins of the church and school, as well as contaminated mine tailings, remain on the property today. The Quapaw Tribe wishes to remediate the land and preserve historic features on it.

  The Tar Creek Superfund site is comprised of nearly 40 square miles of mine tailings, undermined areas, and acid mine drainage areas. The tribe has a staff of engineers, scientists, and construction managers; they also have most of the construction equipment necessary to perform this work. The tribe has worked with EPA's Region 6 office in Dallas to utilize existing site plans so that consistency among various site-wide projects is maintained. The tribe has also developed work plans required by EPA to perform the work. EPA has approved these plans and will also provide project oversight.

  The tribe anticipates success of the Catholic 40 Cleanup Project, which will demonstrate to EPA and the local community that the tribe has the capability to participate in other remediation efforts at the Tar Creek site. This Superfund site has adversely affected the Quapaw Tribe and other tribes in the area for generations. Remediating key areas will ultimately enable land to be brought back into productive uses. The project will address source material and affected transition zone (TZ) soils. The contaminations of concern (COCs) at the Catholic 40 are lead, zinc, and cadmium.

  Quapaw Tribal Chairman John Berrey acknowledged the cooperation between the government entities regarding the tribe's direct involvement in the project. "Through the encouragement of Senator [James] Inhofe and the innovative and
cooperative efforts between the Quapaw Tribe, EPA Region 6, and local landowners, this first-ever tribally-led Superfund cleanup effort is exciting for everyone.” Chairman Berrey went on to say, “The Quapaw Tribe will be here forever, and we have a vested interest in the land and in the interests of our neighbors. Therefore, we are anxious to demonstrate that the Quapaw Tribe is the appropriate stakeholder to perform remediation activities on tribal properties and, thereby, help restore the land to uses that will benefit the future of the tribe and the local community.”

To learn more, please visit the Quapaw Tribe’s website at: www.quapawtribe.com/index.aspx?nid=122

Interested in Lending a Helping Hand to Your Tribal Colleagues?

We are always looking for new tribal mentors - tribal professionals who are willing to make themselves available to chat on the phone or over email with their colleagues at other tribes who may be struggling with various aspects of work. Here at ITEP we receive many requests for technical assistance on subjects ranging from transfer station management, creation of solid waste codes, starting a brownfields program, to conducting efficient UST inspections - to name just a few. One of the things we like to do is put people in touch with other tribal professionals who have met these challenges and perhaps developed unique solutions they would be willing to share. We currently have over twenty tribal mentors, providing assistance with transfer stations, recycling operations, creating ISMWP’s, running brownfields and UST programs, to name a few. But we are always looking for additional mentors. If you would be interested in being a mentor to other tribal professionals, please visit our website at www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/, where you’ll find an online form you can fill out. And thank you for sharing your knowledge, passion and expertise!

Uranium Contamination on Navajo Nation Worse Than Thought
(from www.indianz.com)

The EPA has vowed to clean up more than 500 uranium sites on the reservation. But the process is moving very slowly even as more abandoned mines are being discovered.

“It is shocking — it’s all over the reservation,” Jared Blumenfeld, a regional administrator for the EPA, told The New York Times. “I think everyone, even the Navajos themselves, have been shocked about the number of mines that were both active and abandoned.”

A year ago, the EPA said it has spent $100 million between 2008 and 2012 to address high priority sites on the reservation. One of them is in the Red Water Pond Road community in New Mexico, where cleanup is estimated to cost $45 million.

The project still requires federal review and it could take another two years before cleanup begins. In the meantime, residents might have to relocate in order to avoid health and environmental problems.

“This is where we’re used to being, traditionally, culturally” Bertha Nez told the paper. “Nobody told us it was unsafe. Nobody warned us we would be living all this time with this risk.”

Original New York Times article

Original US EPA Press Release
http://yosemite.epa.gov/opa/admpress.nsf/0/DA0669F0BA82403085257AFD0060CFEC

Resources and Announcements

Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation Grant Opportunity

The mission of the Irwin Andrew Porter Foundation is to fund innovative projects that foster connections between individuals, communities, the environment and the world at large. The foundation funds in a broad range of focus areas and is most interested in projects that require and/or inspire those directly benefiting from the project to give back to their communities both during the project and into the future. The deadline for this grant is April 30, 2014.

Program URL: www.iapfoundation.org/apply/guidelines

FY2014 Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants Request for Proposals Issued

RFP# EPA-OSWER-OBLR-14-2

EPA is announcing the availability of funding to eligible entities, including nonprofit organizations, to conduct research, or provide technical assistance to communities facing brownfields cleanup and revitalization challenges. Proposals are due April 1, 2014. Focus areas of this announcement include:

- technical assistance to environmental workforce development and job training grantees
- technical assistance on the integration of environmental justice and equitable development for brownfields-impacted communities
• research on the benefits of brownfields redevelopment
• technical assistance on brownfields financing and economic development strategies to brownfields-impacted communities.

**FY14 Brownfields Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants Guidelines** (PDF) (28 pp, 675K)

**Learn more about Training, Research, and Technical Assistance Grants**

**AmeriCorps for Native American Tribes**
This AmeriCorps State and National (AmeriCorps) Notice of Federal Funding Opportunity will focus grant making for fiscal year 2014 in six focus areas: Disaster Services, Economic Opportunity, Education, Environmental Stewardship, Healthy Futures, and Veterans and Military Families. The deadline for this opportunity is **April 30, 2014**.

Program website:

**Insurers Cannot Use Subrogation to Recover Cleanup Costs Paid to an Insured From Other PRPs**
By Kevin Haroff, Marten Law

The U.S. Supreme Court has written the last chapter in a years-long effort by an insurance company to recover money paid to an insured from other PRPs in a CERCLA case under a subrogation theory. In denying a petition for certiorari, the high Court declined to review a decision by the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals that limited the rights of insurance companies to recover payments made for environmental cleanup costs under the federal Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA), 42. U.S.C. §§ 9602-9675. Chubb Custom Insurance Company v. Space Systems/Loral, et al., 710 F.3d 946 (9th Cir. 2013), cert. denied, 82 U.S.L.W. 3241 (U.S. Jan. 13, 2014) (No. 13-412). In doing so, the Court confirmed the importance of applying strict rules of construction when assessing the scope of the “tripartite” scheme of statutory remedies (cost recovery, contribution, and subrogation) that are available under CERCLA, depending on relevant factual and legal circumstances.
[Read the full article](#)

**Find Us On Facebook!**
[www.facebook.com/ITEPnau](http://www.facebook.com/ITEPnau)

---

**Learn more...**

**Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program (TWRAP)**
TWRAP is a program focused on assisting tribes with all waste management, brownfields, USTs, contaminated sites, and response programs. This program is funded by the USEPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response.

**Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program (TSWEAP)**
TSWEAP's focus is providing training and assistance to tribes working on solid and hazardous waste management.

©2002 Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University
email: [itep@nau.edu](mailto:itep@nau.edu)