

## Tribal Superfund Working Group (TSWG) Call Notes

July 9, 2014, 2 pm – 3:15 pm Eastern

The workgroup goal is to help maintain and enhance the connections made at the Tribal Lands Forum meetings and foster connections among tribal environmental professionals working on Superfund issues.

*These are salient point notes recorded by Anne Dailey, Bob Myers and Christine Poore, EPA and are only intended to record the key points and not the details of the discussions. Changes should be noted ASAP so that they can be reflected in revised notes.*

### Attendance:

Chandra Manandhar	Navajo EPA Superfund Program	Craig Arquette	St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, NY
Jason White	Cherokee Nation	Craig Graveratte	Saginaw Chippewa Tribe
Diane Stevenson	Cherokee Nation	Jessica Jock	St. Regis Mohawk Tribe, NY
Melissa Witkowski	Grand Traverse Band of Ottawa and Chippewa	Johnnye Lewis	Community Environmental Health Program, UNM-HSC College of Pharmacy
Susan Hanson	Shoshone Bannock	Jane Neumann	Second Wind Consulting
Rochelle Rollenhagen	Little River Band of Ottawa Indians	Adam Ringia	Pueblo of Laguna
Michele Dineyazhe	Navajo Nation (on IPA from EPA)	Chris Villarreal	EPA, Region 6
Katie Kruse	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	LaDonna Turner	EPA, Region 6
Kristen Hanson	Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians	Linda Reeves	EPA, Region 9
Jennifer Sanscrainte	Short Cressman & Burgess PLLC	Christine Poore	EPA, Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation (OSRTI)
Randy Connolly	Spokane Tribe	Bob Myers	EPA, OSRTI
Larry Tippit	Peoria Tribe	Anne Dailey	EPA, OSRTI

### Welcome and Introductions

Thank you for participating on the call today!

If you have changes the roster, please let us know. We already have several updates and an updated roster is attached to the email transmitting the meeting notes.

### **Update on Tar Creek Catholic 40 Remedial Action (led by Quapaw Tribe) – Tim Kent, Quapaw Tribe**

\*\*Note – Tim was unable to join the call. We will plan to include a Catholic 40 update on the next call.

### **Federal Actions to Address Impacts of Uranium Contamination in the Navajo Nation – Linda Reeves, EPA Region 9**

- See attached handout materials.
- Johnnye Lewis also mentioned Navajo cohort study that is being conducted with the Navajo Health Department with funding from the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences to examine the long-term low level of exposure to uranium waste.

### **Contaminated Structures, Abandoned Uranium Mine Clean-up and Disposal - Chandra Manandhar, Navajo EPA Superfund Program**

- See attached handout materials.

### **Navajo Question and Answer**

- Jason White asked about the Navajo approach for education/awareness of the uranium issues? Michelle responded that multiple approaches are used including:
  - o Presentations at local chapter house meetings (108 distinct communities)
  - o For a specific action in a neighborhood, there would be a chapter meeting, door-to-door outreach as well as signs and fencing (signage has a radiation symbol so there is sensitivity surrounding this)
  - o Briefings to council delegates (24 delegates)
- Jane Neumann asked how passage of the Navajo Nation CERCLA law changed the Navajo's conversations with EPA. Response was that having a Navajo Nation CERCLA law was very helpful for the Navajo when the Navajo indicated that they wanted the uranium waste to be disposed off Navajo lands. The law has provided the Navajo with greater "standing" in the community and in discussions.

### **EPA Tribal Updates – Bob Myers, Anne Dailey and Christine Poore**

- Janice Sims, Tribal Coordinator for the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response, was unavailable for this call but provided the following updates:
  - o **Virtual-mini TLEF** - ITEP will be sending out announcements (save-the dates) through July and August. In general, there will be a shared call with Mathy Stanislaus OSWER AA, ORCR OD – Barnes Johnson and AIEO OD Joann Chase to discuss solid waste in Indian Country. David Lloyd, OD for OBLR will also hold a call. OUST plans to hold a series of calls focused on tribal tanks program. Robin Richardson, Acting OSRTI OD, senior staff from OEM and FFRRO will be on-hand to answer questions about Superfund, emergency management and federal facilities on a call scheduled for **August 19 from 2:30 pm to 4:00 pm eastern time.**
  - o **Early engagement with States, Tribes and Locals on priority setting for EPA's FY16/FY17 National Program Manager (NPM) Guidance** - OSWER will hold two calls

with tribal environmental professionals in July to discuss priority setting in prep for the drafting of the FY16/17 NPM Guidance. Other AAs will undertake similar outreach efforts. One call will be focused on the CERCLA program's annual commitments and the other on RCRA program's annual commitments. Any cross programmatic commitments that impact OSWER will be covered on both calls. The CERCLA call is scheduled for Wednesday July 16 from 2 pm to 3pm eastern time. Call in number is 866-299-3188 and conference code 202 566 2892#. (Note: You received an email with this information on 6/27, and a reminder was sent by Bob Myers on 7/10/14.)

- o **OSWER's Tribal Support Cooperative Agreement** – proposals were due June 30<sup>th</sup> and are currently being reviewed. EPA anticipates that a decision will be made in August.
  
- At EPA's National Association of Remedial Project Manager (NARPM) meeting (June 2014), we held a session entitled "Coordinating, Communicating, and Building Relationships with Tribes during Superfund Responses." Representatives from the Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Navajo Nation, Nez Perce Tribe and St. Regis Mohawk Tribe attended. Tim Kent (Quapaw) and Rafael Casanova (EPA Region 6) gave presentations about the Catholic 40 Remedial Action at Tar Creek.
  
- **EPA's TechDirect website** identifies new technical, policy and guidance resources related to the assessment and remediation of contaminated soil, sediments and groundwater. Everyone is encouraged to subscribe at <http://clu-in.org/techdirect>.
  
- ITEP "Full Circle" Newsletter is available at: <http://www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/>

#### **Round Robin – All**

- No issues or questions were raised during the round robin.
- We did encourage people to use the roster and the email list for the group to pose questions or get information from others working on tribal related Superfund issues.

#### **Next Steps**

- October 22, 2014 at 2 pm Eastern was proposed for the next call.
- Please check to make sure this date is ok and let Bob or Anne know asap if this date poses a major conflict.
- **Do you have an interesting project that you would like to give an update on the next call? Please let Anne or Bob know of any agenda topics?**

**- A big thank you to Linda, Chandra and Michelle for presenting and everybody for your participation and involvement!**