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# Tribal Air Monitoring Outlook

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US EPA/R&IE/CIE



TAMS Center

February 2005  
Editor: Polly Hennessey

## Alaska Tribes and Indoor Air Quality



*Alaskan Mountain Range, Delta Junction, Alaska  
Photo by: David Johnson*

In February 2003, the Institute for Tribal Professionals (ITEP) located at the University of Northern Arizona (NAU) in Flagstaff, AZ, held a roundtable discussion in Anchorage, AK, at the 5th Annual Alaska Forum on the Environment (AFE). In attendance were Virgil Masayesva, ITEP Director, and Alexis Baca-Spry, American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP) Instructor. The discussions were directed toward the air quality issues concerning Alaska villages. In conjunction with these concerns roundtable discussion participants were encouraged to complete the *Alaska Tribal Air Quality Training Needs Assessment Instrument*. This questionnaire highlighted the major concerns voiced by Alaska Natives during the roundtable discussion—dust, mold, burning and indoor air quality.



As a result of the Conference and roundtable discussion air quality training courses were developed by the ITEP staff. The staff members involved were: Virgil Masayesva, ITEP Director; Patricia Ellsworth, Ph.D., AIAQTP Curriculum Coordinator; Jen Williams, AIAQTP Instructional Specialist, Anchorage Office; Farshid Farsi, co-Director, TAMS, Las Vegas, NV; Mansel Nelson, Environmental Education Outreach Program (EEOP) Program Manager; MaryLynn Quartaroli, Research Specialist, Sr.; Christine DeCarlo, Administrative Assistant; Leron Goatsen, EEOP Student Worker and Jenifer Williams, Region 10 Air Quality Program, Technology Specialist II. These individuals were instrumental in the overall development and logistics of the courses and what subject matter would be most consistent with the environmental issues of concern to Alaska Natives.

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*Indoor Air Quality in Alaska Course participants, September 2004, left to right, Pam McCamy, Elena James, Vivian Stuart, Lisa Trimmer and Daniel Edenshaw, representing four tribes on Prince of Wales Island in Southeast Alaska; Farshid Farsi, TAMS co-Director, Las Vegas, Nevada.*



*Indoor Air Quality in Alaska Course participants, September 2004, left to right, Anne Morris and Eileen Dushkin from Pauloff Harbor Tribe of Sanak; Wanda Kaiser from Native Village of Port Lions and Amberly Weiss from Agdaagux Tribe of King Cove.*



*Farshid Farsi, co-Director, TAMS, Las Vegas, NV, at Turnagain Arm, located on the south-central Alaskan Coast. It is a narrow extension of Cook Inlet and was named by Captain Cook when he was forced to "turn" his ship back "again" after failing to find a river.*

In September 2004, Farshid Farsi, TAMS co-Director, presented the second in a series of courses on Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) to Alaska Natives. For this particular course, September 21-23, there were eighteen air quality professionals from various villages in attendance. Along with Farshid in presenting the training were Jennifer Williams, ITEP's Alaska Solid Waste Manager and Steven Wisdom from Wisdom and Associates, Inc. Wisdom and Associates was formed in 1991 to "provide inspection services, energy ratings, indoor air quality investigations and consulting services for builders and homeowners throughout the state of Alaska. The company also offers "Indoor Air Quality Investigations....These investigations may include mold, ultra fine particle, radon, water and noxious gas testing, as well as lead risk assessment and testing." During the introduction to the course it was emphasized that the principal concern of the village representatives was indoor mold.

During his presentation, Steven Wisdom "noted that mold problems are secondary issues." For many participants the fact that mold was considered a secondary issue was seen as a significant statement and a view that was not widely held. Mr. Wisdom presented his assertion through a series of presentations on such topics as: Basics of Building Science, Principles of Moisture and Condensation, Basics of Ventilation and Basics of Pressure Imbalances. After discussions were held of the various sections, the "message was delivered that if one controls the condensation, ventilation and pressure imbalances in residential homes" then the secondary IAQ problems, such as mold, will not become a substantial issue.



*Evidence of mold during walk-through of vacant residence.*



Students on comprehensive residence walk-through.

Farshid Farsi gave a presentation on *Overview of Mold* and discussed the source of mold growth, health effects, common sense approaches to prevention of mold growth and remediation. A comprehensive walk-through of a vacant home was conducted on the last day of the course. For many this was the highlight of the course. It gave the participants an opportunity to give practical application to the identification of residential indoor air problems. Many of the participants told the ITEP staff that they will begin their new IAQ program "by first inspecting their own homes for any problems."

There are two air quality courses offered in 2005. The first one will be on *Air Quality in Alaska*, March 15-18, 2005, Anchorage, AK (it should be noted that this course is full). The second one will be, *Basic Source Assessment and Air Quality Computations*, May 10-13, 2005, Sitka, AK. If you have any questions, please contact Jenifer Williams at (480) 985-9570 or by email at [Jenifer.Williams@nau.edu](mailto:Jenifer.Williams@nau.edu).

## TAMS Steering Committee

The TAMS Steering Committee was organized in February 2000 and is made up of members from various tribes across the country and the TAMS co-Directors, Farshid Farsi, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Northern Arizona University (NAU) and George Dilbeck, EPA-Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory (R&IE) both located in Las Vegas, Nevada. Members traditionally serve for a two year term. Currently, those members of the Steering Committee are Dr. Tony Basabe, Swinomish Tribe, Washington State; Tommy Cabe, Eastern Band of Cherokee, North Carolina; Ryan Callison, Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma; Lynn Hall, Bad River Band of Chippewa, Wisconsin; Steve Terry, Miccosukee Tribe of Indians, Florida; and Jim Woods, Makah Indian Tribe, Washington State. The committee also consists of ex-officio members: Bob Gruenig, Air Program Manager, National Tribal Environmental Council, New Mexico; Darrel Harmon, Senior Indian Program Manager, EPA-Office of Air and Radiation, Tribal Programs; Jed Harrison, Director, EPA-R&IE, Las Vegas, Nevada; Stephen Hartsfield, Operations Coordinator, National Tribal Air Association, New Mexico; Virgil Masayesva, Director, ITEP/NAU; Doug McDaniel, Environmental Protection Specialist, EPA-Region 9, California; and Dr. Richard Scheffe, Leader, Quality Assurance Group, EPA-Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, North Carolina.



*Ex Officio Steering Committee Members and TAMS co-Directors at the last quarterly meeting held in Las Vegas, NV, November 17-18, 2004, in the TAMS Learning Center. Left to right-Richard Scheffe, EPA-OAQPS, North Carolina; Doug McDaniel, EPA-Region 9, California; George Dilbeck, EPA-R&IE and Farshid Farsi, TAMS/ITEP, Las Vegas, NV.*

Quarterly meetings are held each year with the primary focus concentrated on the progress of the TAMS Center training courses and technical assistance to the tribes. Steering Committee members are nominated in mid-July and after the nominations are made the Committee meets to elect new members. Terms are usually for two years with the term expiring at the end of September. The Steering Committee begins its new session on October 1 with the newly

elected members in place. Members whose terms have expired are eligible to serve another term, if they so desire. The goals of the Steering Committee and the TAMS Center, as stated in its charter are: "...to provide a centralized point of contact for tribal air monitoring training, technical issues and information; to respond to evolving tribal environmental program needs by developing recommendations reflecting current tribal air monitoring issues; to promote and strengthen tribes' efforts to manage environmental programs, technical training and support and building tribal program capacity; and to facilitate intertribal dialogue among environmental professionals, and the encouragement to seek knowledge and information."

The next Steering Committee has been tentatively scheduled for April 21-22, 2005, in Red Wing, MN. The host tribe is the Prairie Island Indian Community.

If you have any questions concerning the TAMS Steering Committee, please give Lee Anderson a call at (702) 784-8264; email [Lee.Anderson@nau.edu](mailto:Lee.Anderson@nau.edu).



## *EPA's National Air Quality Conference*

*"Quality of Air Means Quality of Life"*

TAMS co-Directors, Farshid Farsi, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University (ITEP/NAU) and George Dilbeck, EPA's Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory (R&IE) attended EPA's National Air Quality Conference held in San Francisco, CA, on February 14-18, 2005. Farshid Farsi, Melinda Ronca-Battista and Lydia Scheer (ITEP/NAU) gave a Poster Presentation on the TAMS Center, highlighting both its inception and present day activities. The conference focused primarily on current "air quality forecasting and monitoring, the Air Quality Index (AQI) and the various health and innovative outreach programs" available. The speaker presentations and poster papers can be accessed on the *AIRNOW* website at <http://www.airnow.gov/>.



*Ryan Callison, Cherokee Nation, Oklahoma, and Farshid Farsi, co-Director, TAMS, Las Vegas, NV, in front of the TAMS Poster Display.*



# Joe Hameed

Joe Hameed came to work with TAMS on October 14, 2002. Before coming to TAMS Joe worked for Maricopa County, AZ, as an Air Quality Instrumentation Technician II. In that capacity, he was involved with ambient air monitoring instrumentation on a daily basis and when an opening occurred at TAMS/Las Vegas he proved to be a perfect fit. While at TAMS he worked tirelessly to support the growth of Tribal Air programs. Some of Joe's outstanding contributions included TEOM training; outreach training with the Quapaw of Oklahoma; the Performance Evaluation Program (PEP) and, of course, the regularly scheduled training courses. Joe considers attending the national EPA conferences among the highlights of his tenure at TAMS. He felt that attendance at these conferences gave TAMS and the Tribes public exposure and, for him, was a positive experience. Joe feels that, "TAMS was a tremendous opportunity for me to grow professionally, and in return, I did my best to support the growth of Tribal Air programs as well."

On August 27, 2004, Joe accepted a position with the Clark County (Nevada) Department of Air Quality and Environmental Management (CC DAQEM) as an Air Quality Specialist/Enforcement Officer. In this capacity, he inspects stationary sources, construction sites, etc., for compliance with permit conditions. He is also responsible for taking enforcement action, when necessary, such as issuing Corrective Action Orders (CAO) and writing Notices of Violations (NOV), gathering evidence, attending air quality hearings and, occasionally teaching "dust" classes.



# TAMS 2005 Training Schedule



*TAMS Center's outdoor training platform supports up-to-date ambient-air monitoring technology. Located on the campus of the University of Nevada-Las Vegas.*

March 7-11: Air Quality Computations/ITEP, Las Vegas, NV

March 8-10: Air Quality Subsystem (AQS),  
Research Triangle Park, NC

April 4-8: Air Pollution Technology/ITEP, Las Vegas, NV

May 10-12: Meteorological Monitoring, Las Vegas, NV

May 24-27: Gaseous Pollutant Monitoring, Las Vegas, NV