



“The quality of the air we breathe outdoors affects each of us.”

*American Lung Association*

Special Points  
of Interest



“Science is needed to improve our understanding of health risks associated with exposure to hazardous air pollutants.”

*EPA Air Toxics Science*

TAMS/ITEP/EPA

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Editor: Paulette Hennessey

## Primary Quality Assurance Organization

By Michael Papp

Office of Air Quality and Planning Standards (OAQPS), EPA

Since the 2006 inclusion of a new definition for a Primary Quality Assurance Organization (PQAO) in 40 CFR Part 58 Appendix A, states with many smaller local monitoring agencies have been consolidating to fewer PQAOs. In some cases, tribal monitoring organizations have consolidated with state PQAOs.

In 2010, a number of tribes in the southern and central California area started thinking about consolidating to a single PQAO. Syndi Smallwood, the Director of the Environmental Department of the Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians and a member of the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center’s Steering Committee brought this information to the TAMS Steering Committee and requested assistance. A number of the TAMS Steering Committee members and EPA technical liaisons thought the consolidation was a good idea and were willing to help develop a workshop for those interested tribes.

In early 2011, preparation for the workshop got under way on two fronts:

### TAMS Facilitators—

Christopher Lee, the TAMS co-Director, invited a number of trainers/facilitators knowledgeable in the ambient QA requirements to assist. This group included:

- Jeremy Howe, Little River Band of Ottawa Indians.
- Travis Maki, Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan.
- Melinda Ronca-Battista, TAMS, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), Northern Arizona University (NAU).
- Michael Flagg, EPA Region 9 Air Analysis Office.
- Mike Papp, EPA, Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards (OAQPS).

**California Tribes**—Helen Waqui Salazar, an Environmental Specialist in the Pechanga Environmental Department, seemed to be the catalyst for the Tribes interested in consolidation. Helen worked with the TAMS facilitators to obtain information that she would share with the other interested tribes.

After months of discussion, conference calls, and information exchanges, a date of August 30, 2011,

was set for the 3-day workshop hosted by the Pechanga Tribe at the Pechanga Casino and Resort in Temecula, California.

The TAMS Center usually puts on structured training workshops where the trainers do most of the talking. The PQAQO workshop was different. The TAMS facilitators set the ground-work the first morning by providing the tribal participants with brief overviews of the EPA's quality system and ambient air QA requirements, more or less just to "get the ball rolling". The real work fell on the shoulders of the participants. The major efforts in this consolidation would involve the tribes developing a organizational structure to develop and implement a consolidated quality system which would be documented in a quality management plan (QMP) approved by EPA Region 9.

Personnel attending the workshop and representing their Tribes included:

- Bernice Paipa and Jaymie Taylor, La Posta Band of Mission Indians.
- Darlene Coombs, Cabazon Band of Mission Indians.
- Frank Spurgeon, Pala Band of Mission Indians.
- Helen Waquiu Salazar, Pechanga Band of Luiseno Indians.
- James Payne and Pamela Atcitty, Morongo Band of Mission Indians.
- Jonathan Chapman, Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla Indians.
- Michael Wynn, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians.

Other Tribes interested in consolidation but not attending include:

- Campo Kumeeyaay Nation
- La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians
- Los Coyotes Band of Cahuilla and Cupeno Indians
- Manzanita Band of Diegueno Mission Indians
- Rincon Band of Luiseno Indians
- Iipay Nation of Santa Ysabel

The workshop started slow, but momentum and enthusiasm for the process seemed to build over the three day session. Items that were either accomplished at the meeting or agreed to as action items included the development of:

- An approved name for the consolidated PQAQO, the Western Intertribal Air Collaborative.
- A briefing package to inform tribal leaders and to gain approval for participation.
- A quality management plan.
- By-laws and conflict resolution procedures.
- A mission statement for the PQAQO.
- A memorandum of agreement among participating tribes.
- A Quality Management Board and structure.
- QA project plans (QAPPs) and use of QAPPs already approved.

- Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for PQAO implementation.
- License agreements for borrowing audit equipment.
- A timeline for the completion and approval of the QMP.

Quite a bit of healthy discussion went into the topics listed above but those at the workshop seemed very committed to take on this challenging task. The first step will be for each participating tribe to brief their tribal council in order to get approval to work on the consolidation. From there it's a question of time and effort to get the QMP and the organization in place. The participants were anticipating the process taking about one year. The TAMS facilitators have committed to working with the PQAO over the next year to help out where they can be of service.

All participants were very engaged at the workshop and the ambient air monitoring technical information that was shared among the tribes was of great benefit to all involved. The participants made more progress than anticipated by the facilitators and although there is plenty of work ahead to make this consolidation a success, the participants have laid out a good plan to get there. The workshop and the next steps should benefit other tribes thinking about consolidation.

For further information on the Western Intertribal Air Collaborative, please contact either Darlene Coombs [dcoombes@cabazonindians-nsn.gov](mailto:dcoombes@cabazonindians-nsn.gov), Helen Waiquiu [hwaquiu@pechanga-nsn.gov](mailto:hwaquiu@pechanga-nsn.gov) or Michael Wynn [Michael.Wynn@chukchansi.net](mailto:Michael.Wynn@chukchansi.net).

Christopher Lee can be contacted at [chris.lee@nau.edu](mailto:chris.lee@nau.edu) or (702) 784-8278



*Chris Lee, TAMS co-Director, Las Vegas, NV.*

## EPA Now

“Science produced by EPA’s Clean Air Research Program in the Office of Research and Development provides the foundation for much of our knowledge about the health outcomes of air pollutants, particularly ozone, PM and other common air pollutants or criteria pollutants regulated by EPA.

Health effects research is focused on several critical areas:

- Health effects resulting from different sizes of PM.
- Health effects resulting from different chemical make-ups or composition of PM.
- Relationship between PM and asthma.
- Toxic mechanisms that trigger biological processes that lead to PM’s effects.
- Susceptible populations at greater risk from PM exposure.”



*Graphic courtesy of EPA*

# January is National Radon Action Month

## Test your home. Protect your health.

The Radiation and Indoor Environments National Laboratory (R&IE) support Tribal communities through the Tribal Air Monitoring Support (TAMS) Center, a technical training center designed specifically to meet the needs of the Tribes involved in air quality management in Indian country. The TAMS Center is a model partnership co-managed by the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), located at Northern Arizona University (NAU) in Flagstaff, Arizona; the U.S. EPA; and Tribal air quality professionals.

The R&IE Laboratory provides, at no cost to Tribal communities, radon measurement test kits and analyses. The partnership represents collaborative efforts between the EPA's R&IE Laboratory in Las Vegas and Tribes to promote radon awareness and provide radon testing. The R&IE Radon Testing Program is an integral component of the overall environmental justice activities being conducted by the EPA's Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) in Washington, DC.

### How to request radon test kits (diffusion barrier charcoal canisters):

1. New tribes entering the radon testing program for the first time are asked to make contact with their EPA Regional Radon Representative for their initial request of radon test canisters. To locate the appropriate Regional Radon Representative for your area, please visit <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/whereyoulive.html> or you may contact Farshid Farsi at EPA R&IE Laboratory, TAMS Center in Las Vegas at (702) 784-8263 or via email at [farsi.farshid@epa.gov](mailto:farsi.farshid@epa.gov).
2. Once a Tribe's request is approved by the EPA Regional Radon Representative, the approved request is forwarded to R&IE's Radon Laboratory. You will then be contacted by R&IE personnel who will officially confirm the request and amount approved by the EPA Regional Representative.
3. The R&IE Radon Laboratory will verify the Tribe's point of contact information and shipping details, and a date will be scheduled for shipping of charcoal canisters to the Tribe. From this point, all general radon inquiries or questions regarding shipping dates and additional requests for charcoal canister test kits may be made directly with the EPA Radon Laboratory by calling (702) 798-2676 or by contacting Farshid Farsi.
4. Please note charcoal canister results are provided on a monthly basis to the Tribe point of contact person with a copy to the EPA Regional Radon Representative. Therefore all canisters received and analyzed in a given month, the result report will be generated and issued in the following month, usually within the first week of the month. For instance, all canisters received and analyzed by the Radon Laboratory in January, a report will be generated and issued within the first week of February.
5. Once a Tribe is approved to participate in EPA's radon testing program by their EPA Regional Representative, the Tribe may contact the R&IE Radon Laboratory directly for additional radon test kit requests. Any additional request exceeding 50, the R&IE Laboratory personnel will obtain approval of the EPA Regional Representative. The R&IE Laboratory will ship the canisters to the requesting Tribe.



# Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center



## How to request Radon test kits (Diffusion Barrier Charcoal Canisters)

- Contact EPA Regional representatives by visiting, <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/wherelive.html>
- EPA Regional representatives will contact the EPA Radiation and Indoor Environments Radon Lab (hereinafter, Radon Lab)
- Radon Lab will contact you to confirm point of contact/shipping information
- Radon canisters are distributed on a monthly basis

Contact Radon Lab by calling (702) 798-2676, or contact Farshid Farsi, TAMS EPA co-Director at (702) 784-8263.



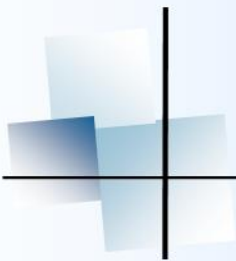


# **EPA**

## **Indoor Air Quality Partners**

On May 16, 2011, the Indoor Air Quality Information Hotline Service toll-free number, 1-800-438-4318, was disconnected with a voice mail recording directing callers to the EPA's IAQ website <http://www.epa.gov/iaq/> to obtain information. As of September 30, 2011, the IAQ Hotline number 1-800-438-4318 was terminated.

Please make sure that updates to publications, contact lists, websites and content refer stakeholders to the website and not the IAQ Hotline.



## **AIAQTP COURSES**

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**January 18-20, 2012**  
**Air Quality System (AQS)**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

**January 24-27, 2012**  
**Introduction to Tribal Air Quality**  
**Flagstaff, AZ**

**February 14-17, 2012**  
**New Source Review (NSR)**  
**Minneapolis, MN**

**March 5-9, 2012**  
**Air Quality Computations**  
**Flagstaff, AZ**

**April 2-6, 2012**  
**Air Pollution Technology**  
**Las Vegas, NV**

For more information on these courses go to: <http://www4.edu/itep/trainings/>