



Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program Steering Committee Priorities

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This is a living document that will be updated at the TWRAP Steering Committee sees necessary. Its intention is to communicate the needs of tribes, influence policy, and determine useful actions for the protection of health, culture, and natural resources in respect to OSWER-related issues.

Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program Steering Committee Members



Alex James, Tim Kent, Virginia LeClere, Julie Jurkowski, Victoria Kotongan, Rob Roy, Elliott Talgo, Mathy Stanislaus, Katherine Kruse, Victoria Flowers, Janice Sims, Mehrdad Khatibi, Todd Barnell, John Wheaton

Member	Tribe	Current Term
Victoria Flowers	Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin	2013-2016
Alex James	Yakutat Tlingit Tribe	2013-2016
Tim Kent	Quapaw Tribe	2013-2016
Victoria Kotongan, Vice Chair	Native Village Unalakleet	2012-2015
Katherine Kruse	Keweenaw Bay Indian Community	2012-2015
Virginia LeClere, Chair	Prairie Band of Potawatomi	2012-2015
Rob Roy	La Jolla Band of Luiseno Indians	2012-2015
Elliott Talgo	San Carlos Apache Tribe	2013-2016
John Wheaton	Nez Perce Tribe	2013-2016

TWRAP Overview

The Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program Steering Committee (TWRAP SC) is a Tribal Partnership Group, composed of up to ten tribal professionals working in waste, brownfields, Underground Storage Tanks (USTs), Superfund, and response programs and represent Native American and Alaskan Native programs throughout the country. This group was established in 2009, as part of a cooperative agreement with US Environmental



Protection Agency's (USEPA) Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER) and the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP). The TWRAP SC meets four times a year to provide input to USEPA and other federal agencies on tribal priorities, as well as assisting ITEP with TWRAP activities.

Mission

The TWRAP SC will maintain a cooperative exchange of information between American Indian Tribes, USEPA OSWER, federal partners, and other organizations to assess, understand, and prevent environmental impacts that adversely affect health, culture, and natural resources.



TWRAP-SC Goals

Goal 1: Exchanging information directly with tribes and communicating evolving needs and priorities.

Goal 2: Enhancing tribal communication and coordination on policies and programs related to OSWER.

Goal 3: Protect human health and the environment while recognizing the unique needs of American Indian Tribes.

Recommended Priorities for USEPA

The TWRAP SC recognizes OSWER's efforts in developing a climate change adaptation plan, and expresses their desire to see OSWER expand their work on climate change to include traditional and customary use and the unique issues tribes face. The TWRAP SC has also identified the following actions the USEPA should undertake to help reach the goals outlined above. These activities include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Continue to engage and participate in Tribal meetings and conferences.
- Institutionalize the consideration of treaty rights and cultural resources in all USEPA decisions.
- Ensure that cooperative agreements and Memorandums of Understanding (MOUs) with states should always include a language requirement to "consult and coordinate with Tribes".
- The USEPA should recognize the "nation building" aspect of Tribal governments and the associated challenges to sustainability.

Program Specific Priorities

Solid/Hazardous Waste:

- Identify roles and responsibilities of other federal agencies to maximize and link resources.
- Provide resources to develop and implement integrated waste management plans unique to each Tribe with the goal of creating a foundation for sustainable waste programs both economically and environmentally.
- Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Statute change related to the definition of Tribes.



Brownfields:

- Provide resources to establish a Tribal specific Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TAB) Program grant to assist the unique needs of Tribal governments.
- Provide training to Regional Tribal Project Officers that manage grants under the Comprehensive Emergency Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) 128(a) in Tribal Response Programs to help facilitate program development and consistency.
- Implement a CERCLA Statute change to allow Alaska Native Tribes and Villages to compete for CERCLA 104 (k) grants.
- Continue to provide a scoring system that allows CERCLA 104 (k) grants to be competitive for Tribes and/or for Tribes to receive preference.
- Improve funding investment in an effort to further expand/enhance Tribal Response Programs.

Underground Storage Tanks:

- Broaden training opportunities and outreach in Indian country and Alaska Native Tribes and Villages across all environmental programs to improve understanding of underground storage tank issues.
- Create a national database of UST sites.
- Improve the process by which Tribes and Tribal Consortia obtain federal credentials for UST compliance assistance and inspections.
- Develop a uniform tank inspection and inventory form.
- Provide resources to Tribes or Tribal consortia for regular compliance assistance and inspections of facilities every three years and increase owner/operator training opportunities.
- Create cross-media partnerships within USEPA to provide resources to Tribes to prevent releases and to conduct cleanup and oversight of Leaking Underground Storage Tanks (LUST) sites.



Superfund:

- Continued support for the Tribal Superfund Workgroup through quarterly conference calls, two in-person meetings, and peer to peer mentoring.
- Improve outreach and training on availability of cooperative agreements to Tribes.
- Develop a national database/map to identify Superfund sites in Indian Country, Alaska Native Tribes and Villages and those areas that impact treaty rights and cultural resources.
- Consideration of Tribal Environmental Knowledge (TEK) and Tribal Lifeway models in determining cleanup standards (Tribal use scenario methodology).
- Build the capacity of Tribes to oversee, coordinate, and conduct cleanup activities on NPL sites.

Federal Facilities

- Improve outreach on funding mechanisms and technical assistance available to Tribes so they may effectively provide oversight and/or conduct assessment and cleanup activities.
- Build the capacity of Tribes to oversee assessment and cleanup activities.
- Encourage USEPA to use convening authorities to facilitate collaboration among federal entities involved in cleanup activities so that Tribes are engaged and active partners in all cleanup processes.
- Improve outreach and training regarding CERCLA oversight roles and responsibilities on other federally led actions to Tribes.

Emergency Response:

- Improve outreach and training around the Office of Emergency Management (OEM) and roles and the responsibilities related to Tribes nationally and within the regions.
- Foster collaboration within Tribal, State, and Local emergency planning commission.
- Improve dialog and encourage cross training among federal agencies such as Homeland Security and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA.)
- Create and deliver emergency and community right to know training.
- Recognize Tribal Emergency Management programs and improve collaboration between the USEPA and Tribes for response and cleanup efforts.

- Improve local hazard identification and coordination of transportation issues with US Department of Transportation (DOT).

Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance:

- Increase awareness regarding compliance and enforcement assistance available to Tribes.



Summary

The TWRAP SC priorities are shared regularly with the National Tribal Operations Committee and USEPA OSWER. More information, including meeting notes and the committee's bylaws, are available for viewing at the TWRAP SC website (<http://www4.nau.edu/itep/waste/ntsc.asp>). If you would like to sign up to be on our listserv to receive our bi-monthly newsletter and more information about TWRAP SC meetings and trainings we offer please contact ITEP staff listed below. To provide feedback on the content of this document please contact us the Chair, Vice Chair or ITEP staff listed on the next page.

Contact Information

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Federal Trust Responsibility

The US Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is responsible, in concert with Tribes, for ensuring that federal environmental laws are carried out on Tribal lands and that the Tribal government is not degraded. In November, 1984, the USEPA published its agency policy for the development and implementation of tribal environmental protection programs. The USEPA Indian Policy provides the guidance necessary for the administration of environmental protection on Indian lands. Reaffirmed by USEPA Administrator Lisa Jackson in 2009 and consistent with President Obama's Executive Order on government-to-government relationships when working to "protect the land, air and water in Indian country."