



Highlight of NTWC Mid-Year Activities

As we approach the mid-year, the National Tribal Water Council offers a highlight of its activities in the first half of the year. Below is a summary of the NTWC's completed and ongoing activities:

Consultation Opportunities and NTWC Responses

The NTWC submitted a comment letter for the following consultation opportunity:

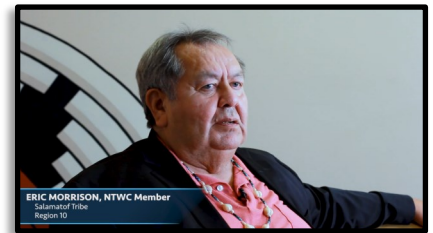
- *EPA's Proposal to Revise the Federal Water Quality Standards Regulations to Protect Tribal Reserved Rights*; submitted March 6, 2023

The Council is currently working on drafting comment letters for the following consultation opportunities:

- *EPA's Proposed Updates to the 2011 EPA Consultation Policy and 2016 Treaty Rights Guidance*; deadline is July 21, 2023
- *EPA's Proposed Rule to Establish Federal Baseline Water Quality Standards for Indian Reservation Waters*; deadline is August 1, 2023

Protecting Our Sacred Waters: An Introduction to the National Tribal Water Council Video

The National Tribal Water Council created a video that highlights the work and mission of the Council. The video features interviews with NTWC members: Chairman Ken Norton, Shaun Livermore, Nancy Schuldt, and Eric Morrison. The video is available at the NTWC's MediaSpace page at [Protecting Our Sacred Waters: An Introduction to the National Tribal Water Council](#).



Tribal PFAS Working Group

The NTWC members participate in the Tribal PFAS Working Group, along with other members from the Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, and Tribal Pesticide Program Council.

The NTWC and the Tribal PFAS Working Group submitted comment letters for the following consultation opportunities:

- *EPA's National Enforcement and Compliance Initiatives for FY 2024-2027*; submitted on March 13, 2023



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NEWSLETTER

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VISIT US AT:

<https://nau.edu/ntwc>

Highlight of NTWC Mid-Year Activities *(continued)*

- *EPA's Proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulations for PFAS*; submitted on May 26, 2023

The Tribal PFAS Working Group members will be providing a presentation titled “Like Diamonds, PFAS are Forever: Part I and II” during the 2023 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum on August 14-15, 2023, in Syracuse, NY. We highly encourage registered forum participants to attend those sessions. For those attending the forum virtually, the presentation also will be available virtually. To register for the forum or to view the agenda, please visit:

<https://sites.google.com/view/tlef2023/home?authuser=0>

Ongoing and Upcoming Activities for 2023

The NTWC's ongoing work, includes:

- Updating the Council's bylaws, which will include expanding membership to include a tribal representative from EPA Region 3
- Developing a white paper on water and subsistence issues in Alaska
- Scheduling the NTWC's 2023 fall in-person meeting
- Planning for a proposed fall NTWC webinar on EPA's proposed rule to establish federal baseline water quality standards for Indian reservation waters; and protecting tribal reserved rights

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

2023 Tribal Lands and Environmental Forum – August 14-17, 2023

Registration is open for the 2023 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum, which will be held August 14-17, 2023, in Syracuse, New York. This event will be both in-person and hybrid. This is the 13th annual forum for environmental professionals from tribes, US EPA, state/local/federal agencies, and other interested parties to meet, share knowledge, and learn from one another how to improve management, protection, and restoration of tribal lands. The deadline to register is July 31, 2023. The registration fee is \$175 (in-person) or \$25 (virtual). For more information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/tlef2023/home?authuser=0>

20th Annual EPA Drinking Water Workshop: Small System Challenges and Solutions – September 11-14, 2023

EPA is celebrating the 20th anniversary of its Drinking Water Workshop on September 11-14, 2023, in Covington, Kentucky. EPA and the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA) have held this annual workshop on a variety of drinking water topics relevant to small systems. Primarily designed for tribal, state, and territory personnel responsible for drinking water regulations compliance and treatment technologies permitting, the workshop will provide current information, resources, and training needed to help in building systems capacity and sustainably and providing equitable access to drinking water. For additional information or to register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/20th-annual-epa-drinking-water-workshop-small-system-challenges-and-solutions#About>

2023 Tribal Climate and Health Summit – November 8-9, 2023

Registration is open for the 2023 Tribal Climate and Health Summit, which will be held November 8-9, 2023, in Pala, California. Throughout the 2-day training, attendees will participate in interactive instruction and peer-to-peer learning activities that will build knowledge about developing, implementing, and evaluating adaptation plan strategies that safeguard Tribal health and are rooted in traditional knowledge and values. Organizers, guest speakers, and attendees will be invited to share successful practices that are increasing Tribal resilience to a variety of climate exposures throughout the U.S. For more information, please visit: <https://tribalclimatehealth.org/registration-is-open-for-the-2023-tribal-climate-and-health-summit/>

GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Request for Applications to Support the National Tribal Water Council

Deadline: July 31, 2023

EPA's Office of Water is now accepting applications for a multi-year cooperative agreement to support the efforts of the [National Tribal Water Council \(NTWC\)](#), composed of tribal governmental representatives. The NTWC works to provide a unique platform to facilitate and enhance tribal participation, input, training, and information exchange among tribes; promote sharing of technical information and best management practices to improve and preserve water quality and provide adequate sanitation and safe drinking water in tribal communities; identify and analyze high-priority, water-related issues and actions from tribal perspectives; encourage the development and enhancement of tribal water resource protection programs; and raise tribal water program issues to EPA and offer input on national water policy initiatives affecting tribes.

Eligible applicants include states, local governments, federally recognized Indian tribes, intertribal consortia, territories, possessions of the United States (including the District of Columbia), public and private universities and colleges, hospitals, laboratories, and public or private nonprofit institutions. The total amount of expected funding available under this announcement is approximately \$1,610,500. EPA anticipates that one award will be made under this announcement, with an anticipated project period of five years.

Please submit written questions on or before 11:59 P.M. (ET) on July 17, 2023, via email with EPA-OW-IO-23-01 in the subject line to tribalwater@epa.gov. Additional information is available on www.grants.gov under Funding Opportunity Announcement EPA-OW-IO-23-01. Applications must be submitted electronically to EPA via www.grants.gov on or before 11:59 P.M. (ET) on July 31, 2023 to be considered for funding. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/tribalwater/request-applications-support-national-tribal-water-council>.

FY23-24 Tribal Regional Ocean Partnership BIL Funding

Deadline: August 30, 2023

On May 31, 2023, NOAA announced the availability of approximately \$1.8 million for federally recognized tribes. This funding is provided under the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law. The focus is on encouraging increased tribal participation with regional ocean partnerships. Funding will support tribal actions related to regional ocean and coastal priorities and will further the coordinated management of ocean resources and data. [Funding applications](#) are due at 8:59 P.M. (PT), 11:59 P.M. (ET) on August 30, 2023. You can find more information on these funds at coast.noaa.gov/funding/infrastructure.html. If you have questions, please contact rop.iija@noaa.gov.

Information for Tribal Applicants:

- [Notice of Funding Opportunity](#)
- [Frequently Asked Questions](#)
- [Pre-recorded Informational Presentation](#)

TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Proposed Rule to Establish Federal Baseline Water Quality Standards for Indian Reservation Waters

Deadline: August 1, 2023

EPA is continuing consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes on a proposed rulemaking that would establish federal baseline water quality standards (WQS) under the Clean Water Act (CWA) for waters on Indian reservations that currently do not have CWA WQS in place.

Tribal Consultation & Public Comment Opportunities *(continued)*

EPA conducted tribal engagement and consultation on the concepts reflected in this proposed rule on two separate occasions – the first in 2016 to inform the Agency’s 2016 Advance Notice of Proposed Rulemaking (ANPRM) for Federal Baseline Water Quality Standards for Indian Reservations and the second between June and September 2021, prior to drafting the proposed rule. EPA has resumed consultation and coordination after signing the proposed rule and initiated a 90-day public comment.

The consultation provides an opportunity for tribes whose waters may be covered by the baseline WQS to engage in dialogue with EPA in circumstances where the tribe seeks to be excluded from coverage by the baseline WQS rule. The timeframe for a tribe seeking to be excluded from the rule to communicate to EPA began on May 5, 2023 (the date of publication of this proposed rule in the *Federal Register*) and ends 90 days after the final rule is published in the *Federal Register*.

The deadline to submit comments is August 1, 2023. Consultation materials are available on EPA’s Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

EPA’s Proposed Rule to Revise Clean Water Act Section 404 Tribal and State Program Regulations

Deadline: September 17, 2023

EPA has announced a proposed rule that would streamline and clarify the Agency’s Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 State and Tribal Program Regulations. CWA section 404(g) authorizes Tribes and States to assume responsibility for administration of the CWA section 404 program. The Agency’s CWA section 404(g) regulations were last revised in 1988. The CWA section 404 program addresses discharges of dredged or fill material into regulated waters.

The EPA is continuing consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on this proposed rulemaking. EPA conducted Tribal early engagement and consultation on the concepts reflected in this proposed rule from October to December 2018, prior to drafting the proposed rule. This proposed rule reflects input received during the pre-proposal consultation period.

A pre-publication version of the proposed rule is available on EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/cwa404g/current-efforts-regarding-assumption-under-cwa-section-404>.

EPA will hold identical input sessions via webinar for tribal leaders and staff on August 15, 2023 and August 30, 2023. To register, please visit EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/cwa404g/current-efforts-regarding-assumption-under-cwa-section-404>.

The tribal consultation notification letter and consultation and coordination plan are available via EPA’s Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.



Woods Canyon Lake, Heber, Arizona

EVENTS & WEBINARS

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing online, in-person, and blended training.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- SDWA Federal Regulations: August 15-September 1, 2023 (Blended)
- General Module & Very Small Water System: October 3-20, 2023 (Blended)

To register or to view the 2023 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Tribal Climate Health Project's Tribal Health and Adaptation Peer-Learning Roundtable Webinars

The Tribal Climate Health Project has developed training to assist Tribes to begin to prepare, cope, build resilience to, and recover from the health and other impacts of climate change. This advanced training from the Tribal Climate Health Project is for Tribal-serving practitioners, including environmental and health professionals, who have gained some level of transferable, real-world climate and health knowledge and experience through their work with Tribes. This training is open to Tribes and Tribal-serving professionals throughout the United States who work within the intersections of climate change, health, and community well-being.

Below is the upcoming schedule:

- August 17, 2023: Operations and Maintenance & Intertribal/Interagency Collaborations
- September 21, 2023: Accessing and Protecting Cultural Data and TEK for Climate Trend Analysis and Real-time Acton

For the complete schedule and more information about the webinars, please visit: <http://ped.palatribe.com/tcha-webinar-vi/>

National Association of Wetland Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

To register, please visit: <https://www.nawm.org/nawm/nawm-webinarscalls/4840-epa-region-10-tribal-wetland-training-webinars>

- September 21, 2023: Education and Outreach Efforts to Support Tribal Wetland Programs
- November 2, 2023: Approaches to Sustainable Funding for Tribal Wetland Programs

EPA Air, Climate, & Energy Research Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/air-research/air-climate-energy-research-webinar-series>

- August 15, 2023: GLIMPSE and COMET Tools

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series>

- July 25, 2023: Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5)
- August 29, 2023: Cybersecurity

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-webinar-series>

- August 30, 2023: Methods and Information to Support to Development of Aquatic Life Criteria to PFAS

Events & Webinars *(continued)*

Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information (CLU-IN) Training

- September 14, 2023: ITRC PFAS Introductory Training
- October 5, 2023: Strategies for Preventing and Managing Harmful Cyanobacteria Blooms

To register, please visit: <https://clu-in.org/training/>

NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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