



## Tribal PFAS Working Group 2024 Priorities



The Tribal PFAS Working Group members reviewed and updated their key priorities for 2024 to reflect the accomplishments in 2023 and what remains to be done to engage tribal communities in recognizing the harmful impacts of PFAS on their lands. The working group has expanded their scope to include other emerging contaminants and the effects of the contaminants, including PFAS, on other environmental media. Thus, the working group identified six (6) key priorities, which include the following:

- Continue to identify tribes and coordinate with tribes that are currently impacted by PFAS.**  
The Tribal PFAS Working Group will continue to invite tribal representatives and researchers during the monthly calls to hear testimonials and presentations on how PFAS has impacted tribal lands and resources. Throughout the year, the working group will follow-up with tribes that are impacted by PFAS.
- Continue to develop and identify PFAS tools and resources.**  
Develop and identify PFAS tools and resources, such as databases, outreach materials, maps, funding opportunities, and fact sheets to characterize PFAS that will support and allow tribal nations to evaluate their exposure to PFAS.
- Enhance and promote the Tribal PFAS Working Group’s webpage with current publications, presentation videos, research, and resources.** The working group will also seek and identify treatment technologies and their effectiveness. To access documents and resources, please visit: [www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS)
- Advocate for rulemaking, research, and education actions, with attention to inclusion of tribal lifeways.**  
Advocate for tribal PFAS work across federal and state agencies, including comment responses to proposed policies and rulemaking actions, research funding opportunities, and science education. Advocate for and ensure that appropriate engagement and consultation with Tribes occurs.



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## Tribal PFAS Working Group 2024 Priorities *(continued)*

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- **Develop and host tribal webinars / workshops on PFAS issues.**  
Webinar / workshop topics may include introduction to PFAS, testing, assessing impacts, potential treatment and disposal, rulemaking actions, etc. Three webinars / workshops will be held during the year with two held virtually and one in person at the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum.
- **Expand the scope of the working group to explore and research emerging contaminants,** such as 6-PDD, microplastics, flame-retardants, and PFAS and emerging contaminants' impact on various environmental media, including air quality.

For additional information, please visit the Tribal PFAS Working Group's webpage at <https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS>, or contact Page Hingst, Tribal Science Council, at [page.hingst@santeeoep.com](mailto:page.hingst@santeeoep.com) or Dianne Barton, National Tribal Toxics Council, at [bard@crtifc.org](mailto:bard@crtifc.org).

## UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes: 2023 Revisions to the Policy and Guidance

In December 2023, the EPA revised the *EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes* and the companion *Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights*. The documents were revised in response to the *2021 Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships* that required each agency to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175.

For more information and to access the revised documents, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation-tribes#:~:text=EPA%20Policy%20on%20Consultation%20with%20Indian%20Tribes,-The%20EPA%20Policy&text=It%20defines%20when%20and%20how,to%20ensure%20accountability%20and%20transparency>.

### NTC/EPA Tribal Climate Town Hall, February 27, 2024

Join representatives of the National Tribal Caucus and EPA for an informal conversation on climate impacts and challenges in your community. The topic of this conversation will be addressing the need for climate action. This is the second in a series of Town Hall conversations the EPA National Tribal Caucus and EPA are jointly hosting to hear from Tribal representatives about Climate Change needs, concerns, and opportunities.

Discussion questions:

1. To meet the challenge of climate action and resilience, what are the highest resource and technical assistance needs for Tribal communities?
2. How have other Tribal communities addressed the needs?

Please submit additional questions via the prompt during registration at least 24 hours prior to the event. To register: <https://usepa.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-GvqzgpHHFFh3SFilwxvMNX4c7EYWM#/registration>

### Southwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training, March 4-7, 2024

The National Association of Wetland Managers has organized a training workshop on March 4-7, 2024, in Albuquerque, NM. The training workshop will address four areas key to water programs: 1) Monitoring and assessment; 2) Data (collection, management, analysis, etc.); 3) Water quality standards; and 4) Regulatory and non-regulatory program options. The first three days will include presentations, discussions, and opportunities to share your experiences, while the final day will be reserved for a field trip. To register, please visit: <https://>

## Updates & Announcements *(continued)*

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[www.nawm.org/wetland-programs/tribal-wetland-programs/calendar-of-tribal-wetland-and-water-resource-training-events](http://www.nawm.org/wetland-programs/tribal-wetland-programs/calendar-of-tribal-wetland-and-water-resource-training-events)

### National Association of Wetland Managers - Annual State, Tribal, Federal Coordination Meeting Accepting Applications for Travel Scholarships

**Deadline: May 3, 2024**

The National Association of Wetland Managers (NAWM) will be hosting its Annual State/Tribal/Federal Coordination Meeting on June 17-20, 2024, in Shepherstown, West Virginia. A limited number of scholarships are available to assist individuals in need to cover travel, lodging and/or registration costs to attend the annual coordination meeting. The deadline to apply is May 3, 2024. For more information, please visit: <https://www.nawm.org/2024-annual-stfc-meeting-scholarship>

### Climate Change Adaptation for Tribes and Tribal Partners Workshop, May 20-22, 2024

This workshop is co-sponsored by the South Central CASC and will be held May 20-22, 2024, at the Chickasaw Retreat and Conference Center in Sulphur, OK. Participants are encouraged to register with teams (3-5 people) of relevant collaboration. (e.g. Tribal staff and partners on a project). Participants will work with these teams to conduct group work to integrate climate adaptation into an existing project. The registration deadline is May 4, 2024. To register: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci5MvNNc\\_O3MICxXRaRijUSKqcvJpGZHkHM4NNKNYJCYWyXg/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSci5MvNNc_O3MICxXRaRijUSKqcvJpGZHkHM4NNKNYJCYWyXg/viewform)

## TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

### EPA's Proposed Rulemaking for Incorporating PFAS Reporting Requirements into NPDES Application Forms

**Deadline: April 1, 2024**

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on a forthcoming proposed rulemaking that seeks to update requirements for several of the existing National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit applications to address monitoring and/or reporting of Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS). This rulemaking will consider adding Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances reporting requirements to permit applications for new and existing publicly owned treatment works, new and existing manufacturing, commercial, mining, and silvicultural operations, and stormwater discharges associated with industrial activity.

EPA is holding an informational webinar for Tribal leaders and staff. The webinar will provide Tribes with an opportunity to ask questions and learn more about proposed changes to reporting requirements to incorporate PFAS and will reserve time for Tribal leaders and staff to provide input on areas of the draft rule that may require clarification or change, as appropriate.

- March 5, 2024 (2:00-3:00 PM ET) - To register: [https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_CNV6PLtOReCeitpfU4Hd1g](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_CNV6PLtOReCeitpfU4Hd1g)

The deadline to submit a comment is April 1, 2024. Tribal governments may request one-on-one consultation meetings with the EPA. Please contact Abigail Golder at [golder.abigail@epa.gov](mailto:golder.abigail@epa.gov) before March 18, 2024, to make arrangements. Consultation materials are also available on EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

# 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: April 2-12, 2024 (Blended)

To register or to view the 2024 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

### EPA Water Utility Resilience Workshops and Webinars

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/register-water-utility-resilience-workshops-and-webinars-now>

- February 22, 2024: Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) – Learning the Basics
- March 21, 2024: Water Contaminant Information Tool (WCIT) – Becoming an Advanced User

### EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

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

- February 27, 2024: Lead Service Line Inventory Guidance
- March 26, 2024: Technical Assistance for Lead

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

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

- February 27, 2024: Microplastics
- February 29, 2024: ITRC PFAS Introductory Training
- April 18, 2024: ITRC PFAS Beyond the Basics – Sampling, Analysis, Surface Water & Air Occurrence

### USGS Webinar Series: Incorporating Climate and Environmental Justice into Research and Resource Management

To register, please visit: <https://www.usgs.gov/programs/climate-adaptation-science-centers/webinar-series-incorporating-climate-and-environmental>

- February 29, 2024: What are climate and environmental justice?
- March 14, 2024: Skillsets and competencies integral to justice work

### EPA Small Drinking Water Training Webinar

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>

- March 28, 2024: Safe Drinking Water Act 101

### EPA Water Research Webinar Series

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

- February 28, 2024: Effectiveness of Nutrient Management for Reducing Nutrient Losses from Agricultural Fields
- April 24, 2024: Development and Implementation of DNA-Based Biomonitoring to Support Assessment of Aquatic and Human Health



Have a story, idea, or update to share?

Email us at [elaina.doral@nau.edu](mailto:elaina.doral@nau.edu).



## Events & Webinars *(continued)*

### EPA Tools and Resources Webinars

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

- April 4, 2024: Report on the Environment

### EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

- March 13, 2024: Nutrient Explorer
- April 17, 2024: Tire Crumb Research

### EPA Air, Climate, & Energy Research Webinar Series

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

- March 19, 2024: Wildfire Impacts: Beyond Ambient PM2.5 (Toxics, Water Quality)

## NTWC MEMBERS

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

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*Vacant*

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