



Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter

The Pain and Pleasure of Proposal Selection for the TLEF

One of the most enjoyable parts of planning the annual TLEF is when our team sits down to go through all the session and training proposals. Recently we spent a full day and a half going through the ones we received this year. Those of you who know us well will not be surprised that we actually write each one on a small piece of colored paper, and then spread them out on a huge table as we try and figure out which ones will work best, and how to fit them all together. It's sort of like a jigsaw puzzle all about solid waste, Superfund, USTs, emergency response, brownfields, climate change, and other fun topics, instead of a picture of a puppy or a seascape.

Honestly, we were a bit overwhelmed this year with the amazing number of terrific proposals, including from some groups that have never attended a TLEF and colleagues working in the trenches who we've long wanted to submit! We are so thankful for all the proposals we received. We really worked hard to find a good balance of case studies and stories from the field, new technology and resources to help you in your work, information on funding opportunities, and chances to engage with the presenters and other attendees.

But that also meant we couldn't come close to accepting them all for live, in-person sessions. We had to make some really hard choices, but since the TLEF is now hybrid we can ask people not accepted to record their sessions and make them available to all TLEF attendees, whether they attend virtually or in-person. That means all TLEF attendees are going to have some great on-demand sessions they can watch when it's convenient! And of course, all the live sessions will also be recorded and put up on our TLEF site after the event for all to access.

We still have some work to do, but very soon we'll be posting the full agenda. As regular attendees of the TLEF know all day Monday, and Tuesday morning, is set aside for **in-depth trainings and field trips**. We want to let you know we have some exceptional trainings on offer this year, so you are going to want to check those out. We're also putting the finishing touches on field trips and will be opening sign-up for those soon.

We're also starting to get some groups signing up as sponsors (thank you!), as well as exhibitors. And don't forget – if you have something to share, we're also accepting reservations for the **Multi Media Meetup**. Be sure to [Visit our TLEF website](#) to learn more.

Data Sovereignty and Data Integrity: A Special Tribal Superfund Working Group Presentation and Discussion

We are excited to have our colleagues from both Navajo Nation and US EPA Region 9 join us for the next TSWFG quarterly presentation and discussion. They will be addressing the issue of data sovereignty and integrity, and will highlight their work on creating a collaborative data portal.

The Navajo AUM Data Portal, as it is formally referred to, now has more than 75 users across both government agencies. This portal is a dynamic web-based application that has continued to evolve since its inception in 2020. It includes an internal web viewer for visualization of data collected, access to SharePoint libraries containing relevant data and metadata, up-to-date staff contacts from both government agencies, and a help and support page complete with training videos. The Navajo AUM Data Portal ensures that data collected in the course of Superfund

Meet Our Team

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work on Navajo Nation are secure and accessible to both EPA and Navajo Nation. Today, the Navajo AUM Data Portal is used to review sites, work plans, historical site information, and generate mobile applications for use in field reconnaissance.

Details on when and how to join are below. We hop to see you there!

**June 28, 2023**

**10:30 am – 12:00 pm (Pacific)/1:30 – 3:00 pm (Eastern)**

**Zoom Link:** <https://bit.ly/3qnRPmU>

**Meeting ID:** 842 4615 9996

**Password:** 460752

## Accepting Applications to Serve on the TWAR Steering Committee

The deadline is coming up – this Friday, June 2! If you are interested in being considered for a spot on the Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee, this is your chance. Serving on the TWAR SC is a lot of responsibility, and it can also be a lot of work. But their efforts seriously pay off, not only with our federal officers but also in ways that help their colleagues at Nations, Villages, and Tribes across the country. If you are interested in applying, [visit their website](#) where you'll find the application, which you can download. The completed application, as well as a resume and up to three reference letters should be sent to [todd.barnell@nau.edu](mailto:todd.barnell@nau.edu).

## Events, Webinars and, Opportunities

Over the last few years the TWAR SC has requested that EPA develop some type of map or resource to help Native Nations and Communities in **identifying recycling facilities and markets** in their area. We're happy to say that EPA has a [Recycling Infrastructure and Market Opportunities Map available!](#) Be sure to check it out and let them know what you think.

As more and more Native Nations and communities in coastal areas are dealing with the effects of the climate crisis, the timing is perfect for a **new interactive map to help visualize rising waters and potential effects on hazardous waste** facilities. This tool, developed by EPA, shows projected sea level rise around hazardous waste facilities within estimated flood zones along the U.S. coastline. You know how critical this situation is, so be sure [explore the new interactive map](#) and see if this can help you with your own planning.

EPA's Office of Emergency Management has been doing a lot of new webinars to assist Tribal professionals working in emergency management. Recordings of webinars **that specifically address oil spill prevention and chemical emergency preparedness are now available online for you to view.**

The US EPA is happy to inform you that the funding opportunity for the **FY 2023 Hazardous Waste Management Grant Program for Tribes** is now available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov). This grant program provides financial assistance to tribal governments and tribal intertribal consortia for developing and implementing hazardous waste programs, building capacity to improve and maintain regulatory compliance, and developing solutions to address the improper management of hazardous waste on tribal lands. Click the link above for more information.

Many of you **work closely with colleagues in EPA's ORCR**, so you'll be glad to know the [FY 2022 Office of Resource Conservation and Recovery Accomplishments Report](#) is now available. This is always a very busy – and vital – part of the Office of Lands and Emergency Management. But as we attempt to transition in so many ways during these crazy times, they've been even more busy than normal. This report is a good review of all they've been working on.

And speaking of reporting on progress and activities, our colleagues at EPA's **Office of Underground Storage Tanks** has just [put out their latest report of UST performance measures](#). If you work with USTs, are want to find out more about them and how they might affect your work in other areas, this mid fiscal year 2023 check in is a good place to start.

And don't forget to visit our [Tribal Lands Assistance Center's](#) page, as well as our [Waste & Response media](#) page, which has 28 distinct channels on all the media we focus on (click on the

“28 channels” tab). You can also visit the [ITEP website](#) to access our recording. You’ll find recordings from the past three TLEF’s (including [Robin Wall Kimmerer’s opening plenary](#) from 2020), special webinars and online discussions we’ve coordinated, and some new resources for online tools, like the [UST Finder](#).