



Welcome to the Full Circle Newsletter

At Long Last – the Tribal Superfund Working Group Meets in Person for the First Time Since 2019

In mid-September several people involved in the TSFWG came to Reno for a meeting and a site visit to the Leviathan Mine Superfund site. We were joined by several people who have been coming to these for years, and many of them had actually hosted past meetings at their Superfund sites. But it was also very exciting to meet several new people who were attending a site visit for the first time.

We spent one day sharing stories and thoughts with one another, and also learning more about the Leviathan Superfund site. Our primary host this year was Cale Pete, Environmental Manager for the Washoe Tribe of Nevada and California. He invited several of his colleagues to come share their stories and work with us. This site not only involves the US EPA but also the Lahontan Water Board and WSP. We learned a great deal about the remedy actions being taken to address the Acid Mine Discharge, approaches to community involvement, and the Washoe Tribe's involvement with the site. It was really inspiring to see how Cale and his EPA counterpart, Freyja Knapp, have built such a terrific and beneficial relationship.

On the second day we had an amazingly comprehensive tour of the site, seeing the work being done and getting a better understanding of the site's history and importance.

We want to thank Cale and Freyja, as well as Hannah Bartholomew and Abby Cazier from the Lahontan Water Board, Marc Lombardi, a geologist from WSP, and all the people who explained the many activities at the site during our tour. We really appreciated your knowledge, dedication, and enthusiasm!

Be sure to visit the [Superfund Site Visit](#) page on our Tribal Lands Assistance Center site where you can access the many presentations from this meeting, as well as a slide show of our tour.

A New Tool to Help with PFAS Projects: Virtual Presentation and Discussion on October 31

You are invited to join our next Tribal Superfund Working Group virtual gathering on **October 31**. We will be hosting presenters from EPA and the Tribal PFAS Working Group, who will speak about the PFAS Analytic Tools, Tribes, and contaminated sites.

Page Hingst from the Tribal PFAS Working Group and Kaylene Ritter from Abt Associates will share information on the impacts of PFAS to tribes and how the Tribal PFAS Working Group is working with EPA to better understand these implications in tribal communities and to ensure tribes and tribal lifeways are considered when EPA develops policies and programs related to PFAS. Nick Spalt from EPA's Office of Enforcement, Compliance and Assurance will discuss PFAS Analytic Tools, a collection of 11 databases that can be used to locate and evaluate what is known about PFAS manufacture, release, and occurrence in communities. Nick will demonstrate the Tools and focus on 3 contaminated sites where PFAS has been detected and that have Native American Interest. He will also discuss how Tribes can add their own data on PFAS and answer questions about how to access and use the Tools.

Meet Our Team



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We look forward to a great discussion with you! Be sure and copy the following link into your calendar so you don't miss this event.

Join the discussion on **October 31, 11:00 am Pacific; 2:00 pm Eastern.**

Zoom link:

<https://nau.zoom.us/j/88250663839?pwd=VHVrTVVVPYU1DazFMQ1FPK3FSTzZRQT09>

Meeting ID: 882 5066 3839

Password: 670527

Events, Webinars and, Opportunities

The Tribal PFAS Working Group is holding a virtual Open House on December 14, from 1 to 3 pm CT. Their featured speaker is Dr. Kimberly Garrett, from the PFAS Project Lab at Northeastern University, who will speak about PFAS on Tribal lands. [Click here to join the webinar](#) (the Zoom Meeting ID is 853 4998 0391 and the password is TPWG2023).

Some colleagues of ours in EPA's Office of Research and Development have a new study out you'll want to take a look at: [Decision-making and social processes in disaster debris management](#). This study takes an interesting approach to a subject you've probably already been considering, and it just might give you some new insights into ways you can help your own Nation when it comes to dealing with disaster debris.

And speaking of EPA ORD, have you checked out their [Tools and Resources Webinar Series](#)? Once a month they do a webinar, showcasing some of the tools they are developing and research they are doing. There is going to be a great one on October 18 about PFAS tools. Be sure and check this site out and sign up for their listserv so you don't miss any.

ASTSWMO will be hosting a webinar about the development of an ASTM standard for closing LUST sites. The standard will include an overall approach, alternative closure criteria, and best practices for getting LUST sites to closure. The webinar will take place on Thursday October 19 at 1 PM EDT. [Click here to register](#).