

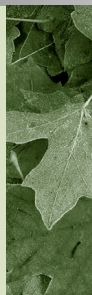


OPPTS Tribal News

Environmental *VOICES*

Office of Pesticides, Prevention,
and Toxic Substances and
Tribal Environmental
News Exchange

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Featuring Pesticides Programs

From Season to Season the Mission Remains... Preventing Pollution through Understanding

This issue of *OPPTS Tribal News* features a variety of articles from tribes that have pollution prevention programs assist in a better understanding of the concerns, issues and in some cases, innovative approaches towards solutions of preventing pollution every season. Some of the topics discussed include:

- ▶ Facts on Persistent Organic Pollutants - EPA's Office of Pesticides
- ▶ Mohegan Indian Tribe and P2 - Dr. Norman Richards, Mohegan Tribe
- ▶ Persistent Bioaccumulative Toxins' Initiative - EPA's Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics
- ▶ Gila River Indian Community - Share Pesticides Spray Drift Issues
- ▶ Buffalo: Winter Comes to Yellowstone - Winona LaDuke, Honor the Earth

OPP would like to announce that the the latest news on the Tribal Pesticides Program Council can be viewed on the National Tribal Environmental Council Web Site. Visit <http://ntec@ntec.org> for the latest.

“...Teach your children...
what we have taught our children-
that the earth is our mother,
Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons
of the earth.

This we know,
The earth does not belong to man;
man belongs to the earth.
All things are connected-
Like the blood that unites us all.
All things are connected...

Whatever befalls the earth
befalls the sons and daughters
of the earth.

We did not weave the web of life;
We are merely a strand in it.
Whatever we do to the web,
we do to ourselves...”

Chief Seattle of the Suquamish and the Duwamish, excerpt
from the Chief’s Letter to Washington’s Governor Stevens, as
recorded by Dr. Henry Smith, in 1853.



OPPTS Tribal News requests interesting success stories about pesticide programs and projects in Indian country from our readers. If you have information or experience to share via our newsletter, please write or send an e-mail to Regina Langton, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue (MC7506C), Washington, DC 20460, langton.regina@epa.gov.

From the Editors...

With great pleasure, the Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (OPPT) and the Office of Pesticides (OPP) present this Spring issue of *OPPTS Tribal News*. As part of EPA’s Office of Prevention, Pesticides, and Toxic Substances, these two offices have gathered news and data to provide information on several environmental issues and pollution prevention programs. As a highlight of this newsletter, OPPT shares information regarding tribal and federal program initiatives that promote pollution prevention within indigenous communities.

OPPT would also like to announce its new Tribal Web Site, which features tribal news and events, along with other tribal publications, and links to other EPA offices, such as AIEO, Water, and Pesticides, and other EPA Regions. Visit the office at www.epa.gov/opptintr/tribal.

We hope this issue emphasizes important items of interest and addresses environmental concerns. As always, we encourage you to relay comments, ideas, and concerns about our programs.

—Mary Lauterbach,
OPPT Tribal Coordinator

—Regina Langton,
OPP Tribal Coordinator

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OPPTS Mission Statement

- ▶ **Protect and improve human health and the environment**
- ▶ **Achieve risk reduction, sustainability, and environmental justice**
- ▶ **Promote safer designs and use of materials, products, and disposal methods through pollution prevention**
- ▶ **Inform and educate the public on the risks associated with pesticides and toxic substances.**

Tribal Pesticide Program Council Addresses Tribal Initiatives

The Tribal Pesticide Program Council (TPPC) held its inaugural meeting in Arlington, Virginia on January 25-26, 2000. The TPPC, governed by an elected 16-member Executive Committee, is composed of representatives from federally-recognized tribes, and is a counterpart of the State FIFRA Issues Research and Evaluation Group.

The TPPC meeting took place during a surprise blizzard, which resulted in a government shut-down on both meeting days. The meeting was chaired by Irving Provost of the Oglala Sioux Tribe, and facilitated by Kesner Flores of Wintun EPA/Cortina Rancheria. OPP participants included Anne Lindsey, Director, Field & External Affairs Division, Tribal Coordinators Elizabeth Resek and Regina Langton, and

Kennan Garvey, Government and International Services Branch Chief. Debbie Kovacs and Judith Hervig of EPA Region 8, Kris Carre of EPA Region 9, and Danny Gogal, EPA's Office of Environmental Justice, also participated.

At the meeting, the group finalized approval of its Executive Committee and Chairperson and TPPC Rules and Procedures. The group also began to develop and define four working groups: (1) Tribal Strategy, (2) Development of a Resource Guide for Tribes, (3) Tribal Legal Authority under FIFRA - particularly Section 18, and (4) Subsistence, which includes the concerns of native fishermen, hunters, gatherers, traditional medicine, and cultural and crafts people, such as basketweavers. TPPC working groups will be expected to define these issues and address them in an issue paper. The group also discussed emergency exemptions, differences in tribal program development between EPA Regions, and appointing tribal representatives to national workgroups.

Finally, TPPC urged the Agency to carefully consider

tribal training needs and emphasized the importance of building enforcement capacity and the need for sound legal analysis of tribal jurisdiction and legal authority in pesticide program development.

All participants were honored for taking time out of their busy lives to make a commitment to this Council. The TPPC thanked Lillian Wilmore, of Native Ecology Initiative, for her assistance as Coordinator for the Council.

The TPPC Executive Committee also met at the National Tribal Environmental Council's annual meeting in Mashantucket, Connecticut, April 16-20. The next meeting of the full TPPC is planned for September 2000. For more information regarding TPPC initiatives and meetings, please contact:

- ▶ Irving Provost, TPPC Executive Committee Chair
(605) 867-5624, pepip1@rapidnet.com
- ▶ Lillian Wilmore, TPPC Facilitator
(617) 232-5742, NAEcology@aol.com

From top:

- Ansley Griffin, Fred Corey, Irv Provost, Karen Small, Keith Manwell, Stewart Redwing,
- Marc Sixkiller-Ayuvoo, Fred Gonzales,
- Chuck Striplen, Jeff Harper, Clement Martinez,
- Judy Hervig, Lori Harder, Rebecca Davidson,
- Quentin Bestin, Elaine Wilson



New Direction for Pesticide Enforcement in Indian Country, Tribal Circuit Rider Program

Six Inland Northwest Tribes, through a cooperative agreement with EPA Region 10, have developed a unique approach to pesticide enforcement. The project, called the “Circuit Rider Program,” aims to protect Reservations through pesticide enforcement, outreach, and education. The Coeur d’Alene Tribe’s Natural Resources Department hosts the Circuit Rider Program, which is staffed by Tribal Pesticide Inspector, Eric Gjevre. Eric joined the Coeur d’Alene Tribe in February 1999 and is serving as Pesticide Inspector to the Colville, Spokane, Kalispel, Kootenai, Nez Perce, and Coeur d’Alene Tribes.

The Circuit Rider approach contributes to EPA’s goal of meeting its Federal Trust Responsibilities by providing an inspector with FIFRA credentials who works within the structure of each Tribe to enforce FIFRA. Striving to understand individual concerns of six separate Tribal Nations is important to ensure the success of the Circuit Rider Program. In addition, cooperating Tribes are able to interact and share pesticide and regulatory knowledge with each other, while assisting EPA in providing cost-effective coverage of all six Reservations.

The Circuit Rider investigates complaints alleging misuse of pesticides, and responds to inquiries for information and tribal requests regarding compliance with regulatory requirements. The Circuit Rider Program cooperates with surrounding State Pesticide Enforcement Programs and has benefited from training and interaction with State Pesticide Investigators.

For more information contact, Eric Gjevre, Pesticide Enforcement Circuit Rider, Coeur d’Alene Tribe, Plummer, Idaho, at 208-686-5507 or egjevre@iea.com (email).



*Eric Gjevre—
Tribal Pesticide
Enforcement Circuit
Rider Program
Ana Maria Osorio—
EPA Office of
Pesticide Programs*



Spokane River, Spokane Reservation, Washington State

Study of Pesticide Residues on Cultural and Medicinal Plants

As part of an EPA Pesticides Special Project, the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes are currently sampling traditional plant species for pesticide residues. The Flathead Reservation in Northwest Montana has been exposed to a number of pesticides and is home to many important cultural plant species. These pesticides range from herbicides for rangeland weed control to traditional agricultural pesticides for potatoes, cherry orchards, Christmas tree orchards, wheat, barley, and other small grains.

The inventory control, quality assurance, and sample analysis system developed by the tribes lead to the collection of 1000 camas and 1400 bitterroot plants from various locations on the Reservation in Spring 1999. Joe Weaselhead conducted the field portion of the study. Montana State University’s Analytical Laboratory in Bozeman, Montana, contracted for the sample analyses tasks, analyzed for picloram (Tordon®) and 2,4-D herbicides. The results showed no detectable signs of pesticide concentrations. Bill Swaney, Manager of the Tribes’ Division of Environmental Protection, said “This is positive news for our people and for our land management agencies”.

The EPA Pesticides Special Project will fund the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes data collection efforts for another year of data collection. For more information regarding this pesticides study, please contact Jennifer Wintersteen, EPA Region 8, at 406-441-1123 or wintersteen.jennifer@epa.gov, or Bill Swaney, Manager, Division of Environmental Protection for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes, at 406-675-2700, ext. 1213 or billys@cskt.org.

Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers

Pesticides and National Strategies for Health Care Providers is a national initiative created by EPA in collaboration with the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Labor, and the National Environmental Education and Training Foundation. The purpose of this initiative is to identify and implement strategies for educating health care providers on how to recognize, diagnose, and manage pesticide-related health conditions. The goal is for all primary health care providers to possess a basic understanding of the health effects associated with pesticide exposures and to be able to take action to lessen such effects through clinical and prevention activities, and when needed, seek appropriate specialty consultation.



A Draft Implementation Plan will be published and distributed widely. This Plan is the result of extensive development and input from key stakeholders from across the country at an Expert Panel meeting in April 1998, and three work group meetings (Education, Practice and Resources) in May and August 1999. The Plan utilizes pesticides as an excellent model that can be easily and efficiently broadened to incorporate other toxic agents and other initiatives in the field. Perhaps, this can be the first step in the environmental field to begin developing a cohesive national environmental health strategy.

The Plan, and progress on implementation thus far, will be showcased at a national forum for health care providers scheduled for early 2001 in Washington, DC. EPA and the Federal Inter-agency Planning Committee members encourage interested parties to come forward with their ideas for implementation and for their participation in the upcoming national forum. For more information on the initiative or to acquire copies of the draft plan, please contact Delta Valente at valente.delta@epa.gov, 703-305-7666 or visit our Website at www.epa.gov/pesticides/safety.

Outreach to Health Care Providers in Indian Country

In the U.S., we know that young children, agricultural workers, and pesticide applicators are at highest risk for pesticide-related health effects. However, we know very little about the pesticide exposures and related illness within tribal communities.

EPA's OPP is involved in a health care provider outreach initiative targeting pesticide exposure. The latest addition to the initiative is a Tribal Medicine Project for health care providers that serve the potentially high-risk populations within tribal communities. The goal is to provide training on pesticide related health conditions tailored to the unique types of exposures and health care infrastructure encountered in tribal communities.

In two to three pilot tribal communities, a two-step health care provider training program will be developed to (1) profile work and environmental situations leading to potential pesticide exposure and (2) adapt traditional health care provider training by incorporating real life exposure situations and medical cases of pilot communities.

For the Tribal Medicine Project to be successful, the collaboration and involvement of tribal members, health care providers (including Indian Health Services and private clinicians), related governmental groups, and organizations will be required. In Spring/Summer 2000, Project representatives will consult with various tribal contacts and collect information for the selection of possible pilot sites. For questions or suggestions, please contact Ana Maria Osorio, MD, MPH, U.S. EPA, at 703-305-7666 or Osorio.AnaMaria@epa.gov (email).

FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Work Group Welcomes a New Chairperson!

Welcome and congratulations to Jeff Besougloff on being named new chair of the Forum on State and Tribal Toxics Action (FOSTTA) Tribal Affairs Work Group. Jeff also is currently the Director of Environmental Programs for the Upper Sioux Community and Lower Sioux Indian Community in Redwood Falls, Minnesota. His predecessor, Sharri Veno, Director of Natural Resources for the Houlton Band of Maliseet Indians in Maine, now has her new appointment as the EPA Region I Alternated on the Tribal Operations Committee.

Jeff, as acting-Chair at the March 6-7, 2000 FOSTTA Tribal Affairs Work Group meeting, lead discussions on several topics of interest: 1) The National Conference of State Legislatures and the National Congress of American Indians's State-Tribal Relationships Project, which seeks to promote collaboration between states and tribes in reaching common goals. One benefit could be increased cooperation in addressing environmental concerns of tribes. 2) The OPPT and OPP Subsistence

Food Assessment Projects focus on toxics and pesticide exposure and risk to tribal populations from subsistence food consumption. 3) The National 638 Model (Lead) Work Group, relating mostly to the Montana Test. Procedures are in place to review applications. EPA Headquarters Office reviews nationally significant procedures. The Montana Test applies whether the State has a delegated or approved EPA program, and the Work Group at EPA is looking at generalized information on lead's vector qualities to resolve jurisdictional issues.

A caucus for the tribal representatives also was held on Sunday afternoon, and the representatives were so enthused about FOSTTA that they have chosen to meet on Monday and Tuesday at future meetings so they can spend more time conducting business. In attendance were Sharri Venno; Marlee Baker, Assistant Director, Tribal Environmental Program, Three Affiliated Tribes in North Dakota; Georjean Moomaw, Project Manager, Toxic Lead Program, Colville Confederated

Tribe in Washington; and Steve Parker, Cultural Environmental Manager, Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community of Arizona; and Pat Curran, Manager, Health Hazards Control Unit, North Carolina Department of Health and Human Services. EPA employees from Headquarters and Region 7 also participated.

FOSTTA provides states and tribes opportunities for information exchange by experts on toxics and enforcement issues and ongoing discussion on activities in which EPA is involved. Currently, there are eight tribal representatives active in FOSTTA. OPPT's goal is to have a tribal representative and alternate from each EPA Region.

The next meeting of the Tribal Affairs Work Group is scheduled for June 22-23, 2000, in Washington, D.C. More details will be announced once available. However, for more information, contact Jeff Besougloff at 507-637-8353 or envoff@aol.com (email).

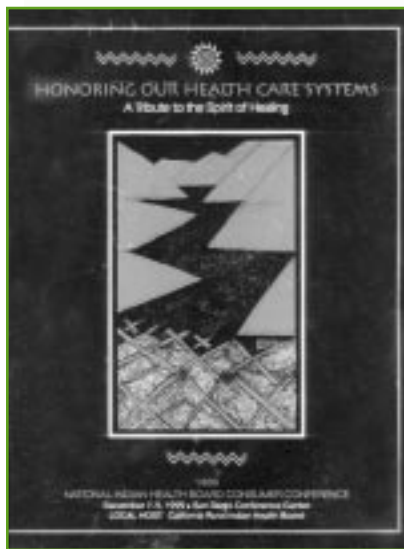


"We're gathering a tremendous amount of information from tribal resources...with FOSTTA, we're communicating on individual tribal issues, as well as global topics...This is very satisfying for the Agency, as well as the tribes...We will continue increasing our membership and reaching our goals."

— Jeff Besougloff, Chairperson, FOSTTA

Lead Workshops to Be Held at the National Indian Health Board Conference

EPA-sponsored lead workshops will be held during the annual National Indian Health Board (NIHB) Consumer Conference in Billings, Montana on August 22-24, 2000. The workshops will feature blood lead poisoning and prevention. During the last NIHB Consumer Conference in December 1999, workshops were also presented on lead poisoning and prevention. One workshop presented an information system used to manage tribal environmental data in the Upper Sioux and Lower Sioux Tribes. Members of the Chippewa-Cree Tribe also discussed their approach to addressing lead poisoning in their community. In addition, a special facilitator-lead forum was held at the end of the conference to evaluate the lead workshops, set recommendations for the next conference, and discuss issues that tribes, the Indian Health Service, NIHB, EPA, HUD and others need to address to resolve some of the problems regarding lead poisoning in Tribal communities. EPA anticipates another successful series of workshops at the upcoming conference. For more information, contact Darlene Watford, OPPT/NPCD, 202-260-3989.



National Program Chemicals Division (NPCD) in OPPT Issues Notice on New Grant Program for Tribes

EPA issued a Notice of Available Funds for grants in the February 23, 2000 Federal Register exclusively for blood-lead screening of children and lead educational outreach programs for Indian Tribes. EPA plans to award 25-50 grants each totaling \$15,000 to \$50,000. Grants will be awarded entirely on the basis of EPA's evaluation of the proposals, which were due May 23, 2000. The selection criteria includes descriptions of: (1) plans to develop and implement a blood-lead screening program; (2) any new or existing program educational material; (3) efforts to contact hard-to-reach tribal communities and inform them of child lead poisoning and screening; (4) key personnel experience; and (5) soundness and credibility of projected budget and schedule.

Copies of the Federal Register Notice are available through the TSCA Hotline at 202-554-1404 and the EPA home page at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>. For technical information, contact the EPA project officer, Darlene Watford, at 202-260-3989 or watford.darlene@epa.gov (email).

During June 25-28, 2000, the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI) will hold its mid-year session that will highlight successful models of tribal-state government cooperation and partnership. For further information, please contact NCAI at 202-466-7767. If you are interested in presenting at the 2000 mid-year session, please request John Dossett or Sarah Hicks.

Helping Agriculture Comply with Environmental Requirements

The *first stop* for people in the agricultural community who need information on compliance with environmental regulations is the National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center. Offered by EPA's Office of Compliance, with the support of the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Ag Center offers comprehensive, easy-to-understand information about approaches to compliance that are both environmentally protective and agriculturally sound.

The Ag Center is focusing first on providing information about EPA's own requirements. The Center relies heavily on existing sources of agricultural information and established distribution channels. USDA and other agencies provide educational and technical information on agricultural production, but assistance in complying with environmental requirements has not been as readily accessible.

The Ag Center offers information on a variety of topics, including pesticides, animal waste management, emergency planning and response, groundwater/surface water, tanks/containment, and solid/hazardous waste. The Ag Center also supports regional and state regulatory agencies in their effort to provide compliance assistance to local agricultural communities.

Growers, livestock producers, other agribusinesses, and agricultural information/education providers can access the Center's resources easily—through telephone, fax, mail, and the Internet. An Internet home page is regularly updated and expanded with current news, compliance policies and guidelines, pollution prevention information, sources of additional information, and summaries of regulatory initiatives and requirements.

EPA's Office of Compliance has developed several other centers for selected major industries. Those industry sectors currently include automotive, chemicals, dry cleaning, electronics/computers, federal facilities, local government, and printing. Access to the web sites for these centers is available through the Office of Compliance web address at www.epa.gov/oeca/main/compasst/index.html. For more information regarding the National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center, contact Ginah K. Mortensen, toll free, at 888-663-2155 or www.epa.gov/oeca/ag.

Tribal Representatives Share Pesticide Spray Drift Issues With EPA and Others

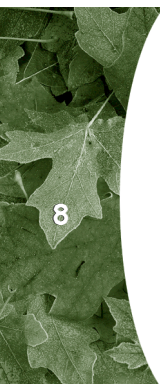
Dr. Patricia Mariella of the Gila River Indian Community and Kelly Mills of the Ft. Mohave Indian Tribe visited Washington, D.C. on separate occasions to share their perspectives of environmental and pesticides issues.

In February, staff from the Office of Pesticide Programs heard Dr. Mariella describe the problems residents of the Gila River Indian Community have experienced with drifting agricultural pesticides and the subsequent regulatory actions taken by the community to successfully reduce this problem (e.g. prohibiting use of fixed wing aircraft).

Kelly Mills, as a representative of the Tribal Pesticide Program Council on spray drift issues, spoke to the National Coalition on Drift Minimization in March. Kelly told coalition members, representatives from EPA and other federal and state government agencies, pesticide applicator organizations, pesticide and equipment manufacturers, educators, and university experts, about the need in Indian country for protecting the environment and the health of tribal members against pesticide drift.

Pesticide and Healthcare Website Coming Soon

The National Environmental Education & Training Foundation (NEETF) new pesticides WebPage, to be released this summer, will provide a first investigative source for health care professionals researching illnesses with possible links to environmental causes. NEETF staff has reviewed over 150 web links that address pesticides issues, and 65 of these contain useful, interactive information for health care providers, retrievable either electronically or by mail. The new site will also include books, articles, slides, pamphlets, and college curricula that focus on pesticides issues, as well as links to pesticides material and other WebPages. For more information, please contact Serena Agosto at agusto@neetf.org or 202-833-2933.



Pesticides

Facts on POPs

What are persistent organic pollutants, better known as “POPs”?

POPs are highly stable chemicals used as pesticides or in industry. They are also generated unintentionally as byproducts of combustion and industrial processes.



What is being done to address the POPs problem? Since POPs circulate globally, no country acting alone can protect its citizens or environment from risk. Recognizing this, governments have agreed to negotiate a global treaty on POPs beginning in early 1998. There have been four international negotiating sessions as of April 2000.

Is EPA involved in the international negotiations on POPs?

EPA is part of the U.S. Delegation led by the U.S. Department of State. This delegation has been actively involved in the Global POPs Treaty negotiations.

Why are POPs a special problem?

- ▶ POPs persist in the environment for a long time before they break down;
- ▶ They travel for long distances to all parts of the globe, even remote areas thousands of miles away from the nearest source;
- ▶ They accumulate in the tissue of most living organisms which absorb POPs when they eat food, drink water or breath the air; and
- ▶ POPs poison humans and wildlife causing a wide range of toxic effects.

How is EPA working with Native American partners on the Global POPs Treaty?

EPA is trying to provide Native Americans with important information on the treaty and to gain their input. An information packet was mailed to all federally-recognized tribes and EPA has briefed the EPA Tribal Operations Committee and has spoken to EPA’s National Environmental Justice Advisory Committee’s Indigenous Peoples Subcommittee. EPA and the U.S. Department of State attended the Alaska Conference on the Environment to specifically have dialogue with the many Alaskan natives attending the conference. Dialogue will continue as EPA holds conference calls with tribes, beginning in Regions 5 and 10.

12 POPs, Internationally Recognized as Needing Immediate Global Action

Pesticides

| | |
|-----------|------------|
| Aldrin | Endrin |
| Chlordane | Heptachlor |
| DDT | Mirex |
| Dieldrin | Toxaphene |

Industrial Chemicals

Hexachlorobenzene (also a pesticide)
PCB (polychlorinated biphenyls)

Unintended Byproducts

Dioxins
Furans

How can I get more information on POPs and the Global POPs Treaty? You can visit the POPs Homepage at <http://irpic.unep.ch/pops/>.

Who can I contact to provide my comments on the Global POPs Treaty? You can contact Cornelia Weierbach, U.S. Department of State, 202-647-4548, weierbachcm@state.gov (email).

Pesticides

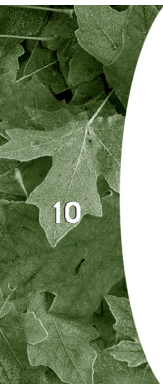
Organophosphate Pesticides

Methyl parathion is an organophosphate pesticide, used to kill insects on cotton and other agricultural crops. EPA is addressing two issues related to methyl parathion.

Several years ago, individuals used methyl parathion illegally to kill insects in peoples' homes. The EPA Superfund program spent about \$90 million cleaning those contaminated homes. Since then, the Office of Pesticide Programs has been working to educate people on the dangers of using outdoor pesticides indoors and safe and effective ways to control pests. Key principles of controlling pests in the home are to remove sources of food, water, and shelter for the pests. If pesticides are necessary, use baits and spot treatments to reduce exposure to pesticides.

The second methyl parathion issue is related to EPA's review of this and all pesticides to be sure they meet current safety standards. In August 1999, EPA issued a revised risk assessment for methyl parathion that found the registered uses of methyl parathion did not provide the extra margin of safety for children required by the Food Quality Protection Act (FQPA). EPA canceled certain uses of methyl parathion, making these uses illegal as of December 31, 1999. Now, EPA is in the process of revoking tolerances (maximum residue amounts in foods) for these uses.

For more information, contact EPA's Claire Gesalman at 703-308-3260 or gesalman.claire@epa.gov.



Regulation of subsistence fishing through inter-tribal agreements has gone on for centuries.

Consumer Labeling Initiative Improves Labels

Have you ever made a dash for fresh air after mixing two cleaning products? Or sprayed your tomatoes for bugs, only to find that the spray wasn't for vegetable use? That's why EPA and its Consumer Labeling Initiative (CLI) partners urge you "READ THE LABEL FIRST!".

CLI began in 1996 as a pilot program designed to foster pollution prevention, empower consumer choice when buying, using, storing, and disposing of products, and improve consumer understanding of household product labels, particularly on home pesticide and cleaning products. CLI has worked for over three years to find ways to make labels more useful for consumers using direct consumer research.

CLI's efforts have resulted in revised, easier to read labels, and an education campaign to support consumer label awareness. The campaign, "READ THE LABEL FIRST!", reminds consumers of the valuable information on labels, and helps consumers understand each part of the label and its potential label warnings.

For more information regarding the Consumer Labeling Initiative, please visit www.epa.gov/oppt/labeling or contact Amy Breedlove at breedlove.amy@epa.gov or 703-308-9069.

EPA's Persistent, Bioaccumulative, and Toxic Chemicals Initiative

Persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic (PBT) substances are of great concern because they are toxic, persist in the environment, and bioaccumulate in food chains and, thus, pose risks to human and ecosystem health. Some PBT substances, such as mercury and dioxins, can even cause developmental and neurological defects in fetuses and the young.

As a result, EPA's cross-program PBT Initiative is working to further reduce risks to human health and the environment from existing and future exposure to priority PBT pollutants. While the Initiative emphasizes prevention as a means to stop the transfer of PBT pollutants across environmental media, it is designed to utilize all of the Agency's tools.

For example, EPA is currently utilizing methods for estimating PBT characteristics and integrating these into a web-based PBT Profiler. The PBT Profiler will calculate PBT characteristics from chemical structures, based on Chemical Abstract Service (CAS) numbers, to provide PBT information in an easy-to-understand format.

Technical assistance also will be available if the user enters an unfamiliar CAS number not in the database or enters the structure or chemical name, but no CAS number. For more information on the Beta Test of the PBT Profiler, please contact Bill

Waugh at 202-260-3489 or Maggie Wilson at 202-260-3902.

Also, Regional offices are providing grant funds to areas and organizations to promote P2 and PBT initiatives. EPA Region 10 will fund a dynamic EPA/Tribal partnership program to screen for potential PBT contamination in Alaskan Tribal subsistence foods. This work will address critical needs for Alaska's tribes to have a safe and cost-effective way to test their subsistence foods for possible contamination. Under this proposal, a partnership has been formed with the Alaska Native Marine Mammal Commissions, the Alaska Sea Life Center, EPA Region 10 Manchester Laboratory, and the Office of Environmental Assessment to design and field test a prototype of a PBT screening tool for subsistence foods.

EPA awarded funds through an Environmental Justice for Pollution Prevention Grant to the St. Clair County Health Department to help promote P2 in health care facilities in the East St. Louis area and surrounding communities. This

grant will be used to evaluate mercury-containing products and waste streams. The grant also will establish a model facility, disseminate information to promote mercury reduction, assist facilities with mercury reductions and P2 practices, develop case studies of successful programs at healthcare facilities, and encourage the development of P2 and waste minimization plans.

In addition to Agency initiatives, industrial facilities are also promoting reduced exposure to PBT pollutants. For example, three major Midwest auto companies - DaimlerChrysler, Ford and General Motors - have all agreed to virtually eliminate the use of PCBs in their electrical equipment. Their promise caps more than two decades of work by the automakers and others to reduce the amounts of the toxic chemicals spilling into the Great Lakes.

For more information regarding PBT initiatives and news events, visit the PBT homepage at www.epa.gov/pbt.

"It is very important that the Agency use its full complement of tools to address these priority PBTs...I want to ensure that our current...agendas support the development and implementation of action plans for the persistent, bioaccumulative and toxic substances targeted in the Binational Strategy and identified by the PBT strategy."

– Carol Browner, EPA Administrator

Taos Pueblo Moves Ahead With Water Resources Protection and P2

By Bernadette Lefthand, Taos Pueblo Utility Manager, and Christopher Campbell, WERC's Pollution Prevention Technical Resources Center



Since 1983, Taos Pueblo, located at the base of the Sangre de Cristo Mountains in Northern New Mexico, has provided its 2500 residents with safe, clean drinking water through its Pueblo Utility Service. The

The Utility Board mission statement to the Taos Pueblo community... "water in the ground may be free, but getting the water from the source to people's homes and making sure that it's safe is costly."

Utility is managed by a Board comprised of 5 Tribal members, each appointed by Tribal Government to oversee the operation and maintenance of the Utility's 383 water connections, 353 sewer connections, four community wells and two water storage tanks. Besides daily activities of water and sewer operations, the Utility also manages all fiscal aspects including

billing and collection, accounts payable and receivable, purchase orders, and payroll. The Utility is, thus, an autonomous enterprise that provides an adequate financial structure for long-term Utility needs, manages an effective organization, and serves as an enforcement authority for Utility rules and regulations.

In 1999, Taos took several steps to improve its operation and preserve drinking water quality. The Utility replaced all its water meters with "touch-read" meters, eliminating costly repairs and improving meter reading efficiency. Taos also issued its first annual Drinking Water Quality Report under EPA's Consumer Confidence Reporting requirements. EPA reviewed the report and submitted positive comments. The Agency also recognized the Utility for meeting drinking water standards for three consecutive years, 1996-98.

With the assistance of the

Taos Pueblo Environment Department, the Taos Day School, and other Tribal

WERC is a consortium of New Mexico's universities, dedicated to environmental education and technology development.

Agencies, the Utility successfully developed and implemented a wellhead protection plan for its four wells, as such it is the first source water protection effort by a tribe in New Mexico. By using a community-based approach, the Utility and Taos Pueblo Environment Department can identify potential pollution sources throughout the Pueblo and implement measures to minimize or eliminate any adverse affects on air quality, surface water and drinking water.

Many of these initiatives will be coordinated through WERC's Pollution Prevention (P2) Technical Resources Center, located in Albuquerque, which provides free technical assistance on P2 and energy efficiency issues to small business, communities and Tribes throughout New Mexico and the region. Readers of OPPTS Tribal News are invited to contact the Center at 505-843-4251 or join its listserve at nmp2@nmsu.edu for more information.

Mohegan Indian Tribe and P2

The Mohegan Tribe of Indians in Connecticut have been very successful with their waste management initiatives and educational efforts supported by the tribe's Integrated Pollution Prevention (P2) Team. Since its inception, the Integrated P2 Program has witnessed more than 44% recycling of the solid waste streams resulting from operations conducted at the Mohegan Sun Casino and tribal environmental office. This is twice the average recycling rate for most towns and cities in Connecticut.

Before the casino was built, the Mohegan P2 Team supported pollution prevention. The team transformed waste disposal costs into revenue through the sale of recyclable materials, such as cardboard, paper, plastic, aluminum cans, and glass. Waste was also prevented with reuse of clothing, toys, books, and other household materials. The casino itself was constructed through adaptive reuse of existing, older buildings.

Since the casino's opening, the tribe has pursued many additional environmental initiatives. Automotive emissions from

reservation visitors, for example, are voluntarily offset by the tribe's purchase of emission offset credits from other facilities. Food waste was also a major problem for the tribe, constituting 37.5% of the waste stream before waste reduction efforts. The Mohegans now send more than 2,190 tons of food waste produced each year in the casino's restaurant operations to an off-reservation piggery for use as feed, avoiding \$184,000 in hauling and landfill disposal fees. Pig waste and bedding from the piggery are compost and reimported onto the reservation for landscaping, thus "closing the loop" on food wastes. The tribe also sells waste fat, bones, and grease to a renderer for use in the production of animal feed and other products.

Pollution prevention education of employees and contractors is another important feature of the Mohegan program. More than 6,000 individuals involved in waste management have participated in a P2 training program. Through education, employees can more easily learn and comply with tribal policy, codes, and P2 performance

expectations, resulting in financial and environmental risk reduction benefits. The P2 Team even requires that all contractors handling solid waste participate in P2 training.

The Mohegan Environmental Management Division (EMD) P2 training certification program focuses on education and compliance of municipal solid waste (MSW) policy.

Source reduction is an important aspect of the certification program, where trainees are asked to study, analyze, and research source reduction activities, including water-conserving irrigation methods, integrated pest management practices, and use of compost as a substitute for peat moss and mulch. In addition, the certification program explores recycling practices, such as the use and re-use of all types of materials, including wood, aluminum, paper, and food.

To gather additional information on the Mohegan P2 program, contact Dr. Norman Richards, Mohegan Tribe, at 860-204-6112 or nrichards@moheganmail.com.

Buffalo: Winter Comes to Yellowstone

By Winona LaDuke, Program Director, Honor the Earth

Wii-zoogipod. It is likely to snow. As the snow starts to fall in Yellowstone National Park, there are some absolute certainties. There is a certainty that there will be a process to determine the fate of the survivors of the Great Buffalo Nation. There



Buffalo scenes from Honor the Earth.

is a certainty that buffalo will die, perhaps a few, perhaps a hundred, perhaps mostly mothers who left orphaned calves, dying later. And, there is a certainty that people will oppose that slaughter.

Three meetings, held by the National Park Service, were called this past year to seek input from Native Nations on the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the future management of Yellowstone buffalo. It is the cusp of the millennium, and America remains in a strange dance with death. It is a dance between mythology and reality, cowboys and Indians, cattle and buffalo, expressing a deep-set fear that somehow *if those buffalo live, what is America will not*. Through this dance, American policy makers struggle with determining the future of a buffalo herd and an entire bioregion.

For example, 45 million cattle have replaced 60 million buffalo in the northern plains region. Many of these cattle have moved into government held lands in the region, and are scarfing up grazing rights to most of the region, about 250 million acres of the American West. The politics and economics of this situation, resulting from faulty land use and agricultural policy, has left 2/3 of the Yellowstone buffalo herd dead over the past four years. The Yellowstone herd are descendants of the 23 last wild buffalo who lived through the great massacre of the past century.

“The buffalo is central to our existence,” explains Milo Yellow Hair of the Oglala Lakota



Nation. “Our ceremonies will have no meaning if there is no buffalo. Our language will have no meaning if there is no buffalo.” It is that basic. Yet an impossible dilemma is again leading the buffalo to the edge of genetic oblivion. Buffalo suffer from genetic bottle-neck, a direct consequence of the massacres of the past century. Genetically speaking, the more there are, the better their chances

at survival. Also, most people consider the Yellowstone herd to be the “strongest herd”.

Therefore, a herd cap proposed at Yellowstone of 1,700-2,200 animals means that the “strongest herd” can only grow so far before it is killed.

It is a fact that the

“...Every time a buffalo is killed here, that brings back sharp pains of what happened in the late 1800’s to our people...killed at Wounded Knee, and my family still feels that pain...when a buffalo is killed here. My family feels that that mentality is still alive and well in America today...”

– James Garrett, Cheyenne River

Yellowstone Park boundaries and attendant ecosystem can only support so many buffalo. In total, the greater Yellowstone ecosystem in all of its glory is about 1.75 million acres. As a result, Yellowstone buffalo have attempted to leave the park for winter forage, and have been killed.

The National Park Service maintains a non-interference policy with wildlife in the park borders, but that non-interference policy does not allow the buffalo to carry on their natural migrations to winter grazing lands. In other words, they are wild until they hit an invisible border. John Mack a wildlife biologist for the National Park Service acknowledges the irony,

Pollution Prevention

Pollution Prevention and Toxics

“Bison...don’t recognize a political boundary, they recognize the land.” The buffalo of

Yellowstone are wild enough to live inside the park, wild enough to die of starvation in the park, but absolutely dead if they hit the border of the Park.

Another myth drives the killings—the myth of brucellosis, a dreaded cattle disease that most of the Yellowstone herd carries. Brucellosis can only be transmitted through fetal materials, and, therefore, there has never been one case of a buffalo transmitting the disease to cattle in the wild. But the supposed risk of brucellosis transmission forms the entire premise of current and proposed buffalo management policy.

At the close of this process the EIS team is supposed to

come up with a final management plan, to be released Spring or Summer 2000.

All tribal resolutions and input thus far have called for respect for the animals and respect for the people. To begin more informed and meaningful discussions, the Native community has requested tribal representation on the EIS team, selected by the tribal community and not the federal government, plus a careful analysis and risk assessment on the actual threat of brucellosis transmission. In addition, the Native community (in consultations, letters, and tribal resolution) has made a number of alternative suggestions that provide vital solutions for future buffalo management. Some of these suggestions include (1) management of cattle

through vaccination, (2) acquire additional winter range lands for buffalo, (3) establish realistic population figures related to a biologically viable herd in a biologically viable ecosystem,, (4) live removal of buffalo cow-calf pairs to existing tribal herds, Native communities and federal grasslands, and (5) possible non-intrusive vaccination programs for buffalo (i.e.: development of a vaccine dart).

For more information, contact Honor the Earth, a national Native foundation and advocacy program working to increase funding and public support for Native environmental issues, at 800-EARTH-07.

Lower Sioux Wind Energy Project

Since 1992, the Lower Sioux Indian Community Office of the Environment has been investigating wind energy potential of the Lower Sioux Reservation and has since developed an energy project that utilizes wind energy to generate electric energy for the Lower Sioux Reservation, located along the Minnesota River in Southwestern Minnesota. Commonly, electrical power is generated from fossil fuels (55%), nuclear fuels (30%), hydroelectric sources (10%), and waste burning (5%) sources. Use of these sources typically releases toxic chemicals and,

therefore, contaminates the environment. Generating electricity from the power of wind energy, however, produces no air pollution, acid rain, carbon emissions, or dangerous radioactive wastes. The use of wind energy is also cost-efficient since production retains direct and indirect economic benefits for the community, involves local members and scientists in power plant siting issues, and is centered in the community.

Project activities included (1) a wind resource monitoring study to collect local wind speeds and frequencies, which were compared with auxiliary

data and used to complete industry standard data analyses, and (2) analysis to determine the best use of equipment and specifications when generating models for wind energy. Based on its success, this project will serve as a model, community-based wind project for small tribal and non-tribal communities. For more information, please contact the Office of the Environment at 507-637-8353 or envoff@aol.com.

Kaw Nation and Environmental Education

By Reta Lintner, KNED Environmental Education Coordinator

Kaw Nation has had a very active and productive environmental program. Staff development and training in environmental law, environmental law enforcement, environmental assessment, Clean Water Act, Clean Air Act, environmental education, and solid waste have been continuing goals of this department.

Not many people are aware that two-thirds of the general population cannot answer simple, environmentally-related questions. For example, how many quarts of used motor oil does it take to pollute 250,000 gallons of drinking water?

Setting environmental education as a priority goal for tribal members, the Kaw Nation Environmental Department (KNED) began with the first Project Wild, Project Wet, Project Learning Tree workshop. Tribal members and area Johnson O'Malley (JOM) teachers responsible for teaching tribal children were invited to attend.

It was hoped that through this training, area teachers would incorporate environmental edu-



cation into daily curriculums. Activities are grouped by subject or scholastic grade, with a key in the back of the books for ease in selecting time, materials, and indoor/outdoor sessions.

Each year following this first workshop, KNED has continued to invite tribal members, area teachers, and neighboring tribes to attend additional workshops in an attempt to keep environmental education awareness a priority.

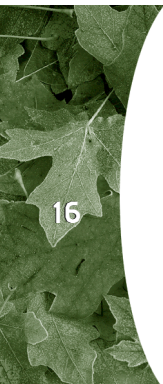
Through grants provided by U.S. EPA Region 6, workshops have included a Leopold Education Project Workshop, teaching a land ethic, and a Project Wet Workshop, aimed to teach the value of our wetlands and the environmental relationships we need to preserve.

Area schools have invited staff members to conduct workshop activities with various

classrooms for second through sixth grades. KNED staff alone have conducted outreach to a minimum of 147 students and approximately 47 adults including co-workers and neighboring tribal environmental staff.

Another aspect of these workshops is to provide participants with supplies needed for full participation in these activities. Most teachers and others interested in using these training methods do not have access to the materials necessary to make use of these activities. Through grant funds KNED has provided a "starter trunk" to workshop participants, giving them basic craft supplies and encouraging use of these environmental education tools. Using math, reading, deductive reasoning, social, and logic skills, students learn in a challenging, interactive, and enjoyable format.

Cultural ethics, environmental traditions, and working together to preserve and protect our legacy should be as important to this generation as it was in the past. Today's actions determine tomorrow's continuation.



Grants to Conduct Blood-Lead Screening and Lead Awareness Activities

Childhood lead poisoning continues to be a major, preventable environmental health problem. Despite significant progress toward the elimination of lead poisoning in the population as a whole, children, who are most vulnerable to the harmful effects of lead, continue to be exposed to this toxin at an unacceptable rate. In Indian Tribes, the leading risk factor for lead poisoning in children is living in an older home, particularly homes built before 1950. This program will conduct blood-lead screenings for Indian children to identify those with elevated blood lead levels who need follow-up care and will also provide for lead awareness outreach activities for Indian Tribes.

Quick Facts

What type of program is it? A grant program.

What's the purpose? The purpose of these grants is to encourage Indian Tribes to recognize the risks to children associated with lead exposure and address them by conducting blood-lead screening for children and providing lead awareness activities.

Who's eligible? Federally recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal consortiums (an association or partnership with one or more federally recognized Indian Tribes) are eligible for this grant

program.

How much funding is available? EPA is awarding grants that will provide approximately \$2 million for this program.

Grants of up to \$30,000 will be issued for applicants interested in submitting proposals for blood-lead screening activities.

Applicants may receive grants for up to \$50,000 for lead awareness outreach activities.

Grants may be issued for greater amounts than specified in cases where a large tribal population is being served or represented by a Tribal consortium. EPA anticipates awarding about 25-50 grants in this program.

What do I need to submit?

Interested applicants must submit a pre-proposal consisting of a work plan and a budget to the EPA Project Officer for this grant. Tribal consortiums must include a letter of interest and support from each Tribal Chair that is being represented in the pre-application.

Background

Lead is a toxic metal that can cause permanent damage to our children. Lead poisoning can affect neurological development in young children. Lead poisoning in children may cause lowered intelligence, reading and learning disabilities, impaired hearing, reduced attention span,

hyperactivity, and antisocial behavior. Pregnant women exposed to lead may also transfer the contaminant to a developing fetus, resulting in developmental problems. Even low levels of lead can permanently affect children. High levels of lead in children can lead to seizures, unconsciousness and even death.

A recent study by the National Health and Nutrition Examination Survey (NHANES) indicates that children of urban, minority (e.g., African American, Asian Pacific American, Hispanic American, American Indian), or low-income families, or who live in older housing, continue to be most vulnerable to lead poisoning, and have elevated blood-lead levels.

This grant program will support screening of Indian children who are potentially exposed to lead hazards and will generate awareness and the requisite among the Indian population to prevent childhood poisoning. The goal of the program is to identify children who need individual interventions to reduce their blood-lead levels and to determine which tribal areas are at high risk for lead exposure.

Continued on next page

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Application Requirements and Information

Eligibility

Only federally-recognized Indian Tribes or Tribal consortiums (an association or partnership with one or more federally recognized Indian Tribes) are eligible to apply for these grants.

Application

Applicants must submit a proposal for the pre-application procedure. Applicants must submit one original and three copies of the pre-application. Pre-applications must be reproducible and must consist of two parts: (1) a work plan and (2) a budget. For Tribal consortiums, a letter of interest and support from each Tribal Chair being represented must be submitted along with the pre-application.

The Agency will use the applicant's work plan and budget to select projects to be funded under this grant program. After EPA conducts a review of all submitted pre-applications, successful applicants will be contacted and requested to submit other supporting documents, such as the "Application for Federal

Assistance" form and a "Budget Information: Non-Construction Programs" form to complete the application process. However, for the purposes of the pre-application process, applicants must only submit a work plan and a budget.

A copy of the notice which provides detailed information on the program may be obtained from the EPA TSCA Hotline by calling 202-554-1404 or may be downloaded from the EPA Home web page at <http://www.epa.gov/lead>.

Application Submission

The deadline for the pre-proposal applications is May 23, 2000. Notifications of grant approvals may be received about 90 days after the application deadline.

Contact Information

For general information contact, Barbara Cunningham, Director, Office of Program Management and Evaluation, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7401),

Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, 202-554-1404, TSCA-Hotline@epa.gov (email).

For technical information contact the EPA Project Officer for this grant program, Darlene Watford, National Program Chemicals Division, Office of Pollution Prevention and Toxics (7404), Environmental Protection Agency, Ariel Rios Bldg., 1200 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Washington, DC 20460, 202-260-3989, watford.darlene@epa.gov (email).



Pages 17 and 18 are designed for insertion into the *OPPT Programs, Resources, and Grant Opportunities for Indian Tribes* document.

Kids' Page

Welcome to the Kid's Page! Use the bold words in the following article and the list below to solve the word search. The words can be found up, down, and diagonal—both forward and backwards! Some letters are used for more than one word. Have fun!

Sustainable Development: A New way of "Thinking of the Seventh Generation"

It is always good to **hear** that we had it right all along! **Native** Americans have historically thought **long** term when making decisions that involve the People and the environment. The rest of **world** is joining in with **Sustainable** Development.

Sustainable Development is meeting **current** needs without taking away from the needs of future **generations**. We make **decisions** every **day** that can affect the world we live in and how it will change. Looking forward **seven** generations allows only change that is sustainable. America is full of **beautiful** places, **wonderful animals** and interesting **plants**.

Think about where you **live**. Do have tall forests that **clean** the **air**? **Rivers** with **fish** for food? **Grasslands** that provide **reeds** for **basket** making. **Marshlands** that grow **wildrice**? **Deserts** that are a **habitat** for **endangered** species? Wherever you live, **you** have natural **resources** that you can enjoy forever, if they are protected.

Native Americans have a lot to offer in the Nations pursuit of developing with the **future** in mind. **Respect** for our environment is a value that we can share. Keeping in touch with **our cultures** allows us to continue **traditions**, and, helps us to **develop**. For example, basket **weaving** is an ancient **art** that brings us closer to the **land** we live in, and helps us use local resources to create beauty. We make a difference in many ways!



Mark Your Calendars!

June 2000

25-28

National Congress of American Indians

NAI Mid-Year Conference

Juneau, Alaska
Washington, DC
202-466-7767

July 2000

11-13

Region 8, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

Regional Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

Polson, MT

17-19

Land, Mining, and Forest Restoration Symposium & Workshop

Denver West Marriott
Denver, Colorado
Laura Gorman
720-931-9325

25-27

Indian Nation Leaders Meeting

Region 2
Theresa Fleming
202-260-7939

August 2000

9-12

Millennium Conference 2000, "To Honor the Child"

National Indian Child Welfare Association

Oconomowoc, Wisconsin
202-824-8800

September 2000

18-21

ATNI Annual Conference

Pendleton, OR
503-241-0070
tribes@atni.org
<http://www.atni.org>

EPA Web Sites and Hot Lines

| | |
|--|--|
| EPA | www.epa.gov |
| OPP | www.epa.gov/pesticides/ |
| OPPT | www.epa.gov/opptintr |
| Pollution Prevention | www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home |
| American Indian Environmental Office | www.epa.gov/indian |
| Asbestos Ombudsman Hotline | 1-800-368-5888 |
| EPCRA Hotline | 1-800-535-0202 |
| Lead Hotline | 1-800-532-3394 |
| National Pesticide Telecommunication (NPTN) Hotline | www.ace.orst.edu/info/nptn 1-800-858-7378 |
| TSCA Hotline | 202-554-1404 |