



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of August 16 – 20, 2021

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| Most Recent Listing: EPA Rules from the Federal Register can be found here. | 12 |
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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

AZ Central – [Indigenous people find legal, cultural barriers to protect sacred spaces off tribal lands](#)



A group protests uranium mining near the Grand Canyon during the Havasupai Tribe's Intertribal Spiritual Gathering in 2018. MARK HENLE/THE REPUBLIC

TOP STORIES

USA Today - [Raging wildfires linked to thousands of COVID-19 cases and hundreds of deaths in 2020, study says](#)

Indian Country Today – [‘Rights of Nature’ lawsuits hit a sweet spot](#)

CNN - [Crews battle Western wildfires that have caused thousands of evacuations](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

KJZZ – [Years After Coal Mines Close on Navajo and Hopi Land, Some Are Concerned About Cleanup](#)

Huffpost – [Native American Voting Rights Are Under Attack In Republican-Run States](#)

High Country News - [The Apache community running to rescue its holy mountain](#)

National Law Review - [EPA, New Mexico Collaborate with Sceye on Air Quality Monitoring Initiative](#)

E&E News - [EPA offers staff new expectations on return to office](#)

NY Times - [In the West, a Connection Between Covid and Wildfires](#)

AP - [Wildfire in northeastern Minnesota grows to 1,500 acres](#)

Harvard Health - [Air pollution: How to reduce harm to your health](#)

Politico - [Drought forces first water cuts on the Colorado River. They're just the beginning.](#)

National Association of Clean Air Agencies – [Washington Update](#)

Climate Change/Energy

The Hill - [Solar could provide 40 percent of US power generation by 2035, Biden administration says](#)

The Hill - [July was Earth's hottest month on record](#)

The Hill - [Biden administration to review federal coal leasing, appeal injunction for oil leasing pause](#)

VOA News – [Hawaiians Look to Tradition to Cope With Climate Change](#)

Mother Jones – [To Put the Brakes on Global Warming, Slash Methane Emissions First](#)

Huffpost – [Activists Call It A ‘False Solution.’ But UN Scientists Say We Need To Suck Up CO2.](#)

NPR – [Death Toll Nears 1,300 In Haiti After Massive Earthquake, Why Earthquakes In Haiti Are So Catastrophic](#)

The Intercept – [The Era of Climate Denial is Over](#)

Huffpost – [It's Been So Hot In Sicily That Snails Cooked Alive In Their Shells](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

Grist – [The other greenhouse gas: UN report sets the record straight on methane](#)

Reuters – [Analysis: Benchmark of Big Oil on methane emissions shows 'significant gap' between reality and reporting](#)

Politico – [Biden's pro-car, pro-gasoline moves leave green allies fuming](#)

The Hill – [Republicans seek full tape behind Exxon sting](#)

Oil Price – [U.S. Natural Gas Dominance May Be Coming To An End](#)

Forbes – [U.S. Coal Consumption Falls To 60-Year Low](#)

Indoor Air Quality

Harvard Health – [Air Pollution: How to reduce harm to your health](#)

Newsweek – [The Importance of Indoor Air Quality Investments as Employees Return to the Office](#)

Forbes – [Isn't It Time We Talked About Indoor Air Quality?](#)

Science Magazine – [This scientist says cleaning indoor air could make us healthier—and smarter](#)

Be sure to subscribe to [EPA's IAQ Bulletins](#)

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Environmental Justice and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Thursday, August 26, 2021, 11:30am – 1:30pm PT, 2:30pm – 4:00pm ET

[Register Here](#)

This webinar will discuss effective methods for [considering environmental justice](#) (EJ) in National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) reviews. The webinar will highlight content from the [Promising Practices for EJ Methodologies in NEPA](#)

[Reviews](#) report of the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice (now the EJ Interagency Council). This webinar builds upon the [NEPA and Tribes as Cooperating Agencies webinar](#) held on July 21, 2021. This webinar is part of the U.S. EPA [Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#) - to build the capacity of tribal governments, indigenous peoples and other environmental justice practitioners, and discuss priority environmental justice issues of interest to tribes and indigenous peoples.

NEW! Fourth National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop, Virtual Event

October 4 – 8, 2021 / [Register Here](#)

The 4th National Cohesive Strategy Workshop will center on this theme and focus sharply on understanding, co-managing, transferring, and accepting risk at federal, state, Tribal and local stakeholder levels to prioritize and invest in decisions, projects and other efforts that result in widespread reduction in risk across landscapes, and communities, the public and firefighters collectively.

Since the inception of The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, we have learned that there are multiple “hard truths” of living with fire that must be accepted in order to make meaningful progress towards the three national goals of *Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities and a Safe, Effective, Risk-Based Wildfire Response*.

EPA’s air quality training program is released three new training materials! These materials are foundational in level, and are being offered to tribal, state, and local air agencies in an e-learning format through our learning management system (LMS).

The materials include:

- A course that explains the purpose of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) within the air quality management process.
- A module that explains each of the six criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act. This module represents “micro-learning”— a short, focused bit of training on a particular topic.
- A module that explains what air toxics are. Similar to the criteria pollutants module, this module represents “micro-learning.”

To access the course and modules on the LMS (<https://epaapti.csod.com>), please register (if you haven’t already!), then log in and refer to the “What’s New” section on the home page.

NTAA Upcoming Calls

Contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu if you have any questions about any call!

Registration instructions When you register for the GoToWebinar, please

remember to include your Tribe, Region, or Organization in parenthesis after your last name. This allows you to see everyone on the call and prevents us from conducting a roll-call, ultimately saving everyone's time.

| | |
|---|--------------------------------|
| EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality. Attend by clicking here. | Thursday, August 26, 2pm ET |
| Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues. Attend by clicking here. | YTD 5 |
| Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country. Attend by clicking here. | Thursday, August 19, 2pm ET |
| Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country. Attend by clicking here. | Thursday, September 23, 1pm ET |

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional (ITEP)

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. Sign up for a self-paced course hosted by ITEP's Waste and Response and Tribal Air Quality programs. New courses have been added, so check it out!

ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP) hosts the Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates, Residential Building Science Review, Radon Fundamentals, Quality Assurance Fundamental, Writing a Quality Assurance Project Plan, Emissions Inventory Fundamentals, and Emissions Inventory Advanced.

[AIAQTP Schedule and Registration](#)

Recorded Webinars

Looking for more information check out the [Tribal Air Quality Media Space Channel](#). Recent webinars include an Introduction to Air Quality Programs, Emissions Inventories, Remote Professional Assistance, and Woodstoves in Indian Country. Older classics include a series on Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke, Tribal Air Program and Grants, Data Management, and the Clean Air Act.

ITEP's [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#) includes conferences, trainings, webinars, and other events related to tribes and climate change.

Climate Change / Energy

NEW! EPA is celebrating the 30th anniversary of the launch of its first climate partnership program, **Green Lights**. Learn more about the legacy and impacts of climate partnership programs at EPA by [clicking here](#).

US EPA Announces Upcoming Climate and Energy Webinars for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

The US EPA announces there will be 25 upcoming webinars on climate and energy topics offered by federal agencies and others. All webinars are free of charge, but space may be limited or require registration in advance. The webinars begin August 2nd – 26th. For more information subscribe to the [US EPA's State and Local Energy Newsletter](#).

ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!

[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

Proposal to strengthen federal greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions standards for passenger cars and light trucks by setting stringent requirements for reductions through Model Year (MY) 2026

Wednesday, August 18; 2-3pm EST / [Register Here](#)

The proposed 2023-2026 MY standards would achieve significant GHG emissions reductions along with reductions in other pollutants. The proposal would result in substantial public health and welfare benefits, while providing consumers with savings from lower fuel costs. The proposal would incentivize technology available today to make vehicles cleaner and to encourage more hybrid and electric vehicle technology. For more information, please contact Jessie Mroz (mroz.jessica@epa.gov).

The U.S. EPA is in the process of conducting a residual risk and technology review of the 2002 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Major Source Primary Copper Smelting and a technology review of the 2007 Primary Copper Smelting Area Sources NESHAP.

After EPA publishes the rules in the *Federal Register*, EPA plans to accept comment on these proposals for at least 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties can download additional information and a copy of the proposed rules (when they are officially issued by EPA) from [EPA's website](#) and this [website](#). The proposed rules and other background information will also be available either electronically [here](#), EPA's electronic public docket and comment

system. Materials for the proposed actions can be accessed using **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0430**. For further technical information about the rule, contact Tonisha Dawson, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-1454 or dawson.tonisha@epa.gov.

Green Transportation Summit & Expo

August 16-18, 2021 Tacoma, Washington / [Registration](#)

The 10th annual Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) is the region's premier clean transportation convening event. There has not been a time when clean transportation has had as much potential. With this year's theme of Reflecting + Refocusing on a Resilient Future, we are giving particular attention to recent events affecting our communities and livelihood. We will be creating space to ensure these critical topics are addressed. **All Tribes can get a 20% discount, contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu for the code!**

The recent additions to OTAQ's website in August 2021. [*You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.*](#)

- August 5, 2021: [EPA proposes to revise the greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions standards for light-duty vehicles for 2023 and later model years to make the standards more stringent.](#)
- August 5, 2021: [EPA announces plans to reduce greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions and other harmful air pollutants from heavy-duty trucks through a series of rulemakings over the next three years.](#)

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Indoor Air Quality

NEW! Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers: An American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding Project by the U.S EPA Request for Letters of Interest

U.S. EPA's Office of Community Revitalization received American Rescue Plan funding to develop and implement local strategies for using available COVID-recovery dollars to also create cleaner air and neighborhood cooling refuges for vulnerable communities.

Funding will support direct technical assistance that pulls together state school facilities agencies, state emergency response agencies, school districts and community-based organizations to analyze gaps where populations that are more

vulnerable to poor air quality and heat events lack access to community shelters. The result of the analysis and technical assistance workshops will enable targeting of school air circulation upgrades for reopening that also support community cleaner air and/or cooling shelters. This funding would support work with up to four tribes, states, counties and/or cities and their partners.

The letter must be signed by an elected official or other representative of the tribe, state, county, or city, which might include one or more elected officials, an agency decision maker, or a nonprofit leader. **This signature represents support and commitment to this program and assistance.**

The letter of interest must be submitted in an attachment (Microsoft Word or PDF file) by email to Abby Hall (hall.abby@epa.gov) no later than **September 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time**. If you have questions about this request for letters of interest, please contact Abby Hall at hall.abby@epa.gov or 202-631-5915.

NEW! Radon Webinar Series – Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s (CDC) Environmental Public Health Tracking Network: A Focus on Radon and Related Projects

Thursday, August 19; 2-3:30pm ET / [Register Here](#)

Reducing exposure to radon is an important component in preventing lung cancer. Radon, a radioactive gas, is one of the most hazardous indoor pollutants. This naturally occurring gas is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, responsible for more than 21,000 annual deaths. According to the US EPA, radon concentrations above its action level are present in 1 of 15 buildings in the United States. During this webinar, subject matter experts from Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), New York State Department of Health, Minnesota Department of Health, and Wisconsin Department of Health Services will share guidance, lessons learned, and best practices for increasing radon education and outreach through CDC’s Environmental Public Health Tracking Network. Register today to reserve your seat!

Wildfire Smoke and Indoor Air Quality

This summer, wildfires have spread across the U.S. creating devastation and dangerous smoke events affecting millions of American lives. If you are in need of immediate wildfire guidance, see EPA’s [wildfire webpage](#) for more resources. Smoke from wildfires can adversely affect indoor air quality and put people’s health at risk from exposure to particulate matter and other pollutants. Read on to learn more about:

- [How Indoor airPLUS Homes Protect Against the Harmful Effects of Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Reduce Exposure to Wildfire Smoke Inside the Home](#)

- [Additional Resources](#)

How Indoor airPLUS Homes Help Reduce the Occurrence of Asthma Triggers in the Home

Here are ways an Indoor airPLUS home can help reduce [asthma triggers](#) in the home.

Be sure to subscribe to [CodeTalk](#), HUD's Office of Native American Programs newsletter, for webinars and opportunities!

RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring!

US EPA Region 9 Superfund

There will be two upcoming opportunities to apply for multiple vacancies for Remedial Project Managers. The first opportunity, which is a recruitment effort for remedial project manager positions based out of EPA's San Francisco office. The second opportunity that's forthcoming will include an additional duty station on or near Navajo Nation.

[See for full job description.](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support the hiring of Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons in Alaska, the Northwest, and the Southwest through the BIA's Tribal Resilience Program (Program). Eligible applicants include tribal non-profit, non-governmental organizations and tribally-controlled colleges or universities (TCUs) that serve federally-recognized tribes. Other entities may participate as sub-grantees. The solicitation is available on [grants.gov](#), and named [BIA-2021-TCRP](#).

EPA is now accepting applications for a total of \$9 million in grants to fund about 24 Great Lakes Restoration Initiative projects to address stormwater runoff pollution from land into water bodies. EPA is also holding an applicant webinar.

- **August 20, 2021**– Applications must be submitted via [www.grants.gov](#) by 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time / 10:59 p.m. Central Time. See Section IV of the grants announcements for further submission information.

EPA is requesting applications for projects in three categories; each one has a separate Funding Opportunity Number and will be posted separately

on www.grants.gov. Applicants must apply for the specific funding opportunity they are interested in. Learn more about the three categories [here](#). State agencies, interstate agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes and tribal organizations, local governments, institutions of higher learning and non-profit organizations are eligible to apply for the GLRI grants in three categories. Individuals, foreign organizations and governments, nonprofit organizations exempt from taxation under Section 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that engage in lobbying, and “for-profit” organizations are not eligible to apply for funding under this request for application. Click [here](#) for more information on how to apply.

To view and/or receive ITEP’s American Indian Air Quality Training Program newsletter, [Native Voices, click here!](#)

Climate Change/Energy

On-Request Technical Assistance from DOE Office of Indian Energy

Applications Due: Not Applicable

Eligible Entities: tribal governments

The DOE Office of Indian Energy provides federally recognized Indian tribes, including Alaska Native villages, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities, with technical assistance to advance tribal energy projects at no cost. Technical experts from DOE and its national laboratories, along with other partnering organizations, provide support to assist Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages with energy planning, housing and building energy efficiency, project development, policy and regulation, resilience, and village power.

Join NCAI’s [Climate Action email](#) listserv here!

Sign up for the [Alliance for Green Heat](#)’s newsletter!

To view and/or receive [ITEP’s Climate Change newsletter, click here!](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

EPA Announces \$10 Million Available for States, Tribes, and Territories to Address Environmental Challenges

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of Multipurpose Grant (MPG) funding to support states, Tribes and territories in addressing high-priority environmental issues, including PFAS, environmental

justice and climate change. For more information on eligibility, use of funding, process for award, and timelines, please reference the [Multipurpose Grant guidance](#).

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Indoor Air Quality

Resource for Healthy Indoor Air Quality

Check out the website <https://forhealth.org/> for many resources related to healthy homes and indoor air quality!

The Tribal Healthy Homes Network (THHN) has a webpage dedicated to [Funding Opportunities](#)! Additionally, THHN has developed a [Funding Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#).

Most Recent Listing: EPA Rules from the Federal Register can be [found here](#).

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