

2008 EPA Region 10 TLS Technical Break Out Sessions

Thursday, April 24, 2008

Morning Sessions

- ★ Toxics in Traditional Foods; Grand Ballroom A
Coordinated by Kathleen Feehan (Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation) & Lon Kissinger (EPA)

This session will discuss contaminants of concern in fisheries resources, assessment of risks from toxics in traditional foods to tribal members, and regulatory approaches to protect tribal members utilizing resources in traditional ways.

Confirmed talks include:

- The Puget Sound Seafood Consumption Advisory, Joan Hardy, WA Dept. of Health
- Toxics in Fisheries Resources in the Lower Columbia River, Kathleen Feehan, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
- Balancing Fish Consumption Benefits and Mercury Risks in Alaskan Seafood, Chung Nim Ha, Alaska Environmental Public Health Program
- Video on Lead Communications Cable Impacts on Sitka Tribe Traditional Foods, Eric Morrison, Sitka Tribe
- The Lummi Water Quality Program and Regulating Water Quality to Protect Tribal Foods, Jeremy Freimund, Lummi Indian Nation
- Overview of EPA's Puget Sound Tribal Seafood Consumption Risk Assessment Framework, Lori Cohen and Lon Kissinger, U.S. EPA
- Additional speakers presenting at this session will be identified at the TLS.

- ★ Air Quality; Little Skookum Ballroom (A-B)
Coordinated by John Morris (Ketchikan Indian Community) & Mary Manous (EPA)

Tribes and EPA Working as Partners to Protect Air Quality: In this session tribes and EPA staff and managers will be sharing information across a broad range of topics important to the protection of air quality and public health on Reservations and in tribal communities. National and Regional EPA Air Program managers will begin by describing how the Clean Air Act has thus far been implemented in Indian country, and seek tribal input on strategies for work to meet air quality challenges of coming years. Then, there will be information on the variety of programs available to tribes that wish to work for air quality protection, including: woodstove change-outs, diesel emission reduction, air toxics reduction, clean energy and climate change, as well as indoor air quality outreach.

Information on resources available to support such participation will also be made available. The final segment will have two sections, one to address opportunities for tribal participation in implementing air regulations on Reservations, and the other on how tribes in Alaska can reduce the risks from unique sources of air pollution found in Alaskan Native Villages. Overall, the Air Sessions

will increase participant's understanding of both the health risks from air pollution and how tribes can participate with EPA and other air agencies in reducing these risks.

★ *Historic Preservation; Grand Ballroom B*
Coordinated by Wenona Wilson (EPA)

How is a cultural resource defined? How are cultural resources best managed by Tribes and the EPA when conducting environmental work? Please join us for this thought-provoking, interactive session on historic preservation, which will explore the answers to these questions and more. We are honored to feature Suquamish Tribal Chairman Leonard Foresman, who is the former director of the Suquamish Museum and has worked for more than ten years as an archaeologist in a private consulting firm. Chairman Foresman will discuss defining a cultural resource under the National Historic Preservation Act, as well as the relationship between tribes, their cultural resources and the environment. He will also show images of cultural resources (only those which can be appropriately shown), providing an explanation of how these resources were formally or currently used and the historical/existing relationship between that resource and relevant tribes. He will be joined by three representatives from EPA Region 10, who will discuss how the Act is applied to projects under the Drinking Water State Revolving Loan Program, how various parties are working to finalize a Programmatic Agreement to resolve potential adverse historical and archaeological effects of the proposed Chuitna Coal Project in Alaska, and how the Act applies to Superfund work.

★ *Solid Waste Management; Grand Ballroom C*
Coordinated by Rosie Kalastook (Orutsararmiut (ONC), Native Tribe of Bethel) & Fran Stefan (EPA)

This session is a panel of Region 10 Tribal representatives who will describe solid waste success stories and lessons they learned along the way. Presenters will offer first hand information on the how they set-up recycling programs, designed a large-scale backhauling project on the Yukon River; cleaned-up open dumps and developed a sophisticated solid waste program. The Tribal Solid Advisory Network will provide an overview of their organization and Region 10 will introduce members of its Region 10 Tribal Solid and Hazardous Waste Team

Afternoon Sessions

★ *Gathering Traditional Plants and Foods; Grand Ballroom A*
Coordinated by Lelani Chubby (Quinault Indian Nation) & Michelle Davis (EPA)

This session is an overview of several tribal programs that use plants to improve the health and well being of their tribal members. For example, the Yakima people are restoring their traditional plant ceremonies, as another way to keep their cultures strong. We will travel* for a field trip to the Skokomish Tribe's Healing Garden with Elsie Korhn, with a possible stop to look at a sweet grass re-vegetation project, with Keith Dublancia. This is expected to take a little over an hour. Other topics will include Air Quality and Plants by Lisa Riener, Rudy Ryster will discuss Gathering of Traditional Foods, Phillip Narte will discuss Traditional Foods of the First People. Other topics may include Memorandums of Agreement and there will be plenty of opportunities for open discussion.

(*if you have a vehicle, and could help car-pool, it would be much appreciated.)

★ *Children's Environmental Health; Little Skookum Ballrooms (A-B)*
Coordinated by Helen Goodteacher (Nez Perce Tribe) & Margo Young (EPA)

Children make up twenty-five percent of the population of the Pacific Northwest and Alaska. These three million children are especially sensitive to unhealthy environmental conditions. In this session, you will learn why children are more susceptible to environmental exposures, learn about how environmental triggers can cause and/or worsen asthma, and collect information about various school environmental health programs that you can employ to protect the health and safety of your students. Furthermore, the session is designed to stimulate critical questions, share information, "best practices", resources, and emerging science regarding protection of children in tribal lands from environmental hazards.

Confirmed speakers include:

- Aimee Boulanger, Institute for Children's Environmental Health
- Gillian Mittelstaedt, Asthma Specialist, Tulalip
- Margo Young, Children's Environmental Health Coordinator, EPA
- Don Dossett, Tribal Specialist, EPA
- Nancy Beaudet, Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Unit, UW

★ *Resource Extraction; Grand Ballroom B*
Coordinated by Millie Hawley (Native Village of Kivalina) & Tami Fordham (EPA)

In Region 10, there are a vast number of projects related to resource extraction (Mining, Oil & Gas Development), such as new potential resource extraction projects, active mines, and cleanup of Superfund sites. These projects are in many cases on tribal lands that affect tribal resources, such as subsistence areas and/or near "usual and accustomed" areas. The goal of this session is to share resources and wisdom from current projects that impact tribal communities. In this session tribal leaders will share their perspectives on how mining has impacted their community, how to be involved in the various phases of mining from exploration to remediation and cleanup, and how to have your voice heard in decision making processes. EPA will share how tribes can be involved in EPA regulatory process that affect tribes and tribal resources. There will be time for discussion on how EPA and tribes can work better together on resource extraction projects.

★ *Grants Administration; Grand Ballroom C*
Coordinated by Armina Nolan (EPA)

Armina Nolan, from the EPA Region 10 Grants Administration Unit, will facilitate the Grant session. We encourage attendance in this session for new tribal employees, and those attending involved in the administrative aspects of grant management. We will provide information about the new initiatives in grant management including: the changes to the disadvantage business rule, the inspector general reports, electronic processes, and statistical reviews. There will be some refresher training on the areas that are common problems for tribal grantees such as post-award monitoring, and financial management. At the end of this session there will be an opportunity for attendees to ask questions of the grant specialists.