



## NTAA Monthly Update November 2024

### Contents

- Feature Article
- EPA Announcements
- NTAA Events
- ITEP Updates
- NTAA Logo Contest
- NTFAQ2025
- Summer Internships
- Other Announcements

### Current NTAA Activities

**Webinars:** Supreme Court Decisions and the Impact on Tribal Environmental Programs (Chevron) - TBA

**Publications:** Initiating 2024 State of Tribal Air Report Post Election Transition Information for the New

**NTAA Workgroups:** AK workgroup meeting November 20th, Woodsmoke workgroup November 7th



We are excited to welcome Miranda O'Neill as the new Program Manager for NTAA. After 7 years of leading programs in the high tech industry Miranda moved to Flagstaff 3 years ago and fell in love with the area. She is looking forward to supporting tribes on air policy.

#### Contact:

Mehrdad Khatibi  
Co-Director  
[Mehrdad.khatibi@nau.edu](mailto:Mehrdad.khatibi@nau.edu)

Miranda O'Neill  
Program Manager  
[Miranda.oneill@nau.edu](mailto:Miranda.oneill@nau.edu)

#### Newsletter:

The NTAA Monthly Update is a monthly e-newsletter providing updates and resources to Tribes regarding air policy, grants, and resources. To advertise an announcement, or to be added or removed from the distribution list, please email Miranda O'Neill - [Miranda.ONeill@nau.edu](mailto:Miranda.ONeill@nau.edu)

#### Find us at:

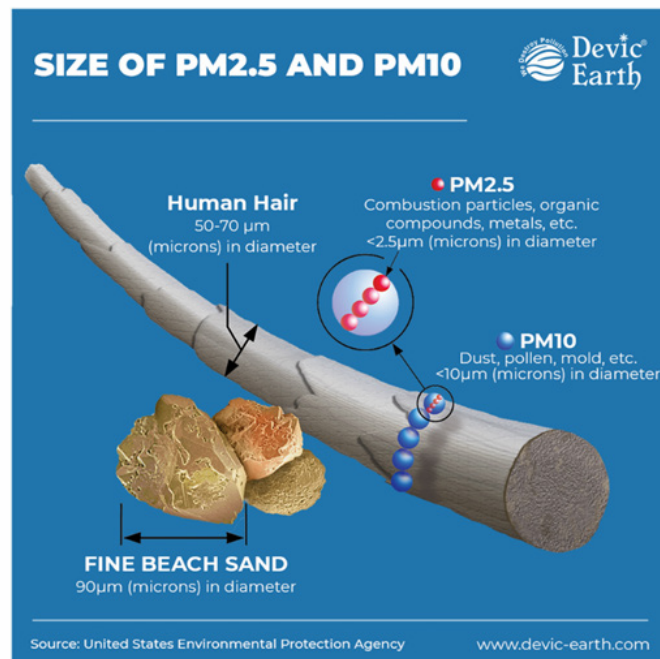
[www.ntaatribalair.org](http://www.ntaatribalair.org)

## Feature Article

### PM 2.5 NAAQS Designations

The Clean Air Act requires the US EPA to review new science on the public health and environmental impacts of air pollutants, every 5 years and revise the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), as necessary. The EPA lowered the annual NAAQS for PM<sub>2.5</sub> from 12.0 to 9.0 micrograms per cubic meter ( $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ ) on February 7, 2024.

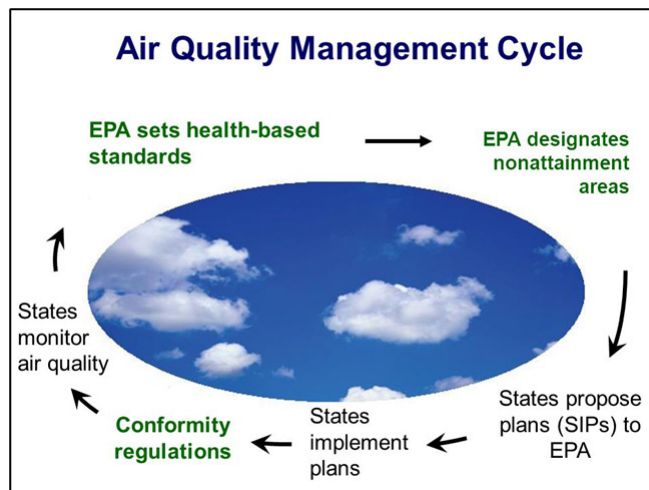
These particles are so small they can go deep into the lungs and impact people with asthma and other respiratory problems and even be absorbed into the blood stream and cause cardiovascular problems.



When EPA establishes a new standard a process kicks off to reduce pollution to healthy levels across the country.

The first step in the process as required under CAA section 107(d) is to determine if the ambient concentration of the pollutant is higher or lower than the standard and then “designate” each area of the country as “Healthy” or Attainment, “Not healthy” or

Nonattainment, or “not enough data to make a determination” or Unclassifiable. The second step in the process, required under CAA section 110 is for states, Tribes or EPA to develop Implementation plans to control the sources of PM<sub>2.5</sub> to reduce the concentration to “attain the standard” or ensure that PM<sub>2.5</sub> does not increase and stays below the standard or “maintain the standard”.



The third step is to implement these plans through permitting and enforcement to ensure the NAAQS are achieved. Finally, EPA will review the status adequacy of the NAAQS and revise them again if necessary and potentially start the process over again.

Because EPA revised the PM<sub>2.5</sub> Standard in the last year States, Tribes and the EPA are now in the designations process. In this action, the States are required to submit designation recommendations to EPA by February 7, 2025. Tribes can submit recommendations for the designations of their areas of Indian country, but are not required to do so according to the Tribal Authority Rule. The EPA will finalize the designations by February 7, 2026.

EPA has guidance for States and Tribes in developing their recommendations here. They also have specific guidance for Tribes in developing their designations and considerations on implications of designating Tribal areas as distinct areas.

[EPA Guidance](#) | [EPS Developing Tribal Implementation Plan](#) | [EPS Working with Tribes](#)

EPA is providing a [mapping tool](#) that can also be helpful for States and Tribes in developing their designations.

Some reasons Tribes may want to participate in the recommendation process include:

- Some tribal areas can be crossed by state or county lines, this could result in the reservation having different designations within the Tribes jurisdiction which could complicate economic development and or future Implementation plan or permit development.
- By participating in the designations process Tribes can begin assert Tribal sovereignty by not deferring to the state recommendations.
- Being more aware of the air quality status of the Tribal area could help inform the public of air quality in and around your lands.
- Participating in the designation process asserts the Tribes participation as a co-regulatory with the States and EPA.

There are some other issues Tribes should consider in determining their appropriate role in the designations process. For example, if a Tribe is considering a separate designation from the surrounding area, the Tribe will have to submit their jurisdictional boundaries. If there is any dispute between the state and the Tribe on these boundaries this may provide an opportunity for the States or other to challenge those boundaries.

If you are interested in participating in the designations process please reach out to your US EPA Regional Office and ensure they consult with you during the process. If you need more information or support please feel free to reach out the your NTAA EC representative, or the TAMS center for more support. For more information please refer to the recording of the NTAA/TAMS PM<sub>2.5</sub> Designations webinar [HERE](#).

## EPA and Other Announcements

### Clean Air Week In Review

- EPA Opens Non-Regulatory Docket for Input on Landfill Emissions
- EPA Issues Interim Final Rulemaking Administratively Staying Federal Good Neighbor Plan
- ALA Report Recommends Use of Satellite Data to Complement Regulatory Air Monitoring
- EPA Selects of 55 Projects to Receive \$3 Billion in Clean Ports Investments
- EPA Announces CASAC Panel of Experts for Review of Ozone NAAQS
- Environmental Groups File Opposition to Industry Request for Stay of Coke Ovens Rule
- Industry Groups File Amicus Briefs Opposing EPA's Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilizer Rule
- UK Settles In First Case Of 9-year Old Who Died From Air Pollution

### This week's Washington Update

#### Clean Ports Program Selections

On October 29, the US EPA announced selection of 55 applicants across 27 states and territories to receive nearly \$3 billion through EPA's Clean Ports Program funded through the Inflation Reduction Act. These grants will support the deployment of zero-emission equipment, as well as infrastructure and climate and air quality planning projects at ports across the country. [Learn More.](#)

#### Federal "Good Neighbor Plan" for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS; Response to Judicial Stay

On October 29, EPA Administrator Regan signed an interim final rule to administratively stay the effectiveness of the Good Neighbor Plan's requirements for all sources covered by that rule as promulgated in the remaining 11 states where an administrative stay was not already in place: California, Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Wisconsin. This action is being taken in response to a stay order issued by the United States Supreme Court. [Learn More.](#)

#### EPA's Ventilation Guidance

On November 1, EPA released an updated guidance on indoor air quality strategies for preventing the spread of common respiratory viruses in homes, schools, offices and commercial buildings. [Learn More.](#)

#### AirKnowledge Final Content Development Plan FY25-27

EPA has announced the availability of the final content development plan for FY 2025-2027 (see attached). The plan indicates the topics that OAR-OAQPS expects to develop training materials for over the new few years. Current available trainings/modules can be accessed on the [AirKnowledge](#) site.

#### Recent News Releases

[HQ. Biden-Harris Administration Announces Selections](#) for Nearly \$3 Billion of Investments in Clean Ports as Part of Investing in America Agenda. Tues 10/29.

[HQ. Biden-Harris Administration Celebrates \\$34M in Grants](#) to Reduce Air Pollution at Schools; Highlights Efforts in Philadelphia. Weds 10/30.

[HQ. EPA Updates Ventilation Guidance](#) to Prevent the Spread of Respiratory Viruses at Home, School and Work. Fri 11/1.



## EPA and Other Announcements

### Now Open: 2024 DERA Tribal and Territory Notice of Funding Opportunity

- Applications will be accepted from federally recognized Tribal governments (or intertribal consortia), Alaska Native Villages, or government agencies of the U.S. Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, which have jurisdiction over transportation or air quality.
- EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$9 million in DERA funding under this competitive announcement. A total of \$8 million will be made available to Tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) and Alaska Native Villages, and \$1 million will be made available to territory governments.
- The 2024 DERA Tribal and Territory NOFO (pdf) (1.28 MB, May 2024) has no mandatory cost share requirement.
- Questions and Answers:
- <https://www.epa.gov/dera/tribal-and-territory#Q&A>

### DERA Important Dates

- Webinars: Wednesday, November 13, 2024 (2:00PM -3:00PM ET)  
Meeting ID: 291 547 815 906  
Passcode: Aq95gi
- Deadline for Applications: Friday, December 6th, 2024 at 11:59 PM ET

For more information visit the U.S. EPA DERA website [HERE](#)



### Funds Available for Tribal Firewood Distribution

Does your tribe or community need funding to process firewood for your elderly, or low-income members? Firewood programs, or "firewood banks," similar to food banks, provide a local, renewable, and cost-effective heating source to households in need.

This is a non-competitive grant program. Funds can be used for splitters, chain saws, logs, gas, sheds, protective equipment, smoke detectors, and PM sensors. We work with tribes to ensure firewood is dry to reduce indoor and outdoor wood smoke. To date we have provided funding to nearly 100 firewood programs in 26 states and tribal lands. The funding comes from a grant from the USDA Forest Service made possible by President Biden's Bipartisan Infrastructure Law.

Please help us by spreading the word to other tribes!

For questions, contact [darian@forgreenheat.org](mailto:darian@forgreenheat.org) or [visit the website for more information.](#)

## NTAA Events Calendar

November  
**20**

Alask Tribal Air Work Group  
10am Alaska, 2pm ET

November  
**21**

NTAA - EPA Air Policy Call  
11am PT, 2pm ET

## ITEP Updates

### Upcoming In-Person Air Quality Workshops

- Particulate Matter 2.5 Monitoring:  
Dec. 10-12, TAMS Ctr, Las Vegas, NV
  - Air Quality Outreach in Tribal Communities:  
Jan. 14-16, TAMS Ctr, Las Vegas, NV
  - Air Pollution Science & Technology:  
Feb 25-27, Phoenix, AZ
- Click [HERE](#) for more information

### On-Line Self-Paced Courses

ITEP also offers 14 on-line courses on various air quality topics ranging from Indoor Air Quality, to Quality Assurance, and Emissions Inventories that Tribal air quality professionals can take FREE of charge and completer at their own pace. Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of ITEP on-line course catalogue.

### AIAQTP & TAMS Office Hours

Drop in monthly for short, informative and casual virtual sessions to discuss topics such as Indoor Air Quality, Education & Outreach, and Technical Air Monitoring.

- TAMS Office Hours: November 12th
- IAQ Office Hours: November 21st
- Grants Office Hours: December 4th
- Outreach & Education Office Hours: November 21st

Contact [Christal.Black@nau.edu](mailto:Christal.Black@nau.edu) to be notified of ITEP air program workshops.

## NTAA Executive Committee

### Region 1

Marvin Cling, Sr., Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point Josh Paul, Penobscot Nation

### Region 2

Steven Smith, Shinnecock Indian Nation Angela Benedict, Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe

### Region 3

Vacant

### Region 4

Amy Smoker, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tiffany Lozada, Poarch Band of Creek Indians

### Region 5

Brandy Toft, Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe Vallen Cook, Grand Portage Band of Chippewa

### Region 6

Tara Weston, Santa Ana Pueblo (Vice Chair) Kristy Lawson, Muscogee (Creek) Nation

### Region 7

Billie Toledo, Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians (Secretary) Kurt Lyons, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska

### Region 8

Janice Archuleta, Ute Mountain Ute Tribe Randy Ashley, Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

### Region 9

Syndi Smallwood, Jamul Indian Village of California (Chair) Lisa Gover, Gila River Indian Community

### Region 10

Lucas Bair, Spokane Tribe Caleb Minthorn, Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Treasurer)

### Alaska

Vacant

<https://www.ntaatribalair.org/executive-committee/>





# LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

The National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) Executive Committee is seeking artists interested in updating the NTAA logo. The NTAA is looking for a logo that best represents our mission statement. The NTAA wants YOU to create our next logo.

## Guidelines:

- Represents the mission of the NTAA
- A color scheme focusing on blues
- Represents air/wind, but does not look like water
- Circular design preferred
- Symbolizing the four directions, but not required
- Can include or not include text - if text is included, can be "NTAA" or "National Tribal Air Association"

## Prize:

**\$1000 honorarium and free admission to the 2025 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)**

*Enter to Win!*

Deadline for Submission:  
**December 6, 2024**

Please submit your NTAA logos  
to: Laura McKelvey  
([lauradmckelvey@gmail.com](mailto:lauradmckelvey@gmail.com))





Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

# HOST SITES NEEDED FOR **SUMMER 2025** AIR QUALITY INTERNSHIPS

Apply Now! Due December 2nd, 2024

## PROJECTS

- Projects must be oriented toward air quality and its environmental impacts
- Project must contribute to an on-going program of sponsoring organization
- Project has focus on working with tribes and supporting tribal issues
- Projects can be in-person, virtual or hybrid

## INTERNS



- Full-time college students from around the US
- Majoring in Environmental Careers
- Paid Internships
- 10 weeks for 40 hours a week
- Preference for Indigenous students, but all students welcome

For more information visit:  
<http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Internships/>

Contact: [Kim.Shaw@nau.edu](mailto:Kim.Shaw@nau.edu)



MAY 19-22, 2025

# #NTFAQ25

# SAVE THE DATE

HARRAH'S RESORT & CASINO  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

777 S RESORT DR.  
VALLEY CENTER, CA  
92082

