



NTAA Monthly Update December 2024

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Note from the Chair

We are planning some great new content for the Newsletter starting in January, such as highlighting the NTAA Executive Committee and Tribal air programs. If you are interested in highlighting your program please let Miranda O'Neill, NTAA Program Manager know so we can schedule an interview.

The NTAA Policy Advisor Committee (PAC) are still very busy with Policy Resource Kits (PRKs). New rules are still coming out and the PAC is doing its best to get the PRKs out to Tribes. If you have any questions on PRKs please let us know.

The NTAA would like to bring current information to Tribes that are of interest, and we have been holding more webinars. If there is a subject that you feel would be a great webinar let us know. Finally, while this is the time of year when we usually slow down in preparation for the new year, my calendar is just as full as always. That means that we need to give ourselves a little grace and take a moment here and there to breathe, take a walk, and be grateful. I wish you all the most wonderful holiday seasons and look forward to seeing you all in the new year!

Respectfully,
Syndi Smallwood
Environmental Director, Jamul Indian Village of California

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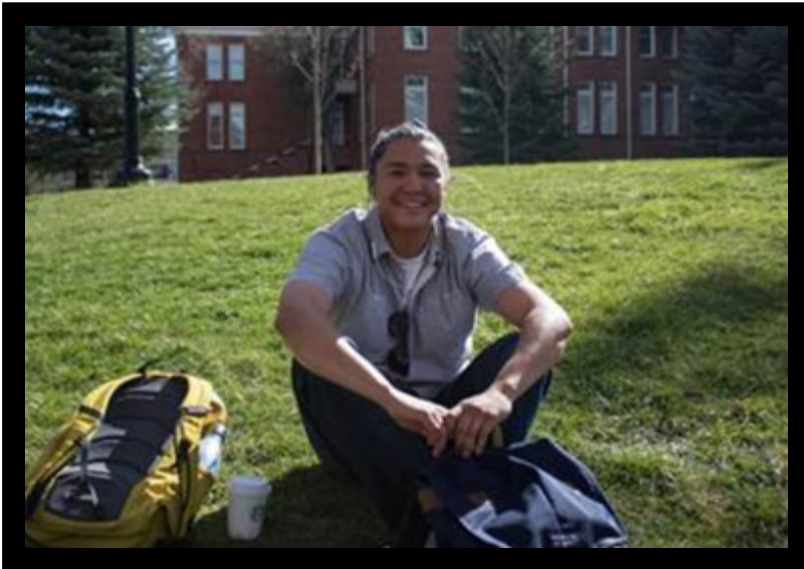
Newsletter:

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

Find us at:

www.ntaatribalair.org

Honoring Ryan Tsingine



One of the highlights of my life is meeting and working with the family that is NTAA. Over the years we come and go, and some come back, but those who move on to new adventures never really leave. We meet at other functions here and there; we catch up with each other and we always know that we are part of the family. We are always proud of each other's accomplishments and successes, but the most difficult and yet inspiring things to do is to honor our family who have walked on.

As some of you may already know, our dear friend Ryan Tsingine who worked for and will always be part of our NTAA family recently walked on. Ryan's incredible smile brought sunshine to our world. After Ryan moved on from NTAA he worked to establish the Tribal Clean Transportation Program at ITEP and it was always great to have his booth next to the NTAA booth at a conference. As Ryan continued to move forward in his life, he moved to Washington State University working with their Green Transportation Program. Ryan's commitment to the environment and climate change is inspiring and his presence will be missed, although our hearts are breaking, NTAA is proud and grateful that he is part of our family.

Respectfully,
Syndi Smallwood
Environmental Director, Jamul Indian Village of California

Feature Article: CASTNET Modernization Plan

The Clean Air Status and Trends Network (CASTNET) is a long-term air quality monitoring network focused on rural areas. It tracks multiple pollutants to evaluate emission reduction programs, pollution sources, and climate impacts on air quality. Established in 1988, CASTNET has evolved to meet new data needs, such as ammonia levels, and to fill gaps in air monitoring through partnerships with Tribes.

In 2022, the EPA asked the Science Advisory Board (SAB) to recommend improvements for CASTNET. Based on their April 2024 report, the EPA developed a strategy combining cost-saving measures and investments to maintain and enhance the program. Over the next three years, the EPA will:

- Deploy PM_{2.5} sensors at CASTNET sites to evaluate health impacts in rural communities, assess air quality impacts from the increasing frequency of wildfires, and provide a survey of concentrations in rural areas that often lack other sources of PM_{2.5} data.
- Engage with new and existing partners to leverage cost-sharing and fill in spatial gaps in the network.
- Discontinue SO₂ Measurements: Most EPA-sponsored sites will stop measuring SO₂, except for the eight tribal monitoring locations.
- Replace aging equipment (e.g. ozone analyzers) and refurbish site infrastructure at the highest priority sites.
- Decommission sites that no longer meet the Agency’s air quality objectives.

EPA will continue to provide NTAA with updates on the implementation of the CASTNET modernization plan.

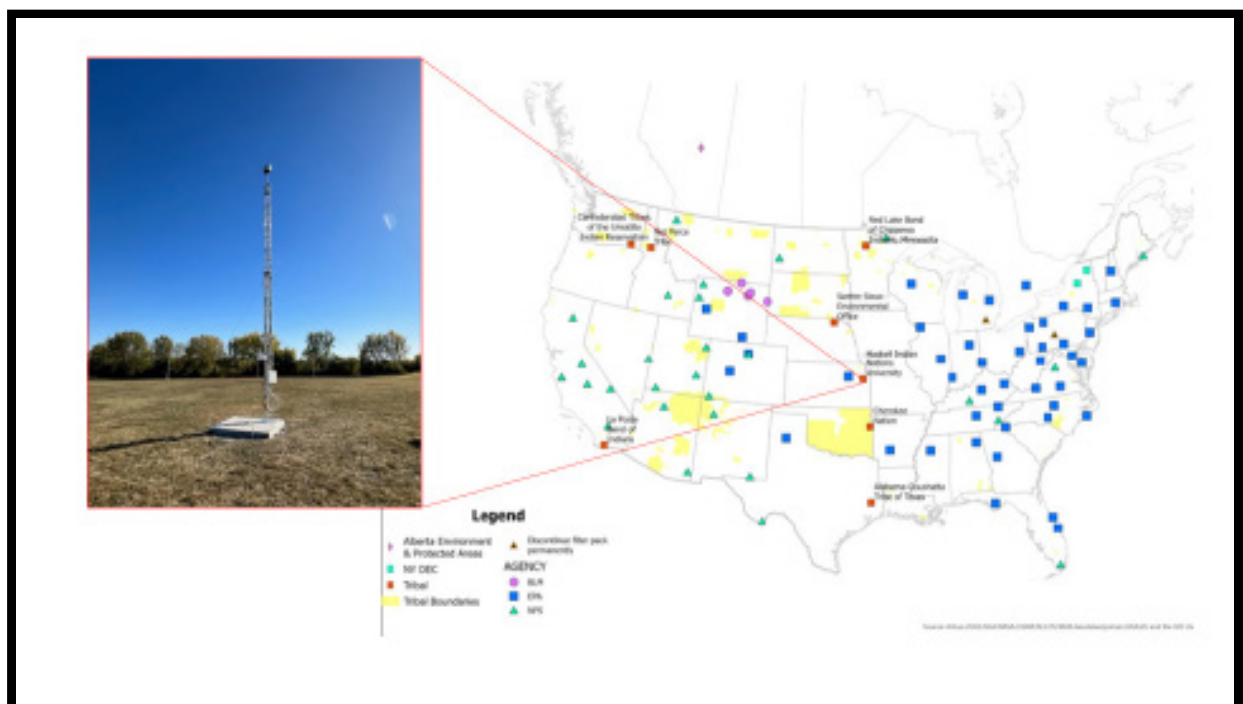


Figure 1 CASTNET site locations with Tribal sites shown as red squares. The Haskell Indian Nations University (HAS012) CASTNET site is the most recent site. The HAS012 site began operating in November 2024.

In November, CASTNET monitoring team attended the 2024 NADP Science Symposium in Duluth, MN. The event focused on how students, researchers, agencies, industry and others can "Protect the Health of Communities and Ecosystems in a Changing Climate."

A few highlights from the symposium include, a poster session from David Schmeltz (EPA) and Jim Parsons (Choctaw) titled "Characterizing cultural and environmental impacts of air pollution on tribal lands." Brandy Toft, the Environmental Director for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, gave a keynote to kick off the session where she highlighted the great work that tribal agencies accomplish while noting that there is more work to be done. She challenged the attendees to recognize the role that Tribes play in protecting air quality and natural resources. Brandy was followed by Jim Parsons who shared his perspectives on setting up an air quality program. Tim Sharac wrapped up the session with a presentation on the CASTNET tribal monitoring program and the growth the network has experienced with support from the Tribes.



Jim Parsons, Environmental Specialist for The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, presenting during the NADP Science Symposium in Duluth, MN.

Recordings from this meeting are available, including the Keynote from Kate Knuth, Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's Climate Director who inspired everyone to continue to show up and dig in to protect the most vulnerable communities.

The NADP is a cooperative organization that is open to site sponsors, site operators, data users, students, and air monitoring professionals. Bi-annual meetings are open to the public, and you are welcome and encouraged to get involved through the technical subcommittees or science committees. The NADP continues to adapt a grow to address new and emerging issues while maintaining the 45-year record of precipitation chemistry across the North America. Participating in the meetings provides an opportunity to connect with professionals who share similar successes and challenges in the pursuit of protecting human health and the environment. If you are interested in getting involved please reach out to NADP Coordinator, David Gay (dgay2@wisc.edu) or NADP Executive Committee Chair, Melissa Puchalski (Puchalski.melissa@epa.gov).

Resources:

CASTNET <https://epa.gov/castnet>
[Recording of symposium](#)



EPA Announcements and Updates

Emissions During Periods of Startup, Shutdown, & Malfunction (SSM)

On November 15, EPA announced it was partially withdrawing two final actions finding that several states and/or local air pollution control agencies failed to submit State Implementation Plan (SIP) revisions. The six state and/or local air agencies affected by this final withdrawal are: Alabama, District of Columbia, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Dakota, and West Virginia. Learn more [here](#).

Ozone Absorption Cross-Section Implementation Memo

On November 15, EPA posted the Ozone Absorption Cross-Section Implementation in the U.S. Ambient Air Monitoring Network memo. This technical memo outlines the steps for implementing the updated ozone cross-section value across the ozone Standard Reference Photometers (SRPs) and down through the calibration hierarchy and ozone monitoring network. Learn more [here](#).

Power Plant Emissions Data

On November 18, EPA posted power plant emissions data for the 3rd quarter of 2024. The data presented compare emissions, emission rates, and heat input from power plant units in the Acid Rain Program, CSAPR, CSAPR Update, Revised CSAPR Update, Good Neighbor Plan, and MATS. Learn more [here](#).

Draft Emission Factor Models for Certain Animal Feeding Operations (AFOs)

On November 19, EPA posted a draft new AP-42 Chapter 9 Section 4 – Livestock and Poultry Feed Operations and included the associated emission model reports for AFOs and VOC emissions from animal sectors for review during a 90-day public review period ending February 17, 2025. Learn more [here](#).

Motor Vehicle Emissions Simulator (MOVES) Version 5

On November 21, EPA released MOVES5 Mobile Source Emissions Model. MOVES5 incorporates several important updates, including accounting for EPA's Light and Medium-Duty Multi-Pollutant Rule and Heavy-Duty Greenhouse Gas Emissions-Phase 3 Rule. Learn more [here](#).

Draft Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts

On November 21, EPA released a draft of the Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts, providing Agency programs and regional offices with tools and principles to consider cumulative impacts in their work. The Interim Framework is available for public comment until February 19, 2025. Learn more [here](#).

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EPA Announcements and Updates

Condensable PM Adjustment for Ammonium Sulfate Formation in M202 Test Results

On November 21, EPA posted a final memorandum titled Condensable PM Adjustment for Ammonium Sulfate Formation in M202 Test Results that provides sources with an optional approach to refine the quantification on PM (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}) for where ammonia is present in the source effluent. Learn more [here](#).

Proposal to Strengthen the NSPS for Stationary Combustion Turbines

On November 22, the EPA Administrator signed a proposal to strengthen limits on emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from most new, modified, and reconstructed fossil fuel-fired stationary combustion turbines. The proposed New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) are based on the application of combustion controls and selective catalytic reduction (SCR), a cost-reasonable and widely used add-on control technology that limits emissions of NO_x. Learn more [here](#).

NESHAP Lime Manufacturing - Corrections

On November 22, EPA posted it was making corrections to the National Emissions Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Lime Manufacturing Plants technology review correcting inadvertent errors in the regulatory text. Learn more [here](#).

PM Designations Info Presentation and Nonregulatory Docket

The EPA PM Designations Informational Overview presentation can be found [here](#). The video presentation is intended to provide an overview of the initial PM_{2.5} area designations process, with a focus on information that may be of particular interest to communities with environmental justice concerns and Tribes. The nonregulatory docket is now open for public comment on [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The nonregulatory docket will be open until February 7, 2025 however, please note as indicated in the docket posting memo, that comments received after January 3, 2025 will be considered late and may not be able to be reviewed.

Other recent news releases:

- [EPA Announces New Draft Framework to Advance Consideration of Cumulative Impacts on Communities](#). 11/21
- [EPA, Justice Department and Pennsylvania Announce Settlements to Reduce Climate and Health Harming Emissions](#). 11/21
- [EPA Proposes Tighter Limits on Harmful Nox Emissions from New Stationary Combustion Turbines to Better Protect Nearby Communities](#). 11/22
- [EPA New England issues a Draft OCS Air Permit for new offshore wind farm project](#). 11/15
- [EPA Fines AB&I Foundry Operator in Oakland Clean Air Act Violations Case](#). 11/21



Other Announcements

AGH Webinar: Causes and Solutions to Indoor Smoke from Wood and Pellet Stoves

January 14, 2025, from 1:00 to 2:30 PM (ET), join us as our panelists discuss the most common reasons that smoke comes from wood and pellet stoves, how to diagnose it, and the best ways to fix it. Register [here](#).

Emissions from wood burning stoves

Read about one person's experience using a Plantower PMS5003 sensor to measure air quality. They found that activities like making toast, using the oven, or burning incense produced higher PM_{2.5} µg/m³ readings than using their wood stove. More info [here](#).

Forest Service funds help Indigenous families in the Mountain West heat their homes

The nonprofit, Wood for Life, is receiving \$225,000 to remove logs from forests in Idaho, Colorado and Wyoming that will produce firewood for tribes, including Shoshone Bannock, Shoshone Paiute, Eastern Shoshone, Northern Arapaho, Ute Mountain Ute, and Navajo Nation. More info [here](#).

2025 EPA Residential Wood Smoke Workshop

March 11–13, 2025

Dever, CO

Attendance at the workshop is FREE!

The Workshop will cover a wide range of topics:

- PM_{2.5} NAAQS, non-attainment, and residential wood combustion
- Regulatory & voluntary wood smoke (PM_{2.5}, toxics) reduction strategies
- Outreach and engagement strategies
- Available funding for cleaner technologies, with an emphasis on heat pumps
- Wood smoke monitoring (outdoor and indoor) and wood heater testing
- Possible technology tour at a local heating appliance store

Over the next 3–4 weeks, we will be developing the agenda and invite your suggestions on discussion topics, challenges, and opportunities you would like to explore during the Workshop. Your input will help ensure the agenda addresses the most pressing issues. If you have recommendations for topics/speakers or are interested in presenting on an issue or program, please contact Danielle Johnson at Johnson.Danielle@epa.gov or 919-541-1385.

Job Announcement

Swinomish Indian Tribal Community

The Swinomish Department of Environmental Protection is hiring an Air Quality Specialist 1. For more information please www.swinomish-nsn.gov/jobs.



NTAA Events Calendar

Dec 12th

HUD Radan Webinar
11 - 12:30pm PST
[Register Here](#)

EPA's 2025 Air Sensors Workshop

March 18-20, 2025
Research Triangle Park, North Carolina
More info [here](#).

ITEP Updates

Upcoming AIAQTP trainings

Dec 10-12th

PM 2.5 Air Monitoring (New)
TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

Jan 14-16th

Air Quality Outreach & Education
TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

Feb 25-27th

Air Pollution Science & Technology
Phoenix, AZ

March 18-20th

Project Planning, QAPPs, Grants for Alaska
Anchorage, AK

April 15-17th

Air Quality Data Management (New)
TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

More information can be found [here](#).

On Demand self-paced on-line courses

13 courses available:
QAPP, Indoor Air Quality, Emission Inventories, Radon, Managing Road Dust, Introduction to Air Quality, and more.

Courses and more information can be found [here](#).

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/>

2025 NTFAQ

REQUESTS FOR PRESENTATION OR TRAINING ABSTRACTS

DUE DATE: FRIDAY, JANUARY 10, 2025

FORUM ORGANIZERS ARE ACTIVELY SEEKING ABSTRACTS FOR PRESENTATIONS (ORAL/POSTER), TRAININGS, AND OTHER INFORMATIONAL SESSIONS THAT SUPPORT OUR GOAL OF PROVIDING ENGAGING OPPORTUNITIES FOR TRIBES TO CONNECT WITH OTHERS WORKING TO ADDRESS AIR QUALITY CONCERNS. ABSTRACTS SHOULD BE RELATED TO AIR QUALITY TOPICS RELEVANT TO TRIBAL STAKEHOLDERS.

[Click here to submit.](#)



HARRAH'S RESORT & CASINO
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MAY 19-22, 2025

Please submit requests [here](#).