



# NTAA Monthly Update January 2025

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## NTAA Executive Committee Spotlight

The National Tribal Air Association would like to wish you all a Happy New Year! As we embark on another busy year for air successes, needs and issues we will begin a new section which will consist of monthly highlights where one NTAA Executive Committee Member each month will share information and updates about their region. We know that this will be a great change for the newsletter and offer a personalized view of Tribal Air.

The NTAA looks forward to continued work and developments in Tribal Air as it moves forward and will focus on air funding, priorities, policy and other Tribal needs as requested and as needed. Please remember that the National Tribal Forum on Air Quality will be on May 19-22, 2025 in Southern California and we look forward to seeing you there!

Be on the lookout for an email with a poll for the top three NTAA logos and be sure to cast your vote!

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

### Contact:

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Program Coordinator  
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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](mailto:Miranda.ONeill@nau.edu)

### Find us at:

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

## Feature Article: Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts

### Background

The EPA has long recognized threats to human health and the environment due to the cumulative effects of multiple “stressors”. For example, the Food Quality Protection Act of 1996 urged EPA to “move beyond single chemical assessments”. EPA’s May 2003 report, Framework for Cumulative Risk Assessment, addresses, in part, “cumulative approaches to risk assessment”. Most recently, following three decades of study, and numerous scientific analyses, is the proposed Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts. It also recognizes and focuses on the disproportionate impact of multiple threats to selected populations and a commitment to “environmental justice for all.”

This proposed action provides information and guidance to EPA staff on how to consider cumulative impacts on communities when making decisions on rules, permits and programs. The guidance explains cumulative impacts for agency staff and provides tools to support cumulative impacts analyses. As guidance it provides information and direction but does not require cumulative impact analyses in all actions, but where it is practical and appropriate.



### What Does this Guidance Include?

The Interim Framework for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts describes principles for EPA to consider cumulative impacts in EPA decisions. These principles include:

- Centering cumulative impacts work on improving human health, quality of life, and the environment in all communities.
- Ensuring the disproportionate and adverse burden of cumulative impacts are not ignored or overlooked.
- Applying a fit-for-purpose approach grounded in science to assessing and addressing cumulative impacts.
- Engaging communities, consulting with Tribes, and considering and incorporating their lived experience.
- Using the best available data, science, and information to make decisions and take action.
- Operationalizing and integrating ways to highlight, consider and address cumulative impacts.



The guidance provides a framework for Agency staff in considering cumulative impacts in decision making including standard setting, permitting, rulemaking, cleanup, emergency response, funding, planning, program oversight for states, territories, and Tribes, or other decision making. The guidance defines cumulative impacts as: Cumulative impacts are the totality of exposures to combinations of environmental stressors and their effects on health and quality of life outcomes.

- Chemical stressors are compounds that are released into the environment by waste, emissions, pesticide use, or use of consumer products and can change or damage living organisms or ecosystems.
- Non-chemical stressors are factors in the built, natural, and social environments, including climactic stress that directly or indirectly adversely affect health or increase vulnerability. Such as income, existing health and social stressors, access to health care, cultural practices and Traditional lifeways, redlining and other government decisions that have impacted local communities.

### How does this affect my Tribe?

This guidance is an important step in providing tools and guidance to the Agency when considering, not just exposures from multiple sources and multiple pollutants, but other issues that can impact the fence line communities. This is particularly important to Tribes where communities are “locked in place” and don’t have the options for relocation. It also provides the Agency tools to work with the impacted Tribes to consider cultural and traditional practices that can be impacted by the decisions at hand.

This guidance throughout discusses the importance of working with and consulting with Tribes on decisions that impact them. It seeks to move EPA forward in providing guidance on considering cumulative risk.

It is important to recognize that, when adopted, this “framework” provides “guidance”. It does **not require** agency programs and staff to consider cumulative impact in all decisions.

How to Comment on the Action:

The NTAA will have a Policy Resource Kit on the NTAA [website](#) for comment on this guidance. The PRK includes a template letter to support your comments that you can modify as appropriate for your tribes. The comments are due February 19, 2025.





## NTAA Announcements and Events

### Meet our new NTAA Staff!

We are excited to announce Martha "Marty" Johnson as the new NTAA Program Coordinator. Marty has lived in Flagstaff since 2006, except for a few years in Colorado. She previously worked for Coconino County in Sustainability for four and a half years. Before that, she advised students at Coconino Community College. She is looking forward to advancing the mission of the NTAA.



***To join any of the Work Group calls, please email [Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu](mailto:Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu)***

### **NTAA Wood Smoke Work Group Call**

Thursday, January 16, 2025, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. MTN

### **NTAA/EPA Policy Call**

Thursday, January 30, 2025, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. MTN

NTAA/EPA Policy Calls on the last Thursday of every month

### **NTAA Alaska Tribal Air Work Group Call**

Wednesday, January 29th 12:00 -2:00 p.m. MTN

### **NTAA Executive Committee Vacancies**

EPA Region 3 and Alaska

Please email [Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu](mailto:Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu) if you are interested



NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION

# THIRD ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 19 - 22, 2025

HARRAH'S RESORT SOCIAL  
NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY

OPEN TO ALL TRIBES  
10 TO 20 MIN FILMS  
ENVIRONMENTAL THEME

SUBMISSIONS BY APRIL 25, 2025

TO [LAURADMCKELVEY@GMAIL.COM](mailto:LAURADMCKELVEY@GMAIL.COM)





## ITEP Updates/Events

### Air Quality Outreach & Education

January 14- 16th

TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

### Air Pollution Science & Technology

February 25-27th

Phoenix, AZ

### Project Planning, QAPPs, Grants for Alaska

March 18-20th

Anchorage, AK

### Air Quality Data Management (New)

April 15-17th

TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

More information can be found here.



### Causes and Solutions to Indoor Smoke from Wood and Pellet Stoves

Tuesday, January 14th 1:00 - 2:30 p.m. EST

Register [here](#)

### Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) Work Group/Office Hours Call

Thursday, January 23rd, 2025, 12:00 – 1:00 p.m. MST

Contact [Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu](mailto:Mansel.Nelson@nau.edu) to register

**Summer 2025 ITEP Air Quality and Indigenous Climate Change Internships applications are now open.**

Please share this information with students who may be interested.

All applications will be due on **January 31st, 2025.**

[Air Quality Internship Application](#)

[Indigenous Climate Change Internships](#)



MAY 19TH-22ND, 2025

# #NTFAQ25

## SAVE THE DATE

HARRAH'S RESORT & CASINO  
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA  
777 S RESORT DR.  
VALLEY CENTER, CA  
92082





## EPA Announcements and Updates.

### EPA Tools & Resources Webinar

Fifth National Climate Assessment: Resources and Interactive Atlas

Wednesday, January 15, 2025

3:00-4:00 p.m. ET

Register [here](#)

Released in November 2023, the [Fifth National Climate Assessment](#) (NCA5) is the US Government's preeminent report on climate change impacts, risks and responses. Led by the U.S. Global



Research Program (USGCRP) and its 14 member agencies, including the US EPA, NCA5 draws on the expertise of nearly 500 authors and 250 contributors from every state, as well as Guam, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. EPA contributed to chapters on air quality, energy, forests, coasts, ecosystems, social systems and justice, economics, as well as regional and response chapters and the overview.



### ASHRAE Guideline 44: Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burns Events Now Available

The EPA's Indoor Environments Division is pleased to announce that the ASHRAE Guideline 44 "Protecting Building Occupants from Smoke During Wildfire and Prescribed Burn Events", is now [available for purchase from the ASHRAE Bookstore](#).

The purpose of the Guideline is to recommend building

measures to minimize occupant health impacts from wildfire and prescribed burn smoke events. The focus of the guideline is on commercial, institutional and multi-unit residential buildings. It is the first guideline of its kind to provide recommendations to help building owners and managers prepare for and respond to smoke.

### Regional Haze Rule

On December 13, 2024, the EPA Administrator signed a proposal to revise deadlines in the Regional Haze Rule. The proposal would extend the due date for the next round of state implementation plans covering the Third Implementation Period from July 31, 2028, to July 31, 2031.

The Regional Haze Rule requires states to submit state implementation plans to protect visibility in mandatory Class I federal areas by controlling air emissions that cause regional haze and continue reasonable progress towards natural visibility. Class 1 areas include many of our nation's most treasured parks and wilderness areas.

More information is available on the [visibility website](#).





## **US Environmental Protection Agency and US Department of Energy Announce \$850M to Reduce Methane Pollution from the Oil and Gas Sector**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the U.S. Department of Energy announced approximately \$850 million for 43 projects selected for negotiation that will help small oil and gas operators, Tribes, and other entities across the country to reduce, monitor, measure, and quantify methane emissions from the oil and gas sector as part of President Biden's [Investing in America agenda](#).

The investment incentivizes companies' near-term actions to conserve valuable energy resources for American consumers, improve operational efficiencies in a global market, and reduce methane emissions.

For more information, click [here](#).

### **National Air Toxics Conference**

The National Air Toxics Conference [website is live](#) and is now accepting proposals for

the 2025 National Air Toxics Conference (April 15-17, 2025), with technical presentations and panels taking place April 16-17, 2025, at the Westin Downtown Denver, CO. The conference is free to

attend but will require a registration and is only open to air toxics folks who work in federal, state, regional, local, or tribal governments. If you are interested in being a presenter or panelist on any of these topics, please apply [HERE](#) before January 15 (of January 31 at the latest), 2025. Registration will open for all presenters, panelists, and attendees on January 15, 2025.



### **EPA Recognizes National Radon Action Month**

In January the EPA encourages Americans to test their homes for radon. Radon is an odorless, colorless, naturally occurring radioactive gas that, when left untreated, can build up inside a home. Over time, exposure to radon can cause lung cancer. The only way to know if your home has high levels of radon is to test for it. Testing for radon is easy and inexpensive. Affordable do-it-yourself radon test kits are available online and at most home improvement and hardware stores.

### **Other Recent News Releases**

[EPA Launches New Studies and Data Collection Efforts to Better Protect Communities from PFAS](#)

[Biden-Harris Administration Announces Nearly \\$1.6 Billion in Environmental and Climate Justice Community Change Grants](#)

[EPA Releases Indicators of Environmental Health Disparities](#)



## **Tribal New Source Review Preconstruction Air Permitting Virtual Trainings**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a series of virtual trainings to educate tribal, small business, and industry professionals about the New Source Review (NSR) preconstruction air permitting program as it applies in Indian Country with a focus on the preconstruction air permitting requirements that apply to minor sources of air pollution in Indian Country. The NSR preconstruction permitting program establishes the air permitting requirements that facility owners and operators must follow before constructing a new facility or modifying an existing facility that meets the applicability requirements of the program.

All trainings are from 1 pm to 2pm EST. The meeting links are on Teams and available for public use without the need for Teams software on attendees computers. Further, call in numbers with password id are also provided for those with internet access issues or audio problems on the Teams online meeting.

### **Applying for Tribal Minor NSR Permits, Public Participation and Appeals**

Wednesday, January 29, 2025

1:00 pm to 2:00 pm ES

[Online Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 235 832 481 062

Passcode: XYnjsG

Dial In By Phone: +1 984-444-7480

Phone conference ID: 420 889 65#

### **Completing a Minor NSR Permit Application Correctly**

February 17, 2025

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EST

[Online Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 236 102 381 883

Passcode: zKWoiB

Dial In By Phone: +1 984-444-7480,

Phone conference ID: 371 781 024#

### **Identifying Facilities Operating Without a Required NSR Air Permit**

March 10, 2025

1:00 to 2:00 p.m. EST

[Online Meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 280 149 047 922

Passcode: gQXtAR

Dial In By Phone: 1 984-444-7480

Phone conference ID: 106 592 395#



## Other Announcements

### Tribal Clean Energy Funding Opportunities

Click [here](#) to view the webpage and for more information about how to apply.



### ACTEM (Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management) Save the Date!

March 25-28, 2025

ACTEM is hosted by Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, Alaska

Click [here](#) for more information.



### EPA's 2025 Air Sensors Workshop

Join the EPA in North Carolina (or virtually) for the March 18-20, 2025, Air Sensors Workshop

People, Process, & Performance: A Pathway to Impact

[Save the Date](#)

### Free Tribal Data Management Management Training & Technical Assistance Opportunities

Learn new skills, support your Tribe's environmental data management goals, and meet other Tribal environmental professionals during free training and technical assistance events offered by the [Tribal Exchange Network Group \(TXG\)](#). The full training calendar is available here and will soon be updated for 2025.



Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions are held the third Thursday of every month from 10-11am (Pacific Time). These sessions feature TXG members and other professionals who volunteer their time to answer questions, provide tips, and share first-hand experiences in data management that can assist with your environmental program needs. Register [here](#).