



# NTAA Monthly Update February 2025

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## NTAA Executive Committee Spotlight

Welcome to the first NTAA Newsletter Executive Committee Spotlight! As promised, each month one of the Executive Committee Representatives or Alternates will give an update for the Spotlight.

My name is Syndi Smallwood and I am the Environmental Director for the Jamul Indian Village of California, R9 Representative and NTAA Chair. In R9, air funding is not available to all Tribes in the form of traditional CAA103 and 105 grants. There are 148 Tribes in R9 and only 30 grants in place. Many Tribes use their GAP grants to conduct basic air tasks such as education and outreach. Some Tribes seek grants from other resources such as a state grant.

Just a reminder, you do not have to have an air program to participate in air activities, meetings and training. This is important, especially when a Tribe may be located in a nonattainment area, which could affect health and economic development. It is important to be aware of how federal regulations and policy may affect the Tribe. Currently, the R9 RTOC Air Workgroup is working on air priorities for the STAR.

If you are interested in providing input on your air priorities for the STAR, please click on the link below.

[Regional Priorities for FY2024](#)

Respectfully,  
Syndi Smallwood  
Chair, National Tribal Air Association

### Contact:

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Program Manager  
Miranda.oneill@nau.edu

Martha "Marty" Johnson  
Program Coordinator  
Marty.Johnson@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, please email Miranda O'Neill - [Miranda.O'Neill@nau.edu](mailto:Miranda.O'Neill@nau.edu)

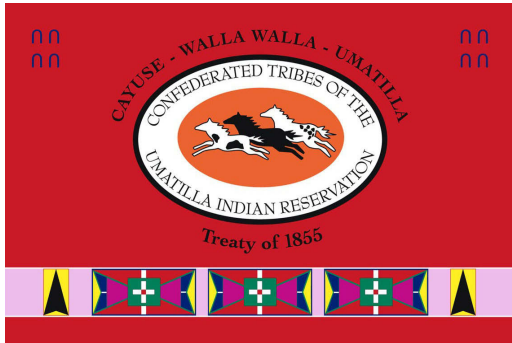
To subscribe or unsubscribe from our newsletter, click [here](#).

### Find us at:

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

## Feature Article : Confederate Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation CASTNET Air Monitoring Site

By Caleb Minthorn, NTAA EC



The Confederated Umatilla Tribes hosts a CASTNET (Clean Air Status and Trends Network) monitoring platform site UMA009, in southeast Washington, five miles south of Dayton. The project was possible because of an EPA Multipurpose Grant that the Umatilla Tribes Office of Air Quality (OAQ) applied for in the spring of 2020. Technician Caleb Minthorn and EESP Program Manager Mason Murphy applied for, received, and deployed the MPG funds all within the same calendar year to get the CTUIR CASTNET project into sampling.

In November 2020, an EPA contractor, formerly known as “WOOD PLC,” completed installation of the system. From the original platform, the Umatilla Tribes OAQ had been running an ozone sampler filter pack, powered by an apex mass flow control system. The filter pack sampled for sulfur and nitrogen analytes, with a passive ammonia sampler installed on the CASTNET tower.

Additional monitoring efforts were negotiated in 2021. Newly acquired funds, (on top of CA 105 base funding), allowed for equipment to be procured from the National Trends Network. By January 1, 2022, the new equipment was installed by Technical Air Lead, Matthew Campbell, former EESP instrument technician, Gabe Jones, and Air Quality Technician, Caleb Minthorn.

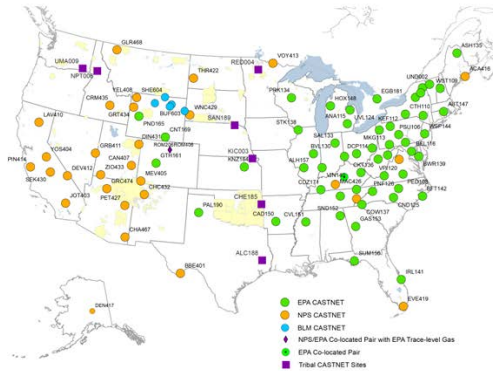
National Trends Network & National Atmospheric Deposition Network sampling campaigns revealed that low levels of mercury were detectable in southeast Washington. However, only limited sampling could occur due to congressional holds being placed on PFAS data. In 2025, now five years after the original CASTNET was installed, CTUIR is actively collecting up to 10 data points each week, including PM 2.5. PM 2.5 data is important to collect because of wildfires on the Umatilla National Forest, which is only 10 to 20 miles from the UMA009 site.



As the project continually expands, the Umatilla Tribe OAQ is looking to gain insight and knowledge on how this work will protect the airshed, while offering a learning opportunity with their funding sponsors, project officers, tribal public, and higher learning institutions.



## CLEAN AIR STATUS AND TRENDS NETWORK (CASTNET)



CASTNET is a long-term atmospheric monitoring program with 99 sites located throughout the United States and Canada. CASTNET is managed and operated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Atmospheric Programs in cooperation with the National Park Service (NPS) Air Resources Division; Bureau of Land Management, Wyoming State Office (BLM); and other federal, state, and local partners including seven Native American tribes. The network was established in response to the 1990 Clean Air Act Amendments to assess the effectiveness of emission reduction programs by reporting trends in pollutant concentrations and acidic deposition. Data from CASTNET also support the assessment of the primary and secondary National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for ozone (O<sub>3</sub>), nitrogen dioxide (NO<sub>2</sub>), sulfur dioxide (SO<sub>2</sub>), and fine particulate matter (PM<sub>2.5</sub>). Additionally, CASTNET data are used for assessing air pollution impacts to sensitive ecosystems and applications related to environmental assessments and permitting.

## NTAA Announcements and Events

### Cast your vote for the new NTAA Logo

We are excited to share the final logo designs from our recent logo design contest at the National Tribal Air Association. Your input is invaluable to us, and we would greatly appreciate your feedback and votes on these designs. Please take a moment to review the logos and share your thoughts by using this [link](#). Your participation will help us choose a logo that truly represents our community.

**Deadline to vote is the end of the day Friday, February 14th 2025.**



### New Policy Resource Kits Available

Two Current Policy Resource Kits and a Primer are now available via the [NTAA website](#):

1. PRK for Advancing Consideration of Cumulative Impacts – comments on this proposed action are due to EPA by February 19th, 2025
2. New Source Performance Standards for Stationary Combustion Turbines - EPA will receive comments on this proposal until March 13, 2025
3. Primer on 6 PPD/6 PPDQ.



## NTAA/EPA Policy Call

Thursday, February, 27th 2025, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. MTN

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

## NTAA Executive Committee Openings

EPA Region 3 open

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

## State of Tribal Air Report (STAR)

Tribal Case Studies for STAR Report

The NTAA is in the process of drafting the annual State of Tribal Air Report (STAR) and looking for case studies from Tribes on their recent grant projects. Click [here](#) for a copy of a tribal case study templet. If you are interested in submitting a case study, please fill out the form and email it to Marty Johnson [Marty.johnson@nau.edu](mailto:Marty.johnson@nau.edu) Deadline for submission is **Friday, March 7th**.

Regional Priorities for STAR Report

We need your feedback! What issues are important in your Region? Click [here](#) to provide your feedback.

## National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

If you are interested in submitting a film, or know of a short film pertaining to environmental issues affecting Tribes, please contact Laura McKelvey [Lauradmckelvey@gmail.com](mailto:Lauradmckelvey@gmail.com)





## ITEP and TAMS Announcements

### ITEP Listservs and Newsletters

Want to be in the know about all things pertaining to Tribes and the environment? Join our listservs/and or newsletters! Click [here](#) to view the various listservs, then click on the specific listserv to join.

### 2025 ITEP Office Hours

Each month ITEP partners with EPA, Tribes, and other content experts to have a lively discussion on a specific topic. Please join us via Zoom, each month participants will hear a short presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions of the host and audience. Hope to see you at a Grants, Indoor Air Quality, or TAMS Center office hour.

Zoom Meeting ID is 659 096 3943; Password: AIAQTP

For more information please contact:

Christal Black [Christal.Black@nau.edu](mailto:Christal.Black@nau.edu)

### Upcoming In-Person Trainings

#### [Project Planning, QAPPS, Grants for Alaska](#)

March 18-20th  
Anchorage, AK

#### [Air Quality Data Management](#)

April 15-17th  
TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

### ITEP Internship

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals Summer 2025 Water Resource and Land Management Internship application is now open! Applications are due on Sunday, February 16th, 2025. All internships are paid and have both travel and housing allowances! If you have questions, please email [Kim.Shaw@nau.edu](mailto:Kim.Shaw@nau.edu).

[Water Resource and Land Management Internship application](#)

**2025 ITEP OFFICE HOURS**

**TAMS OFFICE HOURS**  
Second Tuesday  
11:00AM Pacific

- January 14
- March 11
- May 13

**TAMS STEERING COMMITTEE AIR MONITORING WORKGROUP**  
11:00 AM Pacific

- February 11
- April 8th
- June 10

**INDOOR AIR QUALITY OFFICE HOURS**  
Third Thursday  
11:00 AM Pacific

- January 23
- February 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 18

**GRANTS OFFICE HOURS**  
First Wednesday  
10AM Pacific

- January 8
- February 5
- March 5
- April 9
- May 7
- June 4

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS**  
Third Thursday  
12:00 PM Pacific

- January 23
- February 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 18

**ZOOM MEETING ID: 659-096-3943**  
**PASSWORD: AIAQTP**



## National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Click [here](#) for the sponsorship packet.

**2025 NTFAQ**

The 25th Annual  
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality  
is coming soon!

**SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!**

**SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS  
MAY INCLUDE:**

- INCLUSION OF YOUR LOGO ON OUR WEBSITE
- COMPLEMENTARY REGISTRATION\*
- COMPLEMENTARY EXHIBITOR BOOTH\*
- LOGO DISPLAYED DURING SPECIFIED BREAKS
- ORGANIZATION NAME PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED AT REGISTRATION AREA

\*MAY VARY DEPENDING ON SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

**CONTACT ZANE JACOBS AT:  
ZANE.JACOBS@NAU.EDU**

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

## Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS)

The TAMS Center is announcing a call for nominations for the 2025 Virgil Masayesva Environmental Excellence Award and for two (2) voting member positions and one alternate position on TAMS Steering Committee. Further information and the nomination forms are online and can be accessed at the [TAMS Website](#):

Information:

1.) Virgil Masayesva Tribal Air Programs Excellence Award [Nomination Form](#)

Deadline for the VM Award Nominations - March 7, 2025

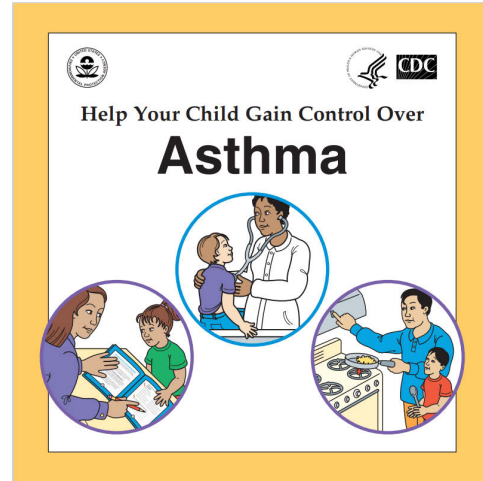
2.) TAMS Steering Committee [Nomination Form](#)

## EPA Announcements

### Asthma Booklets Available

*Help Your Child Gain Control Over Asthma*

This brochure offers tips on how to manage asthma and follow simple steps to minimize exposure to asthma triggers found indoors and out. Please email India Young [young.india@epa.gov](mailto:young.india@epa.gov)



### National Air Toxics Conference

Click [here](#) to reserve a spot

**2025 EPA Residential Wood Smoke Training Workshop** Tuesday, March 11 - Thursday, March 13, 2025

EPA Downtown Denver Office US EPA, Region 8

Click here for more information

### EPA Wildfire Resources Available

Protect Yourself from Ash [Factsheet](#)

Wildfires and Your Mental Health Resources

[Disaster Distress Helpline](#)

Protect Family Mental Health During Wildfires [video](#)

### Wildfire and Indoor Air Quality

Prepare for a Flood, Landslide, or Mudflow - EPA [Webpage](#) on Flooding





## Other Announcements

### ATCEM (Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management)

March 25-28, 2025

ATCEM is hosted by Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, Alaska Click [here](#) for more information.

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

**2024 Tribal Data Drop-In Sessions!**  
Third Thursday Monthly @ 10 am Pacific  
**TXG**  
TRIBAL EXCHANGE NETWORK GROUP  
Hosted by the Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

#### Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions

Come with a question, share a resource of your own, or simply listen to what others have to say.

Held the third Thursday of every month from 10-11am (Pacific Time). Register [here](#).

### Kansas State University In-Person CE Courses

Click [here](#) for more information

**Kansas State University**  
**Radon Courses**  
**FREE**  
**CONTINUING EDUCATION**  
**Radon in Multi-Family, Schools & Large Buildings**  
**Sacramento, CA**  
These 8-hour courses cover current standards in multi-family and large building measurement and mitigation.  
**DATE**  
FEBRUARY 20-21, 2025  
**TIMES**  
Measurement - Feb 20  
8:00AM- 5:00PM PACIFIC  
Mitigation - Feb 21  
8:00AM-5:00PM PACIFIC  
**REGISTRATION - FREE**  
<https://radoncourses.com/CE/>  
In-person  
Sponsored by: California Radon Program  
(833) 723-6222  
radoncourse@ksu.edu  
radoncourses.com





## **National Association for Clean Air Agencies (NACAA)**

### **EPA Administrator announces "Powering the Great American Comeback Initiative."**

Consisting of five pillars, the new initiative announced by new EPA Administrator, Lee Zeldin, aims to align EPA's work with President Donald Trump's agenda. The five pillars are as follows:

- 1.) Clean Air, Land, and Water for Every American
- 2.) Restore American Energy Dominance
- 3.) Permitting Reform, Cooperative Federalism, and Cross-Agency Partnership
- 4.) Make the United State the Artificial Intelligence Capital of the World
- 5.) Protecting and Bringing Back the American Auto Jobs.

Click [here](#) for more information

### **Two Federal Courts Place Temporary Restraining Orders on Trump Administration's Funding Freeze: States and Non-profit groups preparing preliminary injunction motions**

On January 31 and February 3, respectively, the United States District Court for the District of Rhode Island and the United States District Court for the District of Columbia issued temporary restraining orders (TROs) blocking the Trump Administration from implementing a broad federal funding freeze ordered by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB). OMB's January 28th memorandum

M-25-13 directed federal agencies to temporarily halt all federal grants and cooperative agreements "that may be implicated by [President Trump's] executive orders, including, but not limited to, financial assistance for foreign aid, nongovernmental organizations, DEI, woke gender ideology, and the green new deal" pending review by the new administration (see related article in the January 25-31, 2025 Washington Update). The TROs halting this directive follow and supersede an administrative stay issued by the D.C. District Court on January 28.

Click [here](#) for more information



## **National Association for Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) cont.**

### **Senate Democrats Demand Zeldin Unlock Grant Funding**

The highest-ranking Democratic appropriators, led by Jeff Merkley (D-OR), the Ranking Member of the U.S. Senate’s Committee on Appropriations’ Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, have written to EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin to demand that grant funding for environmental programs be made available to grantees.

Click [here](#) for more information

Although some funding has become accessible, many grant-funded agreements have been unavailable since the issuance of Executive Order 14154, “Unleashing American Energy”, on January 20, 2025. The letter demands that “all of EPA’s funding must be made available and disbursed pursuant to the law with no exceptions.”

### **EPA Puts EJ Staff on Administrative Leave: Removes EJSCREEN From Website**

EPA has placed staff working at its Office of Environmental Justice and External Civil Rights (OEJECR) on administrative leave, according to communications with NACAA staff by an affected person on February 6, 2025. News outlets that received official communications from EPA, including Politico, report that an EPA spokesperson identified that “168 staffers were placed on administrative leave as their function did not relate to the agency’s statutory duties or grant work.

Click [here](#) for more information

### **Congressional Republicans Urge Conditioning LA Wildfire Recovery Funding on Ending Vehicle Emission Standards**

A group of Republican members of Congress has written to the chairs and ranking members of the Appropriations Committees of the U.S. House of Representatives and the U.S. Senate urging that wildfire relief funding from the Federal Government following the January 2025 Palisades and Eaton fires that affected Los Angeles, CA, should be conditioned on California’s discontinuing its programs to set vehicle emission standards under Section 209 of the Clean Air Act (CAA), and that Congressional relief should also include the rescinding of waivers provided under the CAA to California to enact these programs.

Click [here](#) for more information

### **Bills Introduced to Disapprove Methane Waste Emissions Charge**

A pair of bills has been filed in the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives to disapprove the methane Waste Emissions Charge created by the 2022 Inflation Reduction Act (IRA), using the authorities of the Congressional Review Act (CRA) enacted as part of the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act in 1996.

Click [here](#) for more information



## **National Association for Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) cont.**

### **Supreme Court Rejects Trump Administration Requests to Pause Clean Air Act Cases**

The U.S. Supreme Court denied without explanation motions filed by the Trump Administration that asked the Court to pause proceedings in several major Clean Air Act cases currently pending before it. The cases at issue challenge three rules issued under the Biden Administration: 1) EPA's 2022 decision to issue a waiver of preemption for California's Advanced Clean Cars Regulation (Diamond Alternative Energy, LLC v. EPA), 2) EPA's disapprovals of "Good Neighbor" State Implementation Plans for the 2016 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (Oklahoma v. EPA and PacifiCorp v. EPA), and 3) the Fifth Circuit's refusal to transfer a case concerning Renewable Fuel Standard compliance waivers to the D.C. Circuit (EPA v. Calumet Shreveport Refining, LLC).

Click [here](#) for more information.

### **EPA, Industry Petitioners Ask D.C. Circuit To Pause Several Cases Challenging Clean Air Act Rules**

EPA filed several motions this week asking the U.S. Court of Appeals to temporarily pause litigation challenging various Clean Air Act Rules so that the agency can review whether the challenged rules are consistent with Trump Administration policies. In several other cases, industry petitioners asked the court to pause proceedings on grounds that EPA is likely to reconsider the challenged rules because they are inconsistent with President Trump's Executive Order, "Unleashing American Energy."

Click [here](#) for more information