



National Tribal
AIR ASSOCIATION

NTAA MONTHLY UPDATE APRIL 2026

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Spotlight: National Healthy Homes Month

April is National Healthy Homes Month (NHHM), an opportunity to support healthier home environments by raising awareness, educating, motivating action, and building networks and partnerships. This year's theme, provided by the National Safe and Healthy Housing Coalition, is *Healthy Homes for Everyone: Practical Actions. Shared Solutions. Lasting Impact.*

The [National Center for Healthy Housing](#) (NCHH) has a wide array of resources, tools, data, outreach materials, funding opportunities, and more to help your community spread the word about the importance of healthy homes. NCHH has provided multiple graphics that are free to download to use on social media platforms, or to print as flyers for community spaces.

NCHH developed guides for healthy homes for housing professionals, children-specific guides, guides to protect your family from lead, and they even developed a [Tribal specific guide](#).

NCHH is collecting a list of events that communities are hosting throughout the month to post as a public list. So, if your Tribe is already celebrating Healthy Homes month and you have an event that you would like to share, please email Chris Bloom cbloom@nchh.org so your event can be added to the list.

National Center for HEALTHY HOUSING

THE PRINCIPLES OF A HEALTHY HOME

Housing conditions can and should support good health. But what makes a healthy home environment? Since the 1930s, public health and housing stakeholders have offered guidance on fundamental housing characteristics as they relate to health. Today, NCHH supports the following 11 principles as a framework for describing the critical components of a healthy home. Healthy homes are:

DRY		DRY: Damp houses provide a nurturing environment for mites, roaches, rodents, and mold, all of which are associated with asthma.
CLEAN		CLEAN: Clean homes help reduce pest infestations and exposure to contaminants.
PEST-FREE		PEST-FREE: Exposure to mice and cockroaches increase asthma episodes in children. Inappropriate treatment for pest infestations can exacerbate health problems as pesticide residues pose risks for neurological damage and cancer.
VENTILATED		VENTILATED: Increasing the fresh air supply improves respiratory health.
SAFE		SAFE: Falls are the most frequent cause of residential injuries to older adults and children, followed by injuries from objects in the home, burns, and poisoning.
CONTAMINANT-FREE		CONTAMINANT-FREE: Chemical exposures include lead, radon, pesticides, volatile organic compounds, PFAS, and environmental tobacco smoke. Many of these exposures are far higher indoors than outside.
MAINTAINED		MAINTAINED: Poorly maintained homes are at risk for moisture and pest problems. Deteriorated lead-based paint in older housing is the primary cause of lead poisoning.
THERMALLY CONTROLLED		THERMALLY CONTROLLED: Prolonged exposure to excessive heat or cold when homes do not maintain adequate temperatures put residents at risk for various health problems.
ACCESSIBLE		ACCESSIBLE: Increased accessibility in and outside the home can help reduce trips, falls, and isolation, and improve mental health and physical activity.
AFFORDABLE		AFFORDABLE: High housing cost burdens can lead to housing instability, with frequent moves, overcrowding, and homelessness. High housing costs can force families into substandard housing, and contribute to damaged credit, job loss, lack of nutritious food and adequate healthcare, and poor mental health.
READY		READY: When natural disasters strike, many people take shelter at home. State and local agencies, builders, code officials, landlords, property managers, renters, and homeowners can all proactively take steps to ensure that residential environments are safe places to be before, during, and after extreme weather events.

Learn more: Visit http://bit.ly/HH_principles
March 2025

NCHH

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Find us at: www.ntaatribalair.org

Newsletter:

The NTAA Monthly Update is an e-newsletter providing updates and resources to Tribes regarding air policy, grants, and resources. To advertise an announcement, please email Marty.Johnson@nau.edu. To subscribe or unsubscribe from our newsletter, click [here](#).



National Tribal
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FEATURE ARTICLE

Understanding EPA Regulatory Rollbacks and What Tribal Air Programs Should Know By NTAA Staff

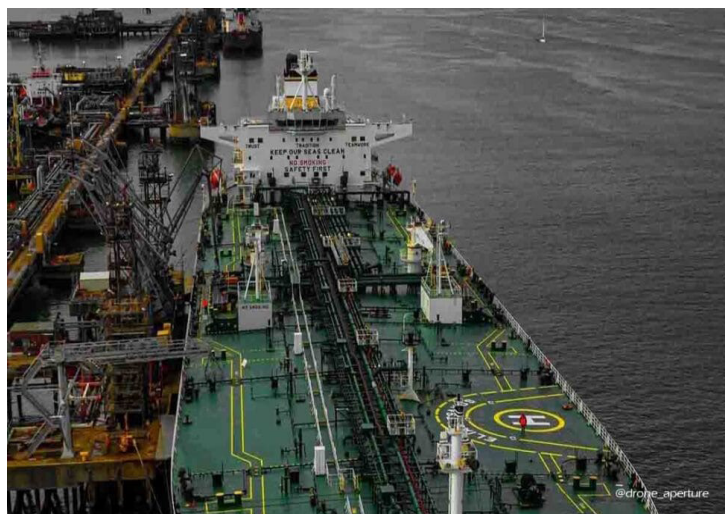
The following is an overview of each recent deregulatory action and the potential impact on Tribal Air Programs. If there is a comment period, there are deadlines and links to the proposed rule on the Federal Register. While some deregulatory actions may seem harmless or even beneficial, others could directly or indirectly impact air quality in Indian country. We encourage Tribal air quality professionals to scrutinize each proposal, determine how these rulings may impact air quality in their community, and decide whether their Tribe would like to submit a comment or request consultation. [EPA's Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System \(TCOTS\)](#) publicizes upcoming and current EPA consultation opportunities for Tribal governments and Alaska Native Corporations.

Due to unforeseen circumstances, NTAA has been unable to provide policy resource kits and/or comment letters for recent federal air policy rulings, nor have we been able to host the Office Hours with the PAC call. We hope to provide these services again soon!

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Pollutants (NESHAP) Deregulatory Actions

Marine Vessel Loading Operations

On March 2, 2026, EPA proposed amendments to the [2011 NESHAP for Marine Tank Vessel Loading Operations, also known as the MTVLO NESHAP](#). The MTVLO NESHAP regulates hazardous air pollutant emissions from shore based facilities that load bulk liquid fuels or chemicals into marine tank vessels, addressing emissions displaced from cargo tanks during loading operations. After reviewing available technologies, EPA determined that no new pollution controls for marine vessel loading operations would deliver meaningful additional air quality benefits at a reasonable cost, and instead focused on strengthening monitoring, testing, and accountability requirements to reduce emissions (*Source: EPA Proposed Amendment, March 2, 2026*).



The proposed changes do not place new regulatory obligations on Tribal air programs, but stronger monitoring and reporting requirements may improve oversight and data quality for marine loading facilities that affect air quality near some Tribal communities, specifically Tribes located near ports or coastal facilities. Tribes may choose to comment during the public comment period if concerns exist regarding local impacts or data transparency.

The deadline to submit [comments](#) on this ruling is April 20, 2026

Ethylene Oxide (EtO) Emissions Standards for Sterilization Facilities

The EPA is proposing to amend the Commercial Sterilization Facilities NESHAP ([2024 Final Rule](#)). If finalized as proposed, the ruling would likely worsen or slow improvement in local air quality for communities living near commercial sterilization facilities, many of which are low income communities and communities of color (Source: [CDC Clinician Brief: Ethylene Oxide, January 9, 2024](#)). The proposal rolls back key risk based emission limits adopted in 2024 for ethylene oxide—a known human carcinogen—and replaces them with weaker controls justified primarily by supply chain and feasibility concerns, not health based risk reduction (Source: *U.S. EPA, NESHAP: EtO Emissions Standards for Commercial Sterilization Facilities, Proposed Rule, Federal Register, March 17, 2026; EPA, Ethylene Oxide (EtO) – Health Information*).



The [2024 EtO sterilization NESHAP](#) was designed to address residual cancer risks remaining after prior controls, especially from fugitive (“room air”) emissions that directly affect nearby neighborhoods. EPA estimated those standards would have reduced EtO emissions from commercial sterilizers by up to ~90% by 2027. The 2026 reconsideration proposes to:

- Rescind risk-based emission standards tied to cancer risk
- Weaken or revise aeration room vent controls

- Eliminate permanent total enclosure (PTE) requirements
- Reduce monitoring and compliance demonstration rigor

These changes would remove the strongest mechanisms meant to protect fence-line communities from chronic EtO exposure.

EPA is accepting [comments](#) until May 1, 2026.

Other Deregulatory Actions

Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act; Common Sense Approach to Chemical Accident Prevention

On February 24, 2026, EPA published this proposed rule which would revise EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations at 40 CRF Part 68, largely rolling back elements of the 2024 Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention (SCCAP) rule. EPA states the revisions would reduce duplicative or overly prescriptive requirements and remove provisions where the agency determined there was insufficient data demonstrating added safety benefits (Source: [EPA Proposed Rule, Feb. 24, 2026](#)). EPA's proposed "Common Sense Approach" to chemical accident prevention may indirectly affect Tribal communities and Tribal environmental programs by reducing certain federal requirements related to transparency, emergency preparedness, and community engagement for facilities subject to the Risk Management Program. Tribal Air Programs may wish to continue monitoring the rulemaking and consider engagement where RMP covered facilities are located on or near Tribal lands.

The deadline for [comments](#) is Friday, April 10, 2026.

Air Curtain Incinerators that Only Burn Wood Wastes, Yard Wastes, and Clean Lumber

EPA is proposing changes to how air curtain incinerators (ACIs) that burn only wood waste, yard waste, and clean lumber are regulated under the Clean Air Act (CAA) §129. While ACIs are cleaner than open burning, they still produce smoke and particulate emissions. Key elements of the proposal consolidate multiple existing ACI requirements into a single regulatory subpart, remove Title V permitting requirements (unless they are located at a major source), allow immediate operation after disasters or emergencies, and allow temporary use of certain incinerators during disaster recovery without full §129 standards (Source: [U.S. EPA Proposed Updates to Air Curtain Incinerator Regulations Under the Clean Air Act, March 20, 2026](#)). The rule would still maintain opacity limits and basic monitoring, recordkeeping, and reporting requirements.

The proposal could reduce permitting burden, enable faster deployment of ACIs, and simplify compliance requirements. EPA's proposed revisions to air curtain incinerator regulations could affect Tribal Air Programs by reducing permitting requirements and enabling faster use of ACIs during disaster recovery.



While the proposal may offer flexibility and operational benefits for Tribes, it may also shift greater responsibility to Tribal governments to manage air quality, community impacts, and oversight of incinerator operation. Tribal Air Programs that operate or may use ACIs—particularly during wildfire or disaster response—may wish to engage in the ongoing consultation and comment process (Source: U.S. EPA, *Proposed Updates to ACI Regulations Under the CAA § 129*, EPA HQ OAR 2025 0068; EPA Tribal Consultation materials, 2026).

The deadline for [comment](#) is Monday, May 4, 2026.

EPA Waives Ethanol Requirements, Pre-empts “Boutique Fuels”

Due to the recent fuel supply disruptions, on March 25, 2026, EPA, in consultation with the Department of Energy (DOE), issued a [waiver](#) regarding the requirements of certain fuel standards, or “summer fuel volatility requirements.” This will allow the sale of higher-ethanol gasoline blends (such as E15) during months when they are typically restricted to reduce air pollution. These seasonal restrictions exist because warmer temperatures increase fuel evaporation, which can worsen air quality, particularly ground-level ozone formation (Source: [EPA Gasoline Standards & Fuel Waivers](#)). EPA has justified the waivers as temporary emergency measures intended to prevent fuel supply disruptions and stabilize gasoline prices (Source: [EPA Fuel Waiver Notice, March 25, 2026](#)). However, public health and air quality experts have raised concerns that expanded summer use of higher-ethanol fuels could not only increase ozone pollution, but also the associated health risks, particularly for elders, children, and people with asthma or other respiratory and cardiovascular conditions (Source: [EPA; public health literature on ozone and respiratory impacts](#).)

While some regions may see minimal impacts, others especially communities in hot, sunny, or ozone-prone areas could experience more noticeable increases in ozone levels;

for example, Tribes in desert southwest regions, inland valleys, and/or areas downwind of urban centers or oil and gas operations.

For Tribal communities already facing cumulative air quality burdens, these waivers could incrementally worsen local air quality and public health risks. Tribal Air Programs may wish to monitor conditions closely and engage with EPA on region-specific impacts.

Final Renewable Fuel Standards for 2026 and 2027

The Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) is a U.S. federal program that mandates increasing volumes of renewable fuels in transportation and was established under the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and expanded by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The intent of the RFS is to balance environmental goals with energy security and economic considerations (Source: U.S. EPA. Renewable Fuel Standard).

EPA finalized the [RFS “Set 2” rule for 2026–2027](#), setting the highest renewable fuel blending requirements in the program’s history. Of note, is that EPA removed eRINs (renewable electricity Identification Numbers) because EPA concluded that renewable electricity was never meant to be part of the RFS. eRINs would have been Renewable Identification Numbers generated from renewable electricity used as a transportation fuel (for example, electricity generated from biogas and used to charge electric vehicles). EPA concluded that the RFS statute is about liquid fuels, not electricity. Click [here](#) for more information on the removal of eRINs.

The rule may have indirect air quality implications for Tribal communities. The rule substantially increases demand for biodiesel and renewable diesel production (over 60% increase compared to 2025) as well as feedstock processing and fuel distribution infrastructure. In some regions this could result in expansion of fuel production, blending, or transport facilities, and increased truck, rail, or marine fuel traffic near Tribal lands (Source: U.S. EPA. RFS Program: Final Rule for 2026 and 2027).

Increased use of ethanol, biodiesel, and renewable diesel—combined with ongoing summer fuel waivers—could influence regional ozone formation during warm months, particularly in areas already affected by cumulative pollution or wildfire smoke. Tribal Air Programs may wish to monitor seasonal air quality trends, especially ozone and volatile organic compounds, and engage with EPA on region specific impacts that could affect Tribal lands and communities.

NTAA ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Tribal Forum on AirQuality (NTFAQ)

[Registration](#) is now open for the 2026 NTFAQ, which will be held at Tulalip Casino and Resort in Washington. We hope to see you there!



Third Annual Tribal Film Festival

Submit your short film to Lauramckelvey@gmail.com prior to April 20, 2026

Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run

NTAA is looking for volunteers for the Breath of Fresh Air Fun Run to direct runners where to go and to monitor crosswalks.

If you are interested in helping out, please email

Marty Johnson

Marty.Johnson@nau.edu



NTAA Workgroups

Alaska Tribal Air Workgroup Call

Wednesday, April 22, 2026

11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MST

Zoom [Link](#)

EPA Air Policy Call

Thursday, April 23, 2026

1:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MST

Zoom [Link](#)

Wildfire Smoke Workgroup

Thursday, May 7, 2026

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

Zoom [Link](#)

ITEP/TAMS UPDATES

Caring for Our Relatives

Office Hours

The Caring for Our Relatives Program is excited to announce a new way to connect. Quick, informal, monthly, 1-hour sessions to support all aspects of ecological resilience projects. Drop in with your questions and ideas. We'll have staff on-hand for guidance on funding opportunities, proposal writing, and more. Every 4th Wednesday of the month at (7:30 AM HST/9:30 AM AKDT/10:30 AM PDT/11:30 AM MDT/12:30 CDT/1:30.

Click [here](#) to register for the next upcoming session.

Free Technical Assistance and Trainings

Click [here](#) to apply for free technical assistance for climate change resilience projects.



ITEP'S CARING FOR OUR RELATIVES PROGRAM

JOIN US FOR:

- One-on-One Technical Assistance is Back
 - Click the link below to sign up
 - <https://forms.gle/M7wdtScV3JlV6xPA>
 - Our program offers free, technical assistance for individual Tribes who may be facing barriers to starting or completing climate change-related species and/or ecological resilience projects
- OFFICE HOUR TRAININGS (11am-12pm MT) via Zoom
 - Register here: <http://bit.ly/4ppxwkd>
 - January 28, 2026 - SADIE Framework
 - February 25, 2026 - RFP Support & Tools
 - March 25, 2026 - Project Scoping
 - April 22, 2026 - Community Engagement
 - May 27, 2026 - Risk Assessments
- In-Person Ecological Resilience Trainings
 - Stay tuned for announcements

Contact us with questions:
ashley.gries@nau.edu or kieren.daley-laursen@nau.edu

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum Save the Date (TLEF)

August 17-20, 2026

Okana Resort

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

Click [here](#) for more information and to register



Tribal Lands & Environment Forum

TLEF 2026

AUGUST 17-20, 2026

OKANA Resort
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

AIAQTP & TAMS Office Hours:

Click [here](#) to join AIAQTP & TAMS office hours. Each month ITEP, EPA, and Tribes will host a rotating schedule of office hours. Please join a lively discussion and ask questions about Grants, Indoor Air Quality, and the TAMS Center. Click the link above to see the Office Hours Schedule.

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS)

Oh QAPP Office Hours

TAMS Staff will be live EACH Thursday to discuss issues related to QAPPS, QREST and Data Management.

Every Thursday 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. EST

[Link](#) Meeting ID: 865 1626 9184



EPA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Accidental Release Prevention Requirements: Risk Management Programs Under the Clean Air Act; Common Sense Approach to Chemical Accident Prevention

EPA published this proposed rule which would revise EPA's Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations at 40 CRF Part 68, largely rolling back elements of the 2024 Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention (SCCAP) rule.

Comments must be received on or before April 10, 2026.

National Emission Standards for Hazardous Pollutants (NESHAP) for Marine Tank Vessel Loading Operations (MTVLO): Technology Review

The EPA is proposing amendments to the NESHAP for the marine tank vessel loading operations (MTVLO) source category under Clean Air Act (CAA) section 112. The EPA is proposing certain decisions resulting from the Agency's technology review of the MTVLO NESHAP pursuant to CAA section 112(d)(6). Specifically, the EPA is proposing enhanced flare monitoring requirements, requirements to perform periodic performance testing, electronic reporting provisions, and removal of startup, shutdown, and malfunction (SSM) exemptions. Click [here](#) for more information and to submit a comment. **Comments must be received on or before April, 20, 2026.**

Amendment to the EtO NESHAP for Commercial Sterilization Facilities

The EPA is proposing to amend the Commercial Sterilization Facilities NESHAP (2024 Final Rule). The proposal rolls back key risk based emission limits adopted in 2024 for ethylene oxide and replaces them with weaker controls. **EPA is accepting comments until May 1, 2026.**

Air Curtain Incinerators that Only Burn Wood Wastes, Yard Wastes, and Clean Lumber

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EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

EPA's Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions (OASES) hosts monthly public webinar series to translate EPA research and share research resources and information that are useful, practical/applied and available to meet stakeholders' research needs. Free webinars are typically held the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00 -4:00 p.m. (ET)

Virtual Beach

In this webinar, there will be a live demonstration of the new version of Virtual Beach – ShinyVB – a browser-based application developed using the R-Shiny package. The demo will use an example dataset to introduce the ShinyVB graphical user interface and analytical features. We will discuss how VB has been used to assist in advisory issuances in the Great Lakes states and to forecast water conditions using other recent case study examples. Wednesday, April 15, 2026. Click [here](#) to resiter.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Notice of Funding Opportunity Informational Webinar: Unleashing Tribal Energy Development

The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Indian Energy (IE) today announced a \$50 million notice of funding opportunity aimed at fostering affordable, reliable, and secure energy solutions in Indian Country. This investment will support Tribal-led community-scale energy project planning and development and large-scale energy project planning. Click [here](#) for more information. A webinar will be held on Thursday, April 9, 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET. Click [here](#) to register.

Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings Notice of Funding

Wildfire Smoke Preparedness in Community Buildings is a federal grant program to enhance community wildfire smoke preparedness. The program can provide grants to states, federally recognized Tribes, public pre-schools, local educational agencies, and non-profit organizations for the assessment, prevention, control, and/or abatement of wildfire smoke hazards in community buildings and related activities. Deadline to apply is 4/15/2026. Click [here](#) for more information.

DOE Energy Infrastructure Reinvestment Financing

This program will guarantee loans to projects that retool, repower, repurpose, or replace energy infrastructure that has ceased operations or that enable operating energy infrastructure to avoid, reduce, utilize, or sequester air pollutants or anthropogenic emissions of greenhouse gases. Grant deadline is 09/30/2026. Click [here](#) for more information.

NDN Collective Community Action Fund

The 2026 Community Action Fund Grant Cycle is Now Open! With grants up to \$20,000 USD the Community Action Fund (CAF) grantsupports Indigenous-led direct actions and organizing efforts that are often urgent and time sensitive. The CAF prioritizes frontline, grassroots and community-based efforts that defend Indigenous Peoples' rights, communities and Nations, including responses to climate disasters. Applications accepted on a rolling basis until 10/16/2026. Click [here](#) for more information.

DOE Office of Indian Energy: On-Request Technical Assistance

Rolling Deadline. Indian tribes and Alaska Native villages can apply annually to receive on-request technical assistance with energy planning; housing, building energy efficiency, and resilience; project development; village power; and policy and regulation. Assistance is provided by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy and its national laboratories, along with other partnering organizations, at no cost. Click [here](#) for more information.

USDA Emergency Community Water Assistance Grants

Applications accepted continuously. This program provides grants to assist rural communities that have had a significant decline in quantity or quality of drinking water. Grant may fund waterline extensions from existing systems, construction of new water lines; repairs to existing systems, construction of new wells, reservoirs, transmission lines, treatment plants, and other water sources. Priority is given to areas with less than 10,000 people, low-income areas, and communities facing imminent decline and shortage of water. Click [here](#) for more information.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

Air Sensors International Conference

Advancing Science and Engaging Communities (ASEC) Conferences are the leading global forum for experts tackling air quality, climate change, and environmental sustainability. The Air Sensors International Conference, organized by the UC Davis Air Quality Research Center, will be held in Los Angeles, CA from May 4 -8, 2026. ASIC is where science drives action. Join us and be part of the movement shaping a cleaner, healthier future. Click [here](#) for more information.

Preparedness Summit - Protecting Our Communities: State and Local Preparedness in Action

Hosted by National Association of County and City Health Officials and partners. Baltimore, MD and virtual.

April 13-16, 2026. Click [here](#) to register.

Colorado Wildland Fire Conference

Ft. Collins, CO. April 15 -16, 2026. Click [here](#) to register.

Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

Monthly Tribal Data Drop-In Session

Thursday, April 16, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pacific

Click [here](#) to register



NACAA

[Washington Update](#)



Environmental Law Institute

Click [here](#) to view ELI's Calendar of seminars, courses & special events.



National Academies: Science, Engineering, Medicine

Click [here](#) to view National Academies schedule of events.

