



National Tribal
AIR ASSOCIATION

NTAA MONTHLY UPDATE MARCH 2026

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ITEP STAFF SPOTLIGHT

I am Fred Dahl, Project Manager for the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Tribal Capacity program. I have been in my current position for almost 1.5 years. Prior to my role with ANTHC, I was the Environmental Director for the Native Village of Tsedina (Chitina) for 13 years. During that time, I was primarily funded through an EPA GAP grant.



I fell into this work as a means for a paycheck but quickly found that I really enjoyed tackling environmental concerns for the Tribe. Whether it was as small as establishing a recycling program, water sampling, erosion monitoring along the Copper River, food security, and of course air quality. I enjoyed finding ways to accomplish my work with limited resources, i.e., lack of funding or staff.

Since taking on my role at ANTHC, I am focused on outreach/education. This has kept me excited every day. I get the privilege of working with Tribes across the state of Alaska and I get to see how they come up with creative solutions on their own to manage environmental programs. With Alaska being so large and diverse, it may be similar issues but different ways to approach them.

When I came to ANTHC, I was asked to be the Alaska Alternate rep. I have enjoyed many years of knowing and working with many on the NTAA Executive Committee, and seeing the passion they have to assist their Tribes and regions was something I always admired.

During my off-time I enjoy spending time with my family. I particularly enjoy bowling with them. We are horrible bowlers and pick on each other the whole time. I don't think any of us have ever bowled over 110 but we have a great time together. When not doing this as a family, my kids enjoy teaming up against me in board games like risk and monopoly. Which drives me nuts, since they do not care who wins as long as I lose.

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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](#).

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FEATURE ARTICLE

EPA's Reconsideration of the Good Neighbor Plan

By NTAA Staff

GNP History

The Clean Air Act (CAA) requires EPA to set National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for pollutants that are common in outdoor air, considered harmful to public health and the environment, and that come from numerous and diverse sources. The CAA requires States to develop State Implementation Plans (SIPs) to attain and/or maintain the NAAQS for each pollutant. These plans must be approved by the EPA to address emissions of all sources that emit the pollutant addressed by a NAAQS. SIPs include regulations, modeling, emissions inventories, and permitting necessary to reduce emissions.

Section 126 of the CAA requires States, while developing their SIPs, to consider the impact of emissions sources on the ambient air quality in neighboring jurisdictions. 126 allows neighboring jurisdictions to petition the EPA if their neighboring state's SIP is inadequate and impacts the NAAQS in their areas.

The Good Neighbor Plan (GNP) is an EPA rule designed to address interstate air pollution under the Clean Air Act's "good neighbor" provision. It targets emissions of nitrogen oxides (NO_x) from power plants and industrial sources that contribute to ozone formation in downwind states, ensuring compliance with the 2015 ozone NAAQS. "Interstate air pollution" or "Cross-state air pollution" is pollution that is produced in one location (upwind) and then blown downwind to another location ([EPA](#)). Because pollutants can travel hundreds of miles, upwind pollution may come from another state or several states away.

Good Neighbor Plan 2015 Ozone NAAQS



(Source <https://www.epa.gov/csapr/good-neighbor-plan-2015-ozone-naaqs>)

Non-Compliance and Litigation

When the EPA revised its air-quality standards for ozone in 2015, states were required to submit new SIPs. Several years later, the EPA decided to disapprove SIPs for over 20 states ([supremecourtopinions](#)). These 23 states were states whose SIPs failed to satisfy the applicable requirements of the Act, meaning their plans did not prohibit emissions "in amounts which would contribute significantly to nonattainment in, or interfere with maintenance by, any other State" of the relevant air quality standard ([supremecourtopinions](#)).

Therefore, their SIPs were disapproved by the EPA, and a Federal Implementation Plan (FIP) was established for these noncompliant states.

Litigation ([Ohio v. EPA](#)) ensued over the SIP disapprovals, and several courts granted petitioners' requests for a "stay," meaning they did not need to comply with the FIP, pending judicial review. In June 2024, the Supreme Court granted an additional stay, resulting in 12 of the 23 States not having to comply. EPA used modeling to determine a "uniform measure" of cost for emission reduction techniques. Nonetheless, this modeling was based on all 23 noncompliant states, so when some of the states were granted a stay, it threw a wrench into EPA's measures for "maximum cost-effectiveness" in achieving "downwind ozone air quality improvements" ([supremecourtopinions](#)).

Amendments and Reconsideration

To comply with judicial stay orders, the EPA temporarily amended the GNP through Interim Final Rules. Ultimately, the EPA implemented an administrative stay on the remaining states, with provisions. Therefore, even though the Good Neighbor Plan was paused, the remaining states still had to comply with the older Cross-State Air Pollution Rule (CSAPR) programs. Facilities still had to monitor, report, and limit emissions under those earlier rules, allowance trading and emission budget requirements continued without interruption, and no facility or state was left without ozone season NOx controls ([EPA](#)). EPA essentially "stepped back" from enforcing the new rule but kept the old rules fully alive until the courts resolved the GNP litigation.

In January of 2026, the EPA approved SIP submissions for Alabama, Arizona, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, and Tennessee. Five of these states were part of the 23, not in compliance with the GNP. This move by the EPA is the first step in the Agency's reconsideration of the GNP, and the EPA intends to take additional steps in reconsidering the GNP ([EPA](#)).

Impacts on Tribal Air Programs

Because the GNP governs pollution that crosses political borders, its reconsideration inherently affects Tribal communities. Rules like CSAPR and the GNP exist because states do not always mitigate pollution affecting downwind jurisdictions. Tribes often sit downwind of upwind emission sources. Thus, if the GNP is weakened, rescinded, or scaled back, Tribes may see increased ozone-forming pollution transported across state lines. The comment period for [EPA's Interstate Transport Plan Review for the 2015 NAAQS](#) has been extended to March 23, 2026.



NTAA ANNOUNCEMENTS

National Tribal Forum (NTFAQ) on Air Quality

[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



State of Tribal Air Report (STAR)

Case Studies

We are looking for case studies and photos of Tribal Air Programs to highlight. Please email Marty.Johnson@nau.edu if you are interested in submitting for the report. The deadline for Case studies are due March 16, 2026.

NTAA Has a New Website

NTAA has a new website with NTAA's new logo and updated branding. NTAA staff updated content so that all the information is the most accurate and up to date. Check it out [here](#).

NTAA Workgroups

EPA Air Policy Call

Thursday, March 26, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MDT
Zoom [Link](#)

Office Hours with the Policy Advisory Committee (PAC)

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 from 12:00 p.m. to 1:00 p.m. MDT
Zoom [Link](#)

Alaska Tribal Air Workgroup Call

Wednesday, April 22, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. MDT
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



**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/4ppxwdk>
 - 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

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



Virgil Masayesva Excellence Award Nomination

More information on the Virgil Masayesva award is located [here](#). Self-nominations are accepted as well. The TAMS Steering Committee will make the selection at the Spring TAMS Steering Committee Meeting that usually occurs in early March. The deadline is the end of the day on Tuesday, March 10.

TAMS Steering Committee

Information on the TAMS Steering Committee can be found at [here](#). Four positions on the TAMS Steering Committee are opening up in 2026. One alternate position is also open. The deadline to apply is the end of the day on Tuesday, March 10.

EPA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Interstate Transport for the 2015 Ozone NAAQS

On January 27, 2026 EPA signed a proposal to approve State Implementation Plan (SIP) submissions from Alabama, Arizona, Kentucky, Minnesota, Mississippi, Nevada, New Mexico, and Tennessee addressing the Clean Air Act's "interstate transport" requirements for the 2015 ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). This proposed action is the first step in following through on EPA's March 12, 2025, announcements to work with states on SIPs to improve air quality and reconsider the "Good Neighbor Plan." This is the first action taken as part of the Agency's reconsideration of the Good Neighbor Plan and its associated SIP actions. EPA intends to take additional steps to further reconsider the Good Neighbor Plan and additional states impacted by that rule. Click [here](#) for more information. Click [here](#) to make a comment. **Comment period extended to March 23, 2026.**

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

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) is proposing to amend its Risk Management Program (RMP) regulations by making several proposed changes to the 2024 Safer Communities by Chemical Accident Prevention (SCCAP) rule. The proposed revisions include changes to provisions relating to safer technology and alternatives analyses, information availability, third-party audits, employee participation, community and emergency responder notification, stationary source siting, natural hazards, power loss, declined recommendations documentation, emergency response exercises, process safety information (PSI) and recognized and generally accepted good engineering practices (RAGAGEP), deregistration form information collection, hot work permit retention, and the retail facility definition. **[Comments](#) must be received on or before April 10, 2026.**

National Emission Standards for Marine Tank Vessel Loading Operations: Technology Review

The EPA is proposing amendments to the National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (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 due 04/20/2026**

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar

Freshwater Explorer 2.0

EPA's Freshwater Explorer is an easy-to-use, interactive web-based mapping tool for exploring freshwater data from streams, lakes, and groundwater wells in all 50 U.S. states, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

Wednesday, March, 18 2026 from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET

Click [here](#) to register

Free webinars typically held the third Wednesday of every month from 3:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. ET

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES AND OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

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 April 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.

United States Forest Service Webinar

Treatment Effectiveness: Lessons from ReSHAPE. Anson Call, Colorado Forest Restoration Institute, Colorado State University and Nathan Tomczyk, New Mexico Forest and Watershed Restoration Institute, New Mexico Highlands University. March 19, 10 a.m. -11 a.m. PT. Click [here](#) to register.

Native Resilience Webinar Series: Preparing for snow drought, and water stress in Tribal agriculture

The Native Resilience Working Group will hold a four-part webinar series in spring 2026 focused on snow drought, water stress, and their impacts on Tribal agriculture. Virtual series held February - May 2026. Click [here](#) for more information.

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS cont.

International Association of Wildland Fire 4th International Smoke Symposium

The purpose of this symposium is to convene air quality, fire professionals, and smoke specialists from the research community, NGOs, local/state/federal government agencies and tribes to discuss the state-of-the-science and state-of-the-applied-science for smoke management and addressing the air quality impacts of wildland fire smoke. March 23-27, 2026 at Tall Timbers in Tallahassee, FL. Click [here](#) to register.

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.

Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM)

Hosted by the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. Four days of plenaries, breakout sessions, and networking with exhibitors. Anchorage, Alaska. March 24 -27, 2026. Click [here](#) to register.

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, March 19, 2026 from 11:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. Pacific
Click [here](#) to register



NACCA

[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.

