



National Tribal
AIR ASSOCIATION

NTAA MONTHLY UPDATE JULY 2026

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EC Spotlight

Hired in 2019, Kristy Lawson started her career as an intern for the Muscogee (Creek) Nation Office of Environmental Services (MCNOES). Kristy, a Cherokee Nation citizen, earned her Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma State University. While attending college, she served as Vice President of Phi Beta Lambda, Recycling Sub-Crew Leader for Tulsa Young Professionals (TYPROS), and as a coach for the Sustainability Alliance (formerly known as Sustainable Tulsa). She used her expertise to help several organizations receive the Bellmon Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievements in sustainability initiatives for key activities such as conducting waste audits, evaluating scope 1-3 emissions, upgrading to energy-efficient appliances or lighting, providing sustainability education and training, planting trees and pollinator habitats, and volunteering within communities. During her early years working for the MCNOES, she tracked sustainability across the entire Tribe, helping them to receive the Gold Bellmon Award (2019, 2021, and 2023) and the Platinum Bellmon Award (2020).

In 2020, Kristy switched focus and began helping to build an Ambient Air Monitoring Program for the MCNOES. From 2020-2022, the MCNOES used the Cherokee Nation's Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) mobile trailer, which regularly rotates among Tribes in Region 6, to collect high-quality data on criteria pollutants. During that time, the MCNOES applied for a Clean Air Act (CAA) 103 grant to complete a Level 4 Emission Inventory and Basic Air Quality Assessment for the eleven (11) counties (Creek, Hughes, Mayes, McIntosh, Muskogee, Okfuskee, Okmulgee, Rogers, Seminole, Tulsa, and Wagoner) within the MCN Reservation using 2017 data.

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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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In 2023, the MCNOES used data from the emission inventory to justify the need for an ambient air monitoring program and applied for a CAA 105 grant. With guidance from our EPA Region 6 Project Officer, the MCNOES also applied for the State Indoor Radon Grant (SIRG) grant. The CAA 105 and SIRG grants were combined under a Performance Partnership Grant (PPG), which meant no price match. Yes, folks, you heard that right – no price match! The MCNOES began building its first air-monitoring trailer, equipped with NO/NOX/NO₂ and SO₂ monitoring equipment. A PM_{2.5} monitor was donated to the MCNOES by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe and was installed in the air monitoring trailer. The trailer was installed at the same spot as the ITEC mobile trailer. With CAA 105 funding, the MCNOES also installed nine (9) PurpleAir sensors at MCN Indian Community Centers throughout the Reservation.

In 2024, the MCNOES was eligible to apply for the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA) – CAA 103 grant to build a second air-monitoring trailer equipped with NO/NOX/NO₂, SO₂, and PM_{2.5} monitoring equipment. Throughout the course of developing the MCNOES ambient air monitoring program, there have been many challenges – issues with contractors, equipment (purchased and donated), HVAC, mold (Oklahoma gets hot and humid during the spring and summer), condensation in sample lines (again a lot of humidity), multiple grant freezes, learning how to write Quality Assurance Project Plans (QAPPs) and Quality Management Plan (QMP), and relearning to write QAPPs and QMP due to format changing.

Despite these issues, Kristy has persevered, hoping that her knowledge and experiences can help and motivate other Tribes to build their own air-monitoring programs. Kristy currently serves as the NTAA Executive Committee Region 6 Alternate and is working to start an Oklahoma and Region 6 Workgroup to discuss air quality issues, program development, QAPPs, and QMPs, and to share information with other Tribes so they have the knowledge to help their citizens and communities. During her free time, she enjoys gardening, hiking, adventure, art, music, crafting, and spending time with her family, friends, and dogs.



FEATURE ARTICLE

BY NTAA STAFF

Ozone Implementation Regulatory Actions

<https://www.epa.gov/ground-level-ozone-pollution/ozone-implementation-regulatory-actions>

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has proposed revisions to ozone implementation requirements under the Clean Air Act that would affect how State Implementation Plans (SIPs) are applied when an area is reclassified under the ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS). The proposal would make an area's current ozone classification, rather than a previous classification, the basis for determining applicable SIP requirements. EPA states that the change would provide state, local, and Tribal air agencies with greater flexibility to develop air quality strategies based on current conditions and reduce administrative complexity. The proposal would apply to past and future reclassifications associated with the 2008, 2015, and future ozone standards.

For Tribes involved in air quality planning and ozone management, the proposal could influence future planning, regulatory obligations, and implementation efforts in areas affected by ozone nonattainment designations. While EPA describes the action as providing increased flexibility and streamlining requirements, the proposal would also remove certain planning requirements tied to prior nonattainment classifications that were retained under a January 2025 rule. Tribal air programs may wish to monitor the rulemaking and evaluate how changes to SIP requirements could affect regional ozone planning and attainment strategies.

The deadline for comment is Monday, July 13th. Click [here](#) for more information.

OMB Proposed Changes to 2 CFR

The Office of Management and Budget has proposed significant changes to 2 CFR Part 200, also known as the Uniform Guidance—the federal regulation governing grants, cooperative agreements, pass-through awards, and other forms of federal financial assistance across federal agencies.

The 400-page draft regulation aims to codify new oversight mechanisms that would require federal agencies to align all discretionary awards with current administration policies and executive orders. A central component of the rule is the requirement that federal agencies designate “senior appointees” responsible for reviewing both new and existing research grants. This change suggests a shift away from traditional peer-review models toward a system in which funding decisions are directly influenced by political priorities.



State Implementation Plans

- ❖ A State Implementation Plan (SIP) is a plan developed by a state air pollution agency showing how that state will comply with the requirements of the federal Clean Air Act. The SIP consists of narrative, rules, technical documentation, and agreements that an individual state will use to meet National Ambient Air Quality Standards.
- ❖ On July 3, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) released the first version of the “Roadmap for Incorporating Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EE/RE) Policies and Programs in State Implementation Plans (SIPs) and Tribal Implementation Plans (TIPs).”
- ❖ The Roadmap will help air agencies estimate and account for emission reductions from EE and RE policies and programs in their Clean Air Act plans to improve air quality (SIPs and TIPs). EE/RE policies and programs offer the potential to achieve emission reductions at a cost that can be lower than traditional control measures.

OMB states that the proposal would improve government-wide policies and requirements related to the management of grants, cooperative agreements, and other forms of assistance. However, many organizations have raised concerns about the proposed changes. First, the proposal would give political appointees more direct review/approval authority and make peer review advisory, rather than decisive. Another issue is that agencies may get more leeway to suspend or terminate awards midstream, raising risk for multi-year projects and staffing. Additionally, there would be a shift from “guidance” to binding regulation because the OMB would convert the “Uniform Guidance” into a “Uniform Grants Regulation,” increasing government-wide OMB control and reducing agency flexibility. The proposed changes would codify executive-order restrictions around DEI, “gender ideology,” merit-based opportunity, and some foreign collaborations, which universities/research groups see as potentially politicizing research. Finally, recipients could face new documentation/notice requirements, especially around cost-reimbursement contracts.

If finalized, this proposed rule could have serious impacts for Tribal Nations, Tribal organizations, compacts where applicable, state pass-through awards, and essential Tribal programs. Federal funding for Tribal programs is not ordinary discretionary assistance. It is directly tied to Tribal sovereignty, ISDEAA (Indian Self - Determination and Education Assistance Act), congressional statutes, treaty obligations, and the federal trust responsibility.

The deadline for comment is Monday, July 13th. Click [here](#) for more information.



NTAA ANNOUNCEMENTS

[FY26 NTAA Priorities and FY28 Budget Recommendation to NTC Now Available](#)

Common themes stand out in the issues and needs that face Tribes throughout American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) communities. To support identifying priorities, NTAA acquires regular feedback by interacting with Tribes throughout the year. The NTAA FY26 Priorities is information garnered from some of these interactions on nationally consistent priorities identified by Tribal Air Program staff.

NTAA continues to recommend \$94 million for Tribal air quality management programs for FY28. These funds are necessary to support very basic air quality management efforts for all eligible Tribes, and a modest increase in available resources for established and proven Tribal programs. Such available funding will demonstrate the recognition of federal trust responsibility to sovereignty and self-governance of American Indian Tribes and Alaska Native Villages consistent with EPA's stated priorities.

Zoom to Teams

NTAA will be switching all of their meetings from Zoom to Teams. ITEP and thus, NTAA is housed at Northern Arizona University (NAU) and the University has decided to retire Zoom as a university collaboration platform at the end of June. Therefore, starting in July, all meetings will be held via Teams. NTAA staff will be sending out new meeting invites, so be on the lookout for those emails.

NTFAQ Survey

Did you attend the 2026 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality? If so, please consider taking our survey. We want your feedback to help us improve and make future NTFAQ conferences the best they can be. Click [here](#) for the survey. The deadline to submit your feedback is Friday, July 31st.

NTAA Workgroups

Wildfire Smoke Workgroup

Thursday, July, 9 2026

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

Teams [Link](#)

EPA Air Policy Call

Thursday, July, 23 2026

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

Teams [Link](#)

Alaska Tribal Air Workgroup

Wednesday, August 26th 2026

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

Teams [Link](#)

ITEP/TAMS UPDATES

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.

Indoor Air Quality & Outreach and Education Office Hours

Third Thursday of every other month, July 16, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. and 12:00 a.m. Pacific (10 AK/12 MTN/1 Central/ 2 EST)

Indoor Air Quality Teams [Link](#) Outreach and Education Teams [Link](#)

Grants Office Hours

First Wednesday of every other month, August 5th at 10:00 a.m. Pacific (9 AK/11 MTN/12 Central/1 EST)

Teams [Link](#)

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS)

TAMS Center Office Hours

Second Tuesday of every other month, July, 14 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific (10 AK/12 MTN/1 Central/2 EST)

Teams [Link](#)

TAMS Steering Committee Air Monitoring Work Group

Second Tuesday of every other month, August 11, 2026 at 11:00 a.m. Pacific (10 AK/12 MTN/1 Central/2 EST)

Teams [Link](#)

National Tribal Infrastructure Coordination Conference

October 5-8, 2026

Reno, Nevada

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

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (TLEF)

August 17-20, 2026

Okana Resort

Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

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

2026 ITEP OFFICE HOURS

TAMS Center Office Hour Second Tuesday of Every Month 11:00am Pacific July 14th September 8th November 10th https://bit.ly/TAMS_OH Meeting ID: 264 344 606 440 300 Passcode: vr6d7Np	TAMS Steering Committee Air Monitoring Work Group Second Tuesday of Every Month August 11th October 13th December 8th https://bit.ly/TAMS_SC_OH Meeting ID: 273 031 156 075 815 Passcode: 9Zi3yn6Z
Grants Office Hour First Wednesday of Every Month 10AM Pacific July 1st, August 5th September 2nd, October 7th, November 4th, December 9th https://bit.ly/Grants_OH Meeting ID: 291 133 087 797 294 Passcode: a6Qv6pJ3	
Indoor Air Quality Office Hours Third Thursday of Every Month July 16th, August 20th September 17th October 15th November 19th December 17th https://bit.ly/IAQ_OH Meeting ID: 228 241 135 890 40 Passcode: dt22Ku7v	Outreach & Education Office Hours Third Thursday of Every Month July 16th, August 20th September 17th October 15th November 19th December 17th https://bit.ly/Outreach_OH Meeting ID: 292 428 082 093 608 Passcode: Wq6cH6uY

NTICC 2026
 National Tribal Infrastructure Coordination Conference
October 5-8, 2026
 Reno, Nevada

Registration is Open!

Registration Fee: \$400
Deadline: September 7, 2026

bit.ly/nticcregistration

Questions? Contact us at NTICC@nau.edu

Tribal Lands & Environment Forum

TLEF 2026
 AUGUST 17-20, 2026

OKANA Resort
 Oklahoma City, Oklahoma

EPA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Proposed Ozone Reclassification: State Implementation Rule

(EPA) proposed revisions to portions of the Biden EPA's January 2025 final rule, which required states to keep certain State Implementation Plan (SIP) requirements tied to an area's prior ozone nonattainment classification under the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS), even after that area had been reclassified. SIP requirements are applied to areas designated as nonattainment for the ozone NAAQS. The Trump EPA is proposing to make it so that an area's current ozone classification, not a previous one, determines the applicable SIP requirements.

Deadline for [comment](#) is Monday, July 13, 2026

[Updated Wildfire Smoke Guide Available](#)

EPA's Office of Applied Science and Environmental Solutions (OASES) hosts monthly public webinar series to translate the 2026 update to Wildfire Smoke: A Guide for Public Health Officials is now available. The guide provides state, local, and Tribal public health officials with information they need to be prepared for smoke events and, when wildfire smoke is present, to communicate health risks and take measures to protect the public.

[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)

Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units: A Key Resource and Partner in Improving Children's Environmental Health

During this webinar, you will hear directly from the Pediatric Environmental Health Specialty Units (PEHSU), leaders and staff on case studies and other examples highlighting the type of work they do to protect children's environmental health and safety including working with communities and local, state and tribal entities in their regions. PEHSU are supported by CDC's Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and EPA and managed by the Public Health Institute.

July, 15 2026

Click [here](#) to register

New Source Review Policy and Guidance Document

On July 1, 2026, as part of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s commitment to permitting reform, the Agency issued guidance to all EPA Regional Offices clarifying when and how emission reduction credits (ERCs) must be shown to be federally enforceable before a permitting authority issues a Non attainment New Source Review (NNSR) preconstruction air permit. This approach will help streamline air permitting.

The memorandum clarifies that the Clean Air Act (CAA) allows for an NNSR permit to be issued before offsetting emission reductions have been specifically secured, provided the NNSR permit contains (1) an enforceable commitment by the permittee to obtain the necessary emission reductions before commencing operation and (2) an express prohibition on commencing operations until the required ERCs are identified, approved, and secured with appropriate permit restrictions.

To read the memo, visit: [New Source Review Policy and Guidance Document Index](#).

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

Monthly Tribal Data Drop-In Session

Thursday, July 16 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Pacific

Click [here](#) to register



NACAA

[Washington Update](#)

2026 National Air Quality Conference (NAQC) NACCA Conference

August 10-13, 2026

Omaha, NE

The National Association of Clean Air Agencies (NACAA) and Association of Air Pollution Control Agencies (AAPCA) are excited to co-host this year's National Air Quality Conference, which brings together state, local, tribal, and federal air agencies, the private sector, and researchers to learn from each other about the state of the art where air quality reporting and forecasting, public health, and innovative outreach programs intersect.



All attendees are responsible for making their own hotel reservations directly with the Hilton Omaha by calling 402-998-3400 (please mention the NAQC and NACAA Room Block) or by going [online](#), NO LATER than Wednesday, July 15, 2026.

In addition to making a hotel reservation, you must register [online](#).

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.



FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Tribal Funding Registry

The Tribal Funding Registry is a Native-led platform that brings together federal, state, corporate, foundation, and Tribal funding opportunities in one place. Built for Tribal Nations and Indigenous-led organizations, with guided support from staff who understand Tribal context. 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.