



National Tribal
AIR ASSOCIATION

NTAA MONTHLY UPDATE

AUGUST 2026

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EC Spotlight

Hello, NTAA Member Tribes! My name is Tiffany Lozada, and I serve as the Region 4 Alternate Representative on NTAA's Executive Committee. I have had the privilege of serving on the EC for nearly nine years. During that time, I've seen encouraging growth in Tribal air programs throughout our region. When I first joined the Executive Committee, Region 4 had only two NTAA Member Tribes with air programs. Today, there are five NTAA Member Tribes in the region, four of which have active air programs.



I was born and raised in Brewton, Alabama, where my connection to the Poarch Creek Indian Tribe began early through my mother, who worked for the Tribe. My interest in environmental work started in high school when I joined the recycling club. That experience inspired me to pursue a degree in engineering with a focus on technology and safety.

Before joining the Poarch Creek Indian Tribe, I worked in several laboratory settings. I later joined the Tribe as an Environmental Specialist, where my responsibilities included PM2.5 air monitoring, as well as supporting recycling and water monitoring programs. Over time, I became more involved in administrative and grant management responsibilities, including developing grant proposals, preparing work plans, and managing program budgets. Today, I serve as the Tribe's Environmental Programs Grant Specialist.

One of the reasons I enjoy my work so much is the variety it offers. Every day brings new opportunities, challenges, and projects that contribute to protecting environmental quality for our Tribal community. After

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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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nearly 18 years with the Tribe, I remain passionate about supporting programs that make a difference.

Environmental work is rewarding, but it is not without challenges. Environmental professionals are often agents of change, and meaningful change can take time. There can be resistance to doing things differently, but persistence pays off. Over the years, our program has implemented numerous improvements that have increased efficiency and strengthened our environmental initiatives. It has been rewarding to see the positive changes and continued growth within the Tribe.

Outside of work, I enjoy spending time with my husband and kids, and baking, and I have turned that passion into a small side business. I create cheesecakes, breads, and cookies, and I especially enjoy experimenting with new recipes and techniques, including gluten-free and sugar-free baking.

FEATURE ARTICLE

BY NTAA STAFF

EPA Proposes Changes to Public Participation Requirements for Minor New Source Review Permits

EPA has proposed revisions to the public participation requirements for sources subject to Clean Air Act (CAA) New Source Review (NSR) programs approved under State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Under the proposal, EPA would revise its regulations to recognize that state and local air agencies determine whether, when, and to what extent public participation in minor NSR permitting programs is necessary to ensure attainment and maintenance of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS)¹.

For Tribes and other stakeholders, the proposal raises important questions about future opportunities for public involvement in the permitting process. Public notice and comment periods provide communities with an opportunity to review permit applications, raise concerns, and share local knowledge regarding potential impacts to air quality, public health, cultural resources, and Tribal lands.

Supporters of the proposal may view it as providing states, local agencies, and Tribes with greater flexibility to design permitting programs that meet their specific needs¹. Others may be concerned that reducing federally specified public participation requirements could result in fewer opportunities for community input on some permitting decisions.

Because air-permitting decisions can have long-term implications for local air quality, Tribal governments may wish to review the proposal and consider whether and how changes to public participation requirements could affect their communities.

The public comment period for this proposal closes on **August 21, 2026**¹. Tribes and interested stakeholders can submit comments through the EPA rulemaking docket.

For more information and to review the proposed rule, visit the [Federal Register notice](#).

Young, Gifted, Green is putting on a training on **Wednesday, August 5, 2026**

Minor Source, Major Impact Training

This training will get you ready to submit a comment before the deadline on EPA's proposal to revise the public participation regulatory requirements for sources subject to Clean Air Act (CAA) New Source Review (NSR) programs approved into State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Click [here](#) to register.



MINOR SOURCE, MAJOR IMPACT:

Protecting Your Right to Comment on Air Permits

August 5, 2026 • 6 PM ET
LIVE WEBINAR

DEMAND EPA KEEP PUBLIC COMMENT ON AIR PERMITS

Right now, before a state approves a smaller polluter or an expansion, the public gets a notice and 90 days to comment. The EPA has proposed a rule that would end that guarantee and let each state decide whether to allow public comment or not. THE DEADLINE FOR WRITTEN COMMENTS IS **AUGUST 21, 2026**.

REGISTER

bit.ly/protectcomment







¹ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Minor New Source Review Program Air Permitting Public Participation Requirements for State Implementation Plans, Proposed Rule, Federal Register, July 7, 2026

EPA Proposes Federal Plan for Other Solid Waste Incinerators (OSWI)

EPA has proposed a Federal Plan to implement the revised Emission Guidelines (EG) for existing Other Solid Waste Incinerator (OSWI) units. EPA first established emission guidelines for existing OSWI units in 2005 and revised those guidelines on June 30, 2025^{2,3}. The proposed Federal Plan would apply the 2025 standards in states and areas of Indian Country that do not have an EPA-approved State or Tribal implementation plan in place². OSWI units may include:

- Very Small Municipal Waste Combustors (VSMWCs)
- Institutional Waste Incinerators (IWIs)
- Incinerators operated by schools, correctional facilities, healthcare facilities, federal facilities, churches, and other institutions²

The proposed rule is primarily an implementation measure intended to ensure that existing OSWI units comply with the emission limits and operating requirements outlined in EPA's 2025 revised guidelines. States and Tribes with affected OSWI units are expected to submit approvable State or Tribal plans by June 30, 2027². Where no approved plan exists, EPA's Federal Plan would serve as the regulatory framework for implementing and enforcing the emission guidelines².

The proposal could have implications for Tribal communities located near OSWI facilities. The revised guidelines establish limits for pollutants including particulate matter (PM), mercury, lead, cadmium, dioxins and furans, hydrogen chloride, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and carbon monoxide¹. Reductions in these emissions could improve local air quality and reduce exposure to pollutants that may affect human health and the environment.

EPA states that it is currently unaware of any OSWI units owned or operated by Tribal governments and therefore does not anticipate significant direct regulatory impacts on Tribes. However, Tribal governments and environmental programs may wish to review the proposal and consider several questions:

- Is EPA's inventory of OSWI units complete, including facilities located in or near Tribal communities?
- Have cumulative impacts been adequately considered in areas already affected by multiple pollution sources?
- Are additional opportunities for Tribal consultation and engagement needed during implementation of the rule?
- Does the proposed compliance timeline sufficiently protect Tribal health, air quality, and cultural resources?

Existing OSWI units covered by the rule would be required to comply with the revised emission standards and other requirements no later than July 1, 2030, five years after EPA finalized the 2025 revised emission guidelines².

The public comment period for this proposal closes on **August 17, 2026**. Tribes and interested stakeholders are encouraged to review the proposal and consider submitting comments to EPA on issues that may affect their communities. Learn More via the [Federal Register Notice](#)

² U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Standards of Performance for New Stationary Sources and Emission Guidelines for Existing Sources: Other Solid Waste Incineration Units (OSWI), Final Rule, June 30, 2025.

³ U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. Federal Plan Requirements for Other Solid Waste Incineration Units That Commenced Construction on or Before August 31, 2020, and Have Not Been Modified or Reconstructed After August 29, 2025, Proposed Rule, Federal Register, July 2, 2026.

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 has switched all of their meetings from Zoom to Teams. ITEP and NTAA are housed at Northern Arizona University (NAU). The University decided to retire Zoom as a university collaboration platform at the end of June. In July, NTAA sent out new Teams meeting invites and began holding all meetings via Teams.

NTAA Workgroups

Alaska Tribal Air Workgroup

Wednesday, August 26th 2026

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

Teams [Link](#)

EPA Air Policy Call

Thursday, August, 27 2026

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

Teams [Link](#)

Wildfire Smoke Workgroup

Thursday, September, 3 2026

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

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](#)

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](#)

The TAMS Center is announcing a call for nominations for incoming positions for the 2026 TAMS Steering Committee. Information on the TAMS Steering Committee and the online nomination form can be found [here](#). Four positions and two alternate positions are open. The deadline is **August 31, 2026**.



2026 ITEP OFFICE HOURS

TAMS Center Office Hour Second Tuesday of Every Month	TAMS Steering Committee Air Monitoring Work Group 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: vr6dD7Np	August 11th October 13th December 8th https://bit.ly/TAMS_SC_OH Meeting ID: 273 031 156 075 815 Passcode: 9Z3yn6Z
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: 292 128 082 093 608 Passcode: Wq6cH8uy

Fundamentals of Air Monitoring Course

TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV

September 15-17, 2026

This mid-level professional development course is structured as an overview of air monitoring from a site operator's perspective and will include Tribal Case Studies to help both new staff and experienced Tribal professionals understand the components of initiating an air monitoring project.

Click [here](#) to register. Applicants will be notified of their acceptance via email by Wednesday, August 5, 2026.

Tribal Lands and Environment Forum (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

National Tribal Infrastructure Coordination Conference

October 5-8, 2026

Reno, Nevada

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



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

EPA ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minor New Source Review Program Air Permitting Public Participation Requirements for State Implementation Plans

EPA is proposing to revise the public participation regulatory requirements for sources subject to Clean Air Act (CAA) New Source Review (NSR) programs approved into State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Specifically, the EPA is proposing to recognize in regulation that State and local air quality regulatory authorities (“air agencies”) determine, pursuant to the CAA, whether, when, and to what extent public participation in minor NSR programs is necessary to assure the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) are achieved. To learn more, click [here](#). Deadline for comments is August, 21, 2026.

Other Solid Waste Incinerators (OSWI): New Source Performance Standards (NSPS) and Emission Guidelines (EG) for Existing Sources

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is proposing a Federal plan to implement the revised emission guidelines for existing other solid waste incineration (OSWI) units. The EPA promulgated emission guidelines for existing OSWI units in 2005 and revised the emission guidelines on June 30, 2025.

Deadline for [comments](#) is Monday, August 17, 2026.

New Tools for Exceptional Events

EMBER

The updated [Expedited Modeling of Burn Events Results \(EMBER\) tool](#) will expand support for ozone demonstrations resulting from exceptional events. The tool now provides information on ozone impacts and levels from domestic, Canadian, and Mexican fires at U.S. ozone monitoring locations from 2021-2025.

[HYSPLIT](#)

EPA released a web-based tool that will allow users to easily browse and access HYSPLIT Trajectory data. This tool provides users with quick access to trajectories, smoke plumes, and fire locations, reducing computational burden and ensuring a uniform, consistent analysis of trajectories across EE demonstrations.

AirNow Fire & Smoke Map

EPA launched a new historic version of the AirNOW Fire and Smoke Map to provide past map conditions by date and time, giving additional context for fine particulate matter (PM2.5) measurements. The map combines PM2.5 air quality measurements from permanent and temporary monitors and sensors with wildland fire locations and satellite smoke and plume observations.

[EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series](#)

Designing & Implementing Effective Participatory Science Projects

Participatory science is the involvement of the public in science. It uses the collective strength and knowledge of the public to collect, analyze, and use data to answer environmental and public health questions. Projects answer wide-ranging questions, can engage the public in any or all steps of the scientific process, and operate using varying models ranging from community-led to institutionally driven. These efforts facilitate an increase in place-based connections, environmental stewardship, and human health and environmental protection.

Wednesday, August, 19 2026 from 3:00 - 4:00 p.m. (ET)

Click [here](#) to register

OTHER ANNOUNCEMENTS

Minor Source, Major Impact: Protecting Your Right to Comment on Air Permits

Wednesday, August 5, 2026 at 6:00 p.m. (ET)

EPA is proposing to revise the public participation regulatory requirements for sources subject to Clean Air Act (CAA) New Source Review (NSR) programs approved into State Implementation Plans (SIPs). This training will get you ready to submit a comment before the deadline on EPA's proposal to revise the public participation regulatory requirements for sources subject to Clean Air Act (CAA) New Source Review programs approved into State Implementation Plans (SIPs). Click [here](#) to register.

Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

Tribal Exchange Network Group (TXG)

Monthly Tribal Data Drop-In Session

Thursday, August 20, 2026 from 10:00 a.m. - 11:30 p.m. Pacific

Click [here](#) to register



NACAA

[Washington Update](#)

2026 National Air Quality Conference (NAQC) NACAA 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.



Indoor Air Quality and Affordable Housing

Tuesday, August 11, 2026 from 2:00 - 3:30 (ET)

Join the Environmental Law Institute and the International WELL Building Institute for a discussion on how health and indoor air quality (IAQ) can be elevated within the national conversation around affordable housing. Click [here](#) to register

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.