

EJ and Air Workshop, September 6-7, 2007
Project Information and Summary

Steve Crawford
Passamaquoddy-Pleasant Point

1. Please provide a brief Description of your project/activity.

Protocol for Tribal and Community Assessment of multimedia impacts of pollutants. The objectives of this study are to:

- A. Assess types of pollutants that may be affecting the Tribal community from air pollution modeling in regards to point source, non-point source, and mobile sources.
- B. Measure targeted pollutants identified in "A" in sustenance foods of tribal members
- C. Conduct statistically robust food consumption survey of tribal members to determine potential impact of pollutants from the tribal members' diets.
- D. Inform the Tribe of the findings.

2. Why is it important for communities to know about this project/activity?

The Tribal community's health is very poor, with high rates of diabetes, respiratory illnesses, CVD, mental disorders, and a lifespan of only 53 years. Identifying sources of pollutants that may be affecting tribal health is critical in developing remediation solutions.

3. What have been the successes and challenges associated with this project/activity?

The air modeling developed by EPA with AERMOP and HYSPLIT have identified several pollutants, including mercury, PCB's, Lead, and other POP's that may have significant impacts on Tribal health. These toxins have been found to be in elevated levels in sustenance foods of the Eastern Maine Tribe. This study will aid in preparing food consumption advisories and behavioral modification to help protect and improve Tribal health. The Passamaquoddy Tribe is somewhat representative of the other Northeastern Tribes in history and life style. The protocols developed in this study can be easily modified and used for the other northeastern tribes to conduct similar studies. A serious challenge is in obtaining an accurate reflection of sustenance food consumption that includes historical, spiritual, and cultural needs of the Tribe. With so many fish advisories in the last two decades most tribal members are afraid to eat traditional freshwater species (pickerel, bass, white perch). 30 years ago these species were consumed at least once/weekly by most members. Today none are consumed; hardly any members fish in fresh water except for trout. Fish consumption surveys that do not include historical data will not detect this confound, and it is extremely erroneous to make the assumption that since little or no fish are being consumed, the tribe is not being impacted by fish consumption advisories and toxic fish. This ignores the impact of not wanting to go out into the fields and forests to go fishing, collect these sustenance foods, pass these traditions down to the younger generations, substitute western fast

foods for local diets, reduction in exercise and increase in displacement activities (drugs, alcohol, TV etc) and other considerations.

4. Where can communities go for more information about this project/activity? (web and/or contact information).

The best source of information about this study is Steve Crawford, Environmental Director of the Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point.

stevecrawford@wabanaki.com.

The Tribal website is under re-development at this time. The study and results will be posted on the website this fall. Results will also be posted by EPA Region ! Indian Program Director later this fall.