
Summary Notes
DRAFT
Tribal Program Strategies and Priorities Meeting
EPA RTP, NC
Thursday and Friday, August 9 and 10, 2007

Participant	Affiliation
Cal Seciwa	Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (NAU ITEP)
Lewis McLeod	National Tribal Environmental Council
Mehrdad Khatibi	Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (NAU ITEP)
Ryan Callison	Cherokee Nation, NTAA Executive Committee Member Representative
Stephen Hartsfield	National Tribal Air Association
Annabelle Allison	Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (NAU ITEP)
William Auberle	Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (NAU ITEP)
Farshid Farsi	Northern Arizona University Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (NAU ITEP)
EPA Participants	
Darrel Harmon	Headquarters
Jose Aguto	American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO)
Jed Harrison	Radiation and Indoor Environments
Laura McKelvey	Group Leader- Community and Tribal Programs Group
Yvonne Johnson	Community and Tribal Programs Group
Tami Laplante	Community and Tribal Programs Group
Mike Papp	Community and Tribal Programs Group
Visitors	
Steven Page	Director, OAQPS
Gregory Green	Division Director, Outreach & Information Division
Bill Harnett	Division Director, Air Quality Policy Division
Richard Scheffe	Air Quality Assessment Division
Eric Ginsburg	Sector Policies and Programs Division

Background for Meeting

In 2005 and early 2006, the OAQPS Tribal Program held three meetings with tribal environmental professionals and national tribal organizations on several topics including the best placement within OAQPS for the Tribal Program, tribal priorities for addressing air quality issues, and ideas on how OAQPS could provide support to tribes across the U.S.

The notes and comments received from the tribes at these meetings was a starting point for identifying priorities for tribes working on air quality issues. Subsequent discussions with a broader array of tribal environmental professionals were held at NTAA and NTF meetings in 2006 and 2007. Comments from the tribes were prioritized based on the number of times we heard them at the various meetings and outreach sessions. OAQPS

is in the process of finalizing a 2008 -2013 Tribal Program Plan which relies heavily on the information obtained from the 2005-2006 meetings. OAQPS invited the attendees above to a two-day meeting to confirm the priorities set by the tribes in the earlier meetings, to develop action plans, and coordinate implementation of these priorities with the goal that EPA, NTAA and ITEP are working efficiently to implement the tribal program and move the tribes' priorities forward.

Meeting Notes

NTEC and NTAA both voiced concerns about the lack of representation of tribal members at the meeting. Lewis McLeod and Stephen Hartsfield both read emails from tribal constituents that addressed these concerns.

It appears that the agenda could have been better worded to describe the intent of the meeting. The meeting goal was to:

- confirm the priorities that EPA had heard at past meetings and were intending to include in the OAQPS Program Plan that is being developed,
- determine, based upon recent environmental activities (e.g., Hg monitoring, global climate changes etc.), whether these priorities had, or should change, and
- identify the roles and responsibilities of each organization (which includes NAU ITEP, NTEC, NTAA, AIEO, EPA OAQPS, EPA Headquarters) in response to the priorities established by the tribes.

Laura McKelvey ensured the participants that the priorities determined from the meetings and included in the program plan would be distributed to the greater tribal community for review and comment.

Initial Comments

Stephen Hartsfield provided bullets based on emails that he received from some members of the Region 8 ROC (from various emails – I did not have these)

- Lead
- Pesticides
- Establish R8 Tribal Consortium
- Conduct a baseline assessment in Region 8 for air quality with help from EPA to provide these assessments. Need some assessments of what is and is not being funded.
- Region 9 ROC would also like to begin doing analysis of data for the tribes in their region
- Indoor air quality assessments

Stephen also provided bullets from emails that he received from the NTAA executive membership:

- It's inexcusable to say we don't have tribal dollars. Need to increase the budget for air quality
- Prioritize the TAR and CAA and adhere to those goals

- Need EPA travel funds so EPA can meet with tribes and see issues tribes face
- Tribes need to sit on FACA (CASAC) for things like Global Climate Change and other workgroups whose goals directly impact Indian Country
- Need to set timelines for TIPS/TAS
- Resources for education and outreach activities to tribal communities
- Have EPA develop an environmental contact list database
- EPA wide Consultation Policy is problematic – it is guidance and EPA appears to exempt itself from consulting with tribes on guidance per Executive Order 13175
- “95%” of tribes (majority of tribes in US) are small but largest pots of money goes to bigger tribes
- EO 13175 states participation but it doesn’t happen
- Within Region 9 tribes are within designated non-attainment areas for certain pollutants so participation is key
- Tribes want to voice opinions and prioritize air quality goals, not have it done for them
- EPA should consult with tribes on all documents and processes where tribes will be directly effected
- NTEC should host an online information exchange warehouse for tribe-to-tribe networking (codes, ordinances, TAS documents, TIPs, equipment to loan, technical support experience, SOPS, etc.

Lewis McLeod

- HG concentrations and how they relate to watersheds
- Not enough Hg monitoring in West
- Regulation/Publications – we can’t keep up with all of them. We need help knowing what’s coming up. We need to know when FACA’s are coming up so we can participate
- EPA needs more interaction with the tribes. Need to get out and visit more
- National tribal clearing house
- Tribes feel unaccounted for in TAS
- Provide more flexibility to include radon, second hand smoke, mold
- Need more work on air/water interface issues
- Help on dispersion monitoring/modeling
- Better outreach on reservations
- Region 8 will not use GAP funding
- Need to separate technical issues from policy issues (ITEP/NTAA relationship?)

Ryan Callison’s comments:

- Do more community involvement projects in Indian Country. The current grant available now is very competitive and many tribal projects aren’t funded
- Based on new ozone NAAQS, are the current population oriented siting criteria still applicable or will more rural communities (less population) be important?

Additional funds for projects/monitoring

- Can the other federal land managers help with monitoring during burning. Maybe use fees can help with this.
- OECA- might get funds from penalties (SEPs)
- Regions must sign off on SEPs
- Do we (EPA) need to go to National Enforcement Conference to make them aware of the tribal need and get some benefits from SEPs

Stephen mentioned we needed information and statistics for an annual “State of Air Quality” report. We need to know what projects are and are not being funded as well as other information that could show things in percentages (x% of tribes living in NAAQS nonattainment areas, have asthma, etc). Also some tribes are no longer engaged and we need to get them to tell us what their needs are.

Can we get other Federal agencies to come to the table? Laura mentioned in –roads we have had with CDC (just signed MOU) and we have been working with USDA of smoke/fire issues.

Climate Change

Might look at climate change as a matrix. Two important categories are impacts (adaption) and mitigation. We need TAMS course to make tribes aware of this issue. TAMS will have a module on climate change in the pollution prevention course. May be looking for instructors. We need some fact sheets. The first needs to be an educational piece on climate change and the second could be on mitigation. We need to be prepared for the potential of a cap-and-trade program, as well as other mitigation techniques.

Mercury

We need to get on top of the Hg issue, especially if any of the bills come through on the Hill.

Roger Turner has been pursuing a workgroup on the issues as it relates to the West. Laura will contact Roger to see if that group can be expanded to cover all Regions or should we start a second workgroup with that intent. We need to see what funding is necessary for TAMS to expand their activities to cover Hg. This include to potential to loan equipment for monitoring activities.

Alaska

There was discussion of a need for a wider vision for Alaska tribes. There have been some problems getting funding (200k) to tribes for particular issues.

Consultation Policy

There was some concern about EPA overall consultation policy. Progress on its completion has been slow.

OAQPS has moved ahead on its internal consultation policy and we want to distribute it to the tribes for their comment.

NTAA Calls-Communication

These calls do not appear to be working or could work better. EPA can't get information to NTAA at the last minute and have NTAA expect to get it out. Laura and Mike will work with Steve to improve the deficiencies in these calls. In addition OAQPS will work with NTAA to provide input to their weekly notes.

EPA needs to get out more to tribal communities and as well to the NTOC and RTOC meetings.

Action Items

Funding:

- Darrel Harmon- will talk with Steve Hartsfield on effective communications with legislature NTEC/NTAA will try to work closer with the national Tribal Caucus. Need to have a separate meeting to put a budget together. Need to put something together so intertribal budget is more robust. Goal unified budget which gets translated by NCAI
- Stephen- set up Intertribal meeting get consistency NCAI-NTOC-RTOC
- OAQPS- Talk to Regions to start pulling budget message together.
- Need to ask regions to document the unmet needs (how much tribes are asking for in work plans and what they are getting)
- Consider going to Hill with some frequency to propose line items
- Darrel will talk to the regions about the SEP process so tribes can better prepare to have project ready for potential funding through this mechanism
- ITEP will consider developing a SEP training module in one of the existing AIAQTP training courses related to funding and grants management.

Climate Change:

- The OAP (Jose A. on detail) will try to establish a workgroup that can develop outreach mechanisms, etc. for tribes. OAP is also currently gathering information on concerns tribes have about climate change.
- NAU ITEP/TAMS will develop and implement a training course in FY08
- NAU ITEP/TAMS will create a Global Climate Change Factsheet for educational purposes (what is climate change?, etc.)
- NTEC will create a factsheet on the Cap and Trade program and how tribes can benefit and participate
- NTEC will create an information clearinghouse on communications with climate change as a topic

Mercury/Air Toxics Issues:

- Laura will coordinate with Roger Turner, Shoshone Bannock Tribe, about establishing a Mercury Workgroup (or broaden current group). Roger has mentioned broadening the applicability of a mechanism known as the “Roadmap for Mercury” to tribes. Jose Aguto will review the current “Roadmap for Mercury” for mention of tribes.
- Steve Page mentioned OAQPS’s collaboration with the CDC and plans to invite Laura along to meet with the CDC in Atlanta very shortly
- Jose Aguto (through OAP) will review House Bill 843
- The TAMS Center is trying to establish a program for training and loaning of wet deposition mercury monitors to tribes (a possible phased process over the next couple of years)
- Laura/CTP will work on identifying air toxics sources in Indian Country with the assistance of other divisions. Will also utilize census statistics in this assessment
- Ryan, Cherokee Nation, will try to loan some rain gauges to tribes (via the TAMS Center?)
- EPA should encourage its offices to fund more community projects in Indian Country
- Laura/CTP is planning to work closer with the Office of Research and Development (ORD) to fund toxics projects

Alaskan Villages:

- Darrel will work with Region 10 to figure out how to allocate their \$200,000 funds to Alaskan issues

General:

- EPA’s SIP Training – Laura/CTP will follow up with both ITEP and NTAA to see who is going to lead this course in the future
- OAQPS’s Consultation Policy – CTP will start doing outreach to tribes on this draft policy
- Laura/Mike will work with Stephen to improve NTAA call process.
- AIEO/OAQPS will each follow up with the Office of Environmental Information (OEI) to reconsider changing their grant criteria process
- OAQPS will start submitting weekly update sound bytes to NTAA
- Recommendation from Tribes – EPA should be more cognizant of the voluntary projects that tribes are carrying out

Attachment A

ISSUES (Listed on White Board) In no particular order

1) Effective Communications and Relationships

- Information dissemination/ information exchange
- Participation
- Mutual Understanding
- What works
- Consultation policy
- Regional Inconsistencies/organizational Structures

2) Technical Support

- Models, templates, guidance documents
- Data management
- General
- Rules- Monitoring, EI, QA, other
- AQS

3) Collaboration

- OECA
- Other Federal agencies
- FACA, CASAC, etc

4) Air Quality Pollution and Impacts to Health and Environment

- Burns/Fires
- Statistical Analysis

5) Regulatory Issues

- TAS/TIP etc- deadlines
- NSR/PSD
- NAAQS Standards/Implementation
- MACT
- other

6) Ecosystem Approach

- Climate Change
- Air/water Interface
- Multi-pollutant

7) Sovereignty

8) Air Toxics

9) Criteria pollutants

- Lead
- Participation crucial

10) Pesticides

11) Indian Air Quality

12) Small Tribes

Voluntary programs

Non-regulatory

13) Funding

- Include Education/Outreach
- Disparity in funding smaller tribes
- EPA Travel
- Supplemental Environmental programs
- RPO

14) Alaskan Villages

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