

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

NEW! Hidden Consequences: How COVID-19 Pandemic is Impacting Children (Webinar Series)

Wednesday, September 30; 1:30 – 2:45pm ET

[Register Here](#)

The [Assistant Secretary for Preparedness \(ASPR\) TRACIE](#) and ASPR's Pediatric Centers of Excellence are collaborating on a webinar series focused on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on children. Topics will include impacts on child health and wellness, child emotional and social effects, the impact of COVID-19 on children with special healthcare needs, and how secondary/other disasters may affect children during the pandemic. The first webinar is focused on child health and wellness. Panelists will discuss resumption of routine care, missed immunizations and lead poisoning screening, sleep, and child neglect and abuse.

NEW! Please join the Alaska Collaborative on Health and the Environment (CHE-Alaska) webinar entitled *The Proposed Pebble Mine and Threats to Our Ways of Life: Bristol Bay Communities' Ongoing Efforts to Protect Our Cultures and Health*. The webinar takes place on Wednesday, September 30th, 2020 at 9:00 am Alaska Time (10:00 am Pacific; 1:00 pm Eastern) - This call will last one hour.

The proposed Pebble Mine, situated in the Bristol Bay watershed that is home to the world's largest wild salmon runs, has been a contentious issue for Alaskans for many years. The debate about the mine continues to garner local and national media attention as the Pebble Partnership attempts to secure the necessary state and federal permits. In addition to projected environmental damage to wetlands, streams, and rivers associated with the proposed mine, Bristol Bay communities have raised serious concerns regarding threats to human health, subsistence, and culture.

Registration: Read a full description of the webinar on the CHE-Alaska [website](#), and [register here](#).

NEW! U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Regional Tribal Consultation Calls on COVID-19 Vaccines

On Thursday, September 24, [U.S. Department of Health and Human Services](#) (HHS) Deputy Secretary Hargan sent a [Dear Tribal Leader Letter](#) (DTLL) announcing the initiation of Tribal Consultation to seek input from Tribal Leaders on COVID-19 vaccination planning for Indian Country. This Tribal Consultation complements the state planning process that began last week with the publication of the CDC's [COVID-19 Vaccination Program Interim Playbook for Jurisdiction Operations](#). This playbook guides Immunization Program Awardees (e.g., state and local jurisdictions with routine immunization programs) in planning and operationalizing their COVID-19 vaccination response. Tribal

Leaders will have several forums to discuss vaccination planning for distribution and allocation, including the following national and [regional](#) conference calls:

- October 1, 2020; 3:00 PM – 4:00 PM ET: HHS Region 9
Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 650 2728
- October 1, 2020; 4:00 – 5:00 PM ET, HHS Region 10
Dial-In: (415) 527-5035; Passcode: 199 442 6687

NEW! Safe Motherhood: An Informational Webinar on Maternal Mortality in Indian Country

Monday, October 5; 3-4:30pm ET

[Register Here](#)

The National Indian Health Board (NIHB) would like to announce an informational webinar on the disproportionate rates of maternal mortality for Native women, and how Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs) can be used as a prevention tool. Holding the power to bring children into the world is highly valued in Indian Country and surrounded by cultural importance. Losing a woman during this time is tragic and can be traumatizing to families and communities. Native women are more than twice as likely as white women to suffer from maternal mortality, yet 60% of all maternal deaths are known to be preventable. This webinar will discuss disparities in maternal deaths in Indian Country, and introduce Maternal Mortality Review Committees (MMRCs) as a prevention tool. Currently, at least 40 states have MMRCs, with minimal Tribal representation. Hear from a panel of MMRC representatives, who are affiliated with one or several Tribes, on their experiences serving on state MMRCs.

Study Links HAP Exposure to 9-Percent Increase in COVID Death Rate

(September 11, 2020) – Authors of a peer-reviewed study published in the journal *Environmental Research Letters* found that exposure to hazardous air pollutants (HAPs) could be associated with a 9-percent increase in COVID-related mortality. Specifically, the study focused on the combined hazard index and individual respiratory hazard quotient from the EPA 2014 National Air Toxics Assessment for five HAPs: formaldehyde, acetaldehyde, acrolein, naphthalene and diesel particulate matter (PM). The researchers controlled for socioeconomic status, population health indicators and exposure to PM_{2.5} and ozone and determined that “an increase in the respiratory hazard index is associated with a 9% increase in COVID-19 mortality. Although differing in magnitude, this association holds for individual HAPs acetaldehyde, and diesel PM.” Previous studies relating COVID outcomes with air pollution have focused on criteria pollutants. For further information, [click here](#).

EPA Finalizes Rule on Guidance Document Transparency (September 14, 2020) – EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed a final rule that establishes requirements and procedures for the issuance of guidance documents consistent with the requirements of President Trump’s October 2019 Executive Order (EO) 13891, “Promoting the Rule of Law Through Improved Agency Guidance Documents.” [For further information.](#)

In 2006 ITEP established the Virgil Masayesva Native American Environmental Scholarship Fund in memoriam of ITEP’s co-founder and original director. This year the centerpiece of ITEP’s fundraising campaign will be a virtual run / walk.

[Registration Link](#)

Virgil, a member of the Hopi tribe, was an avid runner, and to this day running is an integral part of many Native American communities. So it is in this spirit that we are announcing the [2020 ITEP Virtual Run & Fundraiser!](#) Our goal is to raise \$20,000 by the end of October. Please visit our [event website](#), register, and share this announcement with your friends and colleagues. Most importantly, please consider making a [direct donation](#) to the endowment. Together we can make a positive and lasting impact and support the next generation of Native American environmental leaders!

This is a courtesy announcement that the U.S. EPA intends to consult with tribal governments on the action mentioned below:

- Consultation Title: Update of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Information Quality System Policy and Procedure
- EPA Lead Organization: EPA Office of Mission Support (OMS)/Office of Environmental Information (OEI)
 - Start Date: 09/02/2020
 - End Date: 11/06/2020

To obtain additional information about this action and other EPA consultations ongoing or planned, please visit EPA’s Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) at <http://tcots.epa.gov>.

EPA finalized minor amendments to the 2004 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for the Plywood and Composite Wood Products (PCWP) source category.

The PCWP source category includes 230 facilities: 93 PCWP facilities, 121 lumber mills and 16 facilities that produce both PCWP and lumber. EPA identified acetaldehyde, acrolein, formaldehyde, methanol, phenol and propionaldehyde as the main pollutants emitted from this sector. Based on the results of required residual risk review, EPA determined that risks from the source category are acceptable. In addition, based on the results of the technology review, the agency

identified no developments in practices, processes or control technologies that would further reduce emissions of air toxics from the emission units regulated under the PCWP NESHAP. EPA is finalizing no significant changes to the original NESHAP for this source category and concludes that the standards continue to provide an ample margin of safety to protect public health and the environment. A fact sheet and pre-publication version of the final rule are [available here](#).

Course APTI SI-470, Quality Assurance for Air Pollution Measurement Systems.

[Register Here](#)

This is a new comprehensive online course covering aspects of quality assurance for air pollution measurement systems. It provides essential information staff need to be able to carry out ambient air monitoring QA responsibilities. It is a new online version of a course that has been taught in the classroom for many years; it covers the same procedures and information. It consists of 12 modules, is narrated, and includes knowledge checks and exams for each module.

NTAA Upcoming Calls

The toll-free number is 1-800-309-2350. If you do not need to call toll free, or would like to help conserve NTAA funding, you can call 1-805-309-2350. Both numbers use code 928-523-0526#. Contact Andy.Bessler@nau.edu if you have any questions about any call! ***Registration instructions*** When you register for the GoToWebinar, please remember to include your Tribe, Region, or Organization in parenthesis after your last name. This allows you to see everyone on the call and prevents us from conducting a roll-call, ultimately saving everyone’s time.

EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, September 24, 2pm ET
Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, October 8, 2pm ET
Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, October 15, 2pm ET
Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, November 19, 2pm ET

The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional's (ITEP's) [Tribes and Climate Change Calendar](#) includes conferences, trainings, webinars and other events related to tribes and climate change.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's other trainings and events.

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. New courses have been added, so check it out!

ITEP's [FY20 AIAQTP Course Schedule](#)

Course Title	Dates	Location	Course Level
	2020		
Air Pollution Technology <i>(Postponed!)</i>	TBD	Flagstaff, AZ	2
Meteorological Monitoring <i>(Postponed!)</i>	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Pollution Modeling	Fall 2020	TAMS Center, Las Vegas, NV	3
Air Quality Outreach	TBD	TBD	1
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ) <i>(Postponed!)</i>	May 2021	Tulsa, OK	n/a
Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke	Anytime	Series of 6 recorded webinars	n/a
Indoor Air Quality - Independent Study	Anytime	Independent Study	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates	Open	Online	1
Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Warm Climates	In development	Online	1
Residential Building Science Review	Open	Online	1
Radon Fundamentals	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Fundamentals (QA 101)	Open	Online	1
Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP) (QA 201-209)	Open	Online	2
Emissions Inventory Fundamentals	Open	Online	2

Emissions Inventory Advanced	Open	Online	3
<p><i>Note: This schedule is subject to change. For up-to-date information, course descriptions, and applications please visit</i> http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_air/</p>			

Climate Change / Energy

Attention California Tribes!

California tribal governments can receive funds to help fight climate change while addressing community needs for clean transportation, clean air, land conservation, agricultural equipment, and more.

- California Climate Investments has a [new webpage](#) that lists California Climate Investments Programs that California Tribal Governments are eligible to receive funding from.
- California Climate Investments Webinars- Agency and grantee speakers will highlight resources and share pathways to success in an upcoming webinar series. You can request updates for more information as it becomes available [on our website](#).
- [California Climate Investments](#) is a statewide initiative that puts billions of Cap-and-Trade dollars to work reducing greenhouse gas emissions, strengthening the economy, and improving public health and the environment — particularly in disadvantaged communities in California.

Call for Community Engagement Workshop Participants and Papers for a Special Issue

Workshop Series: Winter/Spring 2021

[Apply Here](#)

This USDA NIFA funded and professionally facilitated Engagement Workshop Series will convene a multidisciplinary group of researchers, community stakeholders, practitioners, students, funders, and policy makers to discuss the design and impacts of stakeholder engagement to address socio-environmental problems in working landscapes. The workshop series includes virtual meetings in winter/spring 2021 and a two-day in-person workshop at Penn State University, US in June 2021. Intended outcomes include 1) a special issue of a journal on workshop themes, 2) a collaboratively defined and co-produced research agenda on the “science of engagement,” and 3) formation of a new collaborative research network. Among the questions to be addressed are: *What risks does engagement entail and for whom? What challenges and risks are posed to indigenous and underrepresented communities through engagement? Which approaches effectively and equitably engage underrepresented stakeholders?* [Apply here to participate](#) in the virtual meetings and/or to submit a paper. Funding is available for travel to the June 2021 conference on a competitive basis. More information available at the

[workshop website](#). Questions or a request for more information can be sent to Georgia Hart-Fredeluces at hartgeo2@isu.edu.

Save the Date: Shifting Seasons Summit 3, October 6-8, 2020, Keshena, WI

Contingency dates: March 2021

The Shifting Seasons Summit is a gathering that focuses on climate resilience planning and implementation within Tribes and across Tribal ceded territories in the Northeast Region. This summit will also include network-building opportunities and initiatives developed outside of the Northeast by capacity building organizations, academic institutions and Tribes. Visit www.NICRN.org for more details.

ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!

[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

NEW! The Proposed Pebble Mine and Threats to Our Ways of Life: Bristol Bay Communities' Ongoing Efforts to Protect Our Cultures and Health

Wednesday, September 30; 9-10am AK Time (10am PT, 1pm ET)

Read a full description of the webinar on the CHE-Alaska [website](#), and [register here](#).

The proposed Pebble Mine, situated in the Bristol Bay watershed that is home to the world's largest wild salmon runs, has been a contentious issue for Alaskans for many years. The debate about the mine continues to garner local and national media attention as the Pebble Partnership attempts to secure the necessary state and federal permits. In addition to projected environmental damage to wetlands, streams, and rivers associated with the proposed mine, Bristol Bay communities have raised serious concerns regarding threats to human health, subsistence, and culture.

NEW! Model Policies to Accelerate Electric Vehicle Adoption

This one-hour webinar will highlight state, local, and utility policies that can spur the switch to electric vehicles (EVs) in an effective and equitable way. The webinar will feature the updated [AchiEVe Toolkit](#) — a free resource that highlights policy options and case studies along the full EV spectrum from vehicle purchase to charging infrastructure to battery recycling. In addition to hearing from the toolkit's authors, participants will hear how the State of North Carolina is putting the policy pieces together in a comprehensive EV strategy.

Agenda:

- Introduction – Andrea Denny and Jessica Daniels, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

- AchiEVe: Model Policies to Accelerate EV Adoption – Sue Gander and Andrew Linhardt, Electrification Coalition; Katherine Stainken, Plug in America; Hieu Le, Sierra Club
- North Carolina’s Electrification Policies – Jeremy Tarr, State of North Carolina
- Question and Answer Session

Save the Date! Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program

The Tribal Transportation Self-Governance Program (TTSGP) provides federally recognized Tribes and Tribal organizations with greater control, flexibility, and decision-making authority over federal funds used to carry out tribal transportation programs, functions, services, and activities (PFSAs) in tribal communities. The TTSGP also affords Tribes and Tribal organizations with specific rights and federal resources to implement and support their Self-Governance programs. On June 1, 2020, the negotiated [final TTSGP rule was published in the Federal Register](#). The rule will be codified in the Code of Federal Regulations at 49 C.F.R. part 29. The TTSGP final rule becomes effective on October 1, 2020. For Tribes or Tribal organizations that are interested in applying to be a participant in the TTSGP or for any questions or comments regarding the TTSGP, you may contact the Office of Tribal Affairs.

D.C. Circuit Temporarily Stays Methane Control Rollbacks as Publication of Oil and Gas Rules Triggers Immediate Lawsuits from States, Cities and Environmental Groups (September 14-17, 2020) –

Three days after EPA published a final rule rolling back methane standards for the oil and gas industry, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit granted an 3 administrative stay that temporarily blocks the rule from taking effect, in response to an “emergency motion” filed by environmental groups. [Click here for more information.](#)

The recent additions to OTAQ's website is listed below. [You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.](#)

- August 20, 2020: [EPA requests comment on data sources and analytical approaches on which to base an EPA determination of an updated weighting factor \(F-factor\) for E85 flexible fuel vehicles for model years 2021 and later.](#)
- August 20, 2020: [EPA announces a virtual public hearing to be held on September 17, 2020, on its proposed greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emission standards for airplanes and airplane engines, which was published on August 20, 2020.](#)

- August 19, 2020: [EPA amends the national marine diesel engine program to provide relief provisions to address concerns associated with obtaining and installing certified Tier 4 marine diesel engines in certain high-speed commercial vessels.](#)

Indoor Air Quality

NEW! EPA's Indoor Air Quality Science Webinar: Investigating Indoor Chemistry

Tuesday, October 13; 1-2:30pm EDT

[Register Here](#)

Research results have indicated that the indoor environment is a dynamic chemical system driven by infiltration of the outdoor environment, surface chemistry, and the addition of emissions from consumer products such as cleaners and building materials. Though observed health effects, such as exacerbation of asthma, have been associated with indoor environments, a clear and temporal link between exposure to chemical species and health effects has not been made. Could the relevant species evade routine sampling amidst the complex chemical mixtures? What are the mechanisms leading to the health effects? What are the molecular initiating events or the key events of indoor environments that lead to health effects? This presentation will highlight some of the recent efforts to investigate indoor chemistry and potential health effects. With guest speaker Ray Wells, PhD, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH).

NEW! Four Steps to Becoming an IAQ Champion and Reducing the Spread of Viruses in Schools

The latest on-demand webinars available to view on EPA's website outline a four-step process for implementing indoor air quality (IAQ) management strategies to reduce the spread of viruses and bacteria in schools. Identify the important steps for improving IAQ in your school or school district by viewing the webinars listed below.

- Step 1: Learn how [operating and maintaining efficient HVAC systems](#) in schools goes hand in hand with controlling the spread of airborne viruses and bacteria.
- Step 2: Learn how to [tailor your cleaning and maintenance plan](#) and procedures to help implement cleaning guidance in your school or school district.
- Step 3: Learn how to [identify additional key IAQ considerations](#) that address a range of critical areas related to controlling the spread of diseases and bacteria in schools.
- Step 4: Turn your [knowledge into action](#) by integrating what you've learned into your school's plans for IAQ management, preventive maintenance, and a safe reopening and operation.

Announcing EPA's New Indoor Air and COVID-19 Webpage

COVID-19 is thought to spread mainly through close contact from person-to-person. However, some uncertainty remains about the relative importance of different routes of transmission of SARS-CoV-2, the virus that causes coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). There are straightforward steps that can be taken to reduce potential airborne transmission of COVID-19 and the focus of this material is on those measures. EPA recommends precautions to reduce the potential for airborne transmission of the virus. These precautions include increasing ventilation with outdoor air and air filtration as part of a larger strategy that includes social distancing, wearing cloth face coverings or masks, [surface cleaning and disinfecting](#), handwashing, and other precautions.

Topics Covered on [EPA's Indoor Air and COVID-19 webpage](#) include:

- [Indoor Air in Homes and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Ventilation and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Air Cleaners, HVAC Filters and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
- [Additional Measures to Address COVID-19 in Public Indoor Spaces](#)
- [COVID-19, Wildfires, and Indoor Air Quality](#)
- [Science and Technical Resources related to Indoor Air and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#)
 - [Indoor Air and COVID-19 Key References and Publications](#)

Damp Buildings, Human Health, and HVAC Design

[Download Here](#)

This report summarizes dampness-related health risks in buildings as understood within ASHRAE. It provides simple-to-recognize symptoms of dampness, describes its capacity to increase the probability of negative health effects, and provides suggestions that HVAC system designers can apply to minimize such risks. The text also suggests monitoring instruments and threshold values that can provide early warning of trends that, if allowed to continue, could eventually result in health-relevant dampness.

Be sure to subscribe to [CodeTalk](#), HUD's Office of Native American Programs newsletter, for webinars and opportunities!