

## **UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES**

### ***Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes***

#### **NEW! EPA Announces Public Listening Sessions, Trainings on Upcoming Oil and Natural Gas Methane Rule**

EPA is taking the first step to develop a proposed rule to reduce methane and other harmful pollutants from new and existing sources in the oil and natural gas industry, beginning with a broad public outreach effort to gather community and stakeholder input. These activities include opening a public docket for pre-proposal comments, holding training sessions on the rulemaking process and how to participate in it, and convening listening sessions for stakeholders. These actions are a part of our response to a directive in Executive Order 13990, “[Protecting Public Health and the Environment and Restoring Science to Tackle the Climate Crisis.](#)”

EPA has opened a docket for members of the public to submit input to the Agency in writing. To submit your input online, visit <https://www.regulations.gov/>. Identify your comments by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0295. For more information on submitting information to EPA dockets, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dockets/commenting-epa-dockets>. Note: This is not the docket for the proposed rulemaking. EPA will open a separate regulatory docket when it issues the proposal in September.

EPA will host webinar-based trainings designed for communities, tribes and small businesses. Each training will provide an overview of the oil and gas industry and how it is regulated and will offer information on how to participate in the rulemaking process. Follow the links below to register to attend a training.

Small Businesses 2-3:30 p.m. EDT Tuesday, May 25, 2021

<https://epa-oilandgaswebinar-smallbusiness.eventbrite.com>

Tribes 2-3:30 p.m. EDT Wednesday, May 26, 2021

<https://epa-oilandgaswebinar-tribes.eventbrite.com>

Communities 2-3:30 p.m. EDT Thursday, May 27, 2021

<https://epa-oilandgaswebinar-communities-ej.eventbrite.com>

EPA will hold public listening sessions from noon to 9 p.m. EDT each day Tuesday June 15 through Thursday, June 17. Follow [this link to register to speak](#) at a public listening session. Each day focuses on different stakeholder groups; however, you may register to speak on the day that is the most convenient for you.

**NEW! EMERGENCY BROADBAND BENEFIT PROGRAM ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS** - The Federal Communications Commission just launched a temporary program to help families and households struggling to afford Internet service during the COVID-19 pandemic. Starting today, May 12, the Emergency Broadband Benefit (EBB) will provide a discount of up to \$50 per month toward

broadband service for eligible households and up to \$75 per month for households on qualifying tribal lands. Eligible households can also receive a one-time discount of up to \$100 to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers. Eligible households can enroll through a participating broadband provider or directly with the Universal Service Administrative Company using an online or mail-in application. You can learn more about the EBB program, including eligibility and enrollment information, by following the links below or calling (833) 511-0311.

- [Read the news release](#)
- [EBB website https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit](https://www.fcc.gov/broadbandbenefit)
- [GetEmergencyBroadband.org](http://GetEmergencyBroadband.org)
- [EBB FAQ sheet](#)
- [Step-by-step instructions for applicants \(PDF\)](#)
- [City of Tucson website summary of EBB program](#)

**U.S. Environmental Protection Agency’s (EPA) American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) has scheduled national webinars regarding EPA’s consultation practices and to inform the EPA *Plan for Implementing the Policies and Directives of Executive Order 13175: Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*.** EPA’s American Indian Environmental Office has scheduled those national webinars as follows:

- Webinar #1: Monday, May 24, 2021, 3:00 - 5:00 PM Eastern Time
  - TEAMS video conference link: [Click here](#) at the appropriate time
  - Dial-In Option (Audio Only) Number: 202-991-0477; Conf. ID: 599-738-900#.
    - To find a local dial-in number, please [click here](#).
- Tribal Webinar #2: Thursday, May 27, 2021, 1:00 - 3:00 PM Eastern Time
  - TEAMS video conference link: [Click here](#) at the appropriate time
  - Dial-In Option (Audio Only) Number: 202-991-0477; Conf. ID: 240-750-765#
    - To find a local dial-in number, please [click here](#).

The webinars will be given through Microsoft Teams, which can be joined by clicking the links provided above or dialing in – please note these links and dial in numbers are different for each webinar. You may reach out to [byrne.andrew@epa.gov](mailto:byrne.andrew@epa.gov) if you have any questions.

**Community Based Organization Vaccination Toolkit Discussion Group**  
 Thursday, May 20; 3-4pm ET / [Register Here](#)

The [National Indian Health Board](#) (NIHB), in coordination with the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), will be hosting a **[Community Based Organization \(CBO\)Vaccine Toolkit](#)**. This discussion group will feature an

overview of the CBO Vaccine Toolkit. Following the overview will be an opportunity for feedback on the toolkit.

- What do you find useful in the toolkit?
- What is missing? What information needs to be added?
- How can the toolkit be improved?
- Is the toolkit useful for Tribal Communities? Why or why not?

### **NIH-EPA Environmental Health Disparities Research Webinar Series**

The [NIH-EPA Environmental Health Disparities Research Centers of Excellence Program](#) is hosting this webinar series to highlight the research, training, and community-engagement accomplishments at the Centers collaboratively funded by the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences (NIEHS), National Institute of Minority Health and Health Disparities (NIMHD), and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Furthermore, the webinar series is intended to raise awareness of, and prompt dialogue on, opportunities to examine and address environmental contributions to health disparities. The webinars are open to anyone interested in learning more about environmental health disparities and strategies to reduce them.

#### **Schedule:**

- *May 24, 2021* – [Exploring Critical Windows of Exposure to Heavy Metals in Health Disparity Cohorts](#)
- *June 28, 2021* – [Exposure Pathways & Environmental Health Disparities](#)

*All webinars in the series will be held live via Zoom on Mondays 3-4:30pm EST*

### **Vaccine Equity for Indigenous Communities**

*Monday, May 24; 6-7:30pm ET | [Register Here](#)*

Numerous reports have discussed how longstanding inequalities, stigmatization and discrimination, and inadequate access to health care have resulted in substantial inequities under the ongoing COVID pandemic. Poorer communities, including the more than 476 million indigenous people living in 90 countries, have higher morbidity and mortality due to COVID, and less access to COVID vaccines. During this webinar, we will hear from indigenous leaders and health care providers from the United States, Australia and Latin America regarding the current status of COVID and access to COVID vaccines.

### **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](mailto: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.

<b>Mobile Sources Work Group:</b> This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues.	Thursday, May 6, 2pm ET
<b>EPA Policy Call:</b> Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality.	Thursday, May 27, 2pm ET
<b>Indoor Air Quality Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country.	Thursday, June 24, 2pm ET
<b>Wood Smoke Work Group:</b> Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country.	Thursday, July 22, 1pm ET

### **The Institute for Tribal Environmental Professional (ITEP)**

[Click here](#) for ITEP's new Tribal Environmental Management and Planning Online Courses. Sign up for a self-paced course hosted by ITEP's Waste and Response and Tribal Air Quality programs. New courses have been added, so check it out!

**ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program (AIAQTP)** hosts the Building Performance: Improving IAQ in Cold Climates, Residential Building Science Review, Radon Fundamentals, Quality Assurance Fundamental, Writing a Quality Assurance Project Plan, Emissions Inventory Fundamentals, and Emissions Inventory Advanced.

### **[AIAQTP Schedule and Registration](#)**

<b>Training Title</b>	<b>2021 Dates</b>	<b>Training Type</b>
Quality Assurance Project Plans in a Nutshell	June 1	Webinar
Wildland Smoke and Community Preparedness	June 7-11	Virtual Training

**Please note: ITEP's Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke course has been postponed to June 7-11th.** There is no need to reapply if you have done so already. There is still time to apply!

- Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke Course Dates: June 7-11, 202

- Course Times: Selected attendees should set aside a minimum of 4 hours daily on June 7-10 and 1.5 hours on June 11 to engage in the course.
- Live Zoom session: 10-11 am AKDT; 11-12pm PDT; 12-1pm MDT; 1-2pm CDT; 2-3pm EDT
- Homework: SLMS module completion (2-3 hours self-paced learning)

[Apply Now!](#)

### **Recorded Webinars**

Looking for more information check out the [Tribal Air Quality Media Space Channel](#). Recent webinars include an Introduction to Air Quality Programs, Emissions Inventories, Remote Professional Assistance, and Woodstoves in Indian Country. Older classics include a series on Air Quality Planning for Wildland Smoke, Tribal Air Program and Grants, Data Management, and the Clean Air Act.

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

### ***Climate Change / Energy***

#### **Office of Air and Radiation Update: Proposed Rule “Phasedown of Hydrofluorocarbons: Establishing the Allowance Allocation and Trading Program under the American Innovation and Manufacturing Act”**

Hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs) are potent greenhouse gases commonly used in refrigerators, stationery and motor vehicle air conditioners, and many other applications. On April 30<sup>th</sup>, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed the first regulation under the American Innovation and Manufacturing (AIM) Act of 2020, which requires the United States to phase down production and consumption of HFCs by 85% over the next 15 years by using an allowance allocation and trading program.

EPA is seeking public comment on this proposed rule, which would set the HFC production and consumption baseline levels from which reductions will be made, establish an initial methodology for allocating HFC allowances for 2022 and 2023, and create a robust and innovative compliance and enforcement system. Companies that produce, import, export, destroy, or use HFCs in equipment may be interested in submitting data or commenting. More information on HFCs and the proposed rule can be found [here](#). The public comment period for the proposal will be open for 45 days after publication in the Federal Register.

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

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

### ***Toxics/Mobile Sources***

**EPA's Diesel Emissions Reduction Act's Tribal Grants for FY21**

Request for Applications now open! More information can be found on this [flyer](#) and on [this website](#). EPA's 2021 Tribal and Insular Area grant program is now open. EPA anticipates awarding approximately \$5 million in DERA funding under this announcement. A total of \$4.5 million will be made available to tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) and Alaska Native villages, and \$500,000 will be made available to insular area governments. EPA anticipates awarding five to ten cooperative agreements to tribal governments (or intertribal consortia) and Alaska Native villages and two to four cooperative agreements to insular area governments. Click [here](#) for more information.

**NEW!** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention (OCSPP) is initiating consultation and coordination with federally-recognized tribes regarding development of proposed actions under section 6(a) of the Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA) to address unreasonable risks to health or the environment identified in the risk evaluations for Asbestos Part 1: Chrysotile Asbestos (chrysotile asbestos) and Colour Index Pigment Violet 29 (PV29). EPA is initiating these actions for chrysotile asbestos and PV29 so that they no longer present an unreasonable risk. This consultation and coordination process will be conducted in accordance with the [EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes](#). EPA invites you and/or your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in this process. OCSPP's anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination period for Asbestos, Part 1: Chrysotile Asbestos and PV29 is expected to extend from May 10 to August 13, 2021.

- **Monday, May 24, 2021 Tribal Consultation 1 – Technical Briefing and Comment Period from 1:00-3:30 pm (ET)**  
Conference Line: (833) 760-4028; Conference ID: 6034915  
[Adobe Connect Link](#)
- **Thursday, June 3, 2021 Tribal Consultation 2 – Technical Briefing and Comment Period from 1:00-3:30 pm (ET)**  
Conference Line: (833) 760-4028; Conference ID: 3279306  
[Adobe Connect Link](#)

**NEW!** EPA announced the first step in developing a proposed rule to reduce methane and other harmful pollutants from new and existing sources in the oil and natural gas industry, beginning with a broad public outreach effort to gather community and stakeholder input. These activities include holding training sessions on the rulemaking process and how to participate in it, convening listening



sessions for stakeholders, and opening a public docket for pre-proposal comments. Here are some links for more information:

- [Press release](#) on the announcement
- Additional information, a [link](#) to the public docket and information on registering to attend a training webinar or a listening session.

### **Green Transportation Summit & Expo**

*August 16-18, 2021 Tacoma, Washington* / [Registration](#)

The 10th annual Green Transportation Summit & Expo (GTSE) is the region's premier clean transportation convening event. There has not been a time when clean transportation has had as much potential. With this year's theme of Reflecting + Refocusing on a Resilient Future, we are giving particular attention to recent events affecting our communities and livelihood. We will be creating space to ensure these critical topics are addressed. **All Tribes can get a 20% discount, contact [Dara.Marks-Marino@nau.edu](mailto:Dara.Marks-Marino@nau.edu) for the code!**

### **Office of Pesticide Program Update: EPA Opens Comment Period on Draft Biological Opinion on Malathion, Closes June 19, 2021**

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is seeking public comment on the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) [draft biological opinion for the registration of malathion](#), an insecticide that is commonly used to control mosquitoes and a variety of insects that attack fruits, vegetables, landscaping plants, and shrubs. The draft biological opinion evaluates whether use of malathion is likely to jeopardize federally threatened and endangered species or destroy or adversely modify their critical habitats.

In January 2017, EPA released the [biological evaluation for malathion](#), which found potential effects on threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats. Because the biological evaluation for malathion made "likely to adversely affect" determinations to some threatened and endangered species and their designated critical habitats, EPA has been consulting with FWS to ensure the registration of malathion is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of these species or adversely modify their critical habitats. The public comment period will be open for 60 days and will close on June 19, 2021. The draft biological opinion is included in docket EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0231 at [www.regulations.gov](http://www.regulations.gov).

### **TLEF: A Virtual Gathering, now accepting proposals**

TLEF: A Virtual Gathering that will take place *August 16 through 19, 2021!* Last year's virtual TLEF had *twice* as many attendees as normally come to our in-person TLEF so we do hope to see you this August. We are now accepting proposals from you! Please fill out our [online proposal form](#), and learn more about

the types of sessions we are offering this year. And please note: **The deadline for submitting your proposal is May 14.**

These continue to be very uncertain times, when many are facing not only serious health concerns but also economic, social, and psychological challenges as well. And yet we do find strength in working with one another! We want to see your proposals for case studies, virtual tours of your sites and facilities, strategies you're using to protect your lands and communities, and stories about your successes and challenges.

The recent additions to OTAQ's website in April 2021. [\*You can access these additions as well as new press releases and Federal Register notices related to OTAQ on our website.\*](#)

- April 30, 2021: [EPA announces \\$5 million in grants available for tribes and insular areas to replace diesel equipment and reduce harmful emissions.](#)
- April 26, 2021: [EPA reconsiders a previous withdrawal of a waiver for California's advanced clean car program \(light-duty vehicle greenhouse gas emission standards and zero emission vehicle requirements\).](#)
- April 23, 2021: [EPA publishes a new case study on Providence Pilot Community-Port Collaboration Project.](#)
- April 20, 2021: [EPA awards \\$10.5 million to clean up 473 school buses in 40 states.](#)
- April 1, 2021: [EPA releases a new case study on groundbreaking Clean Air Action Plan \(CAAP\) for California San Pedro Bay Ports of Los Angeles and Long Beach.](#)

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## **Indoor Air Quality**

### **NEW! Radon Test Kit Distribution: Best Practices for State and Tribal Radon Programs**

Tuesday, May 25; 2-3pm EST / [Register Here](#)

Reducing exposure to radon is an important component in preventing lung cancer. Radon, a radioactive gas, is one of the most hazardous indoor pollutants. This naturally occurring gas is the leading cause of lung cancer among non-smokers, responsible for more than 21,000 annual deaths. According to the US EPA, radon concentrations above its action level are present in 1 of 15 buildings in the United States.



During this webinar, leaders from state radon programs in Maryland, Utah, and Virginia will share guidance and best practices for implementing a radon test kit distribution program to encourage building occupants to understand their radon risk potential by testing the buildings where they live, work, and learn. Register today to reserve your seat!

**The Conference of Radiation Control Program Directors (CRCPD) and the American Association of Radon Scientists and Technologists (AARST) Foundation Webinar Series:**

- Radon Test Kit Distribution: Best Practices for State and Tribal Radon Programs – *May 25, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST*
- Radon and Citizen Science: Public Engagement to Increase Education and Outreach – *June 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST*
- National Radon Action Month: Best Practices for State and Tribal Radon Programs – *July 22, 2:00-3:00 p.m. EST*
- The sixth webinar on a trending topic to be announced will be scheduled for the month of August – *stay tuned*

**National Asthma Awareness Month**

**Join the EPA Indoor airPLUS Program in celebrating [National Asthma Awareness Month](#).**

Asthma is a serious, sometimes life-threatening chronic respiratory disease that affects the quality of life for more than 25 million Americans, including an estimated 5 million children. Although there is no cure for asthma yet, asthma can be controlled in part through management of the indoor environment.

[Indoor airPLUS](#) is a voluntary partnership and labeling program that helps new home builders improve the quality of indoor air by requiring construction practices and product specifications that minimize exposure to airborne pollutants including environmental asthma triggers. Search for a local Indoor airPLUS builder on EPA's [Partner Locator](#), and ask for the EPA Indoor airPLUS label on your new home! Join us this month to raise awareness of ways to manage #asthma triggers! Follow [@EPAiaplus](#) on Twitter or connect with [EPA Indoor airPLUS](#) on Facebook to hear about how Indoor airPLUS partners help America #BreatheEasyWithIAP!

**How Indoor airPLUS Homes Help Reduce the Occurrence of Asthma Triggers in the Home**

Here are ways an Indoor airPLUS home can help reduce [asthma triggers](#) in the home.

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