



NTAA Weekly Update

Week of September 7 – 10, 2021

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PHOTOS FROM THE FIELD

Indian Country Today – [Ida's aftermath in Indian Country](#)



FILE - In this September. 4, 2021 file photo a house destroyed from the aftermath of Hurricane Ida (AP Photo/Kalle Benallie).

TOP STORIES

Bloomberg - [Satellites Spot Methane Plumes Over U.S. Caused by 'Routine Work'](#)

Politico - [Automakers gear up for an all-electric future](#)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Nasdaq – [Alphabet's \(GOOGL\) Nest Hub Introduces Air Quality Feature](#)

EPA – [EPA Tools for Communities Cleaning Up after Hurricane Ida](#)

Cronkite News – [Chickasaw woman gets USDA post, one in a string of Indigenous nominees](#)

Indian Country Today – [Tribes lose bid to block digging at lithium mine](#)

Indian Country Today – [Oklahoma Tribes governor still at odds over McGirt](#)

Climate Change/Energy

The Washington Post – [Nearly 1 in 3 Americans experienced a weather disaster this summer](#)

The 19th - [Risk of gender-based violence increases during natural disasters like Hurricane Ida. Better preparation is key](#)

TIME – [A Climate Solution Lies Deep Under the Ocean—But Accessing It Could Have Huge Environmental Costs](#)

Kake – [Environmental groups ask Congress to fund billions of dollars in climate measures in reconciliation](#)

Energy News – [Ponds, reservoirs could host floating solar in space-constrained Massachusetts](#)

CPR News – [How A Colorado Coal Plant Could Become A Massive Battery For Renewable Energy](#)

Reuters – [Explained: The state of the U.S. electric vehicle charging network](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

Freight Waves – [Cool Mountain Transport receives EPA SmartWay certification](#)

CDL Life – [EPA slaps diesel repair shops with fines for ‘defeat device’ violations](#)

NY Times - [A Century Ago, Miners Fought in a Bloody Uprising. Few Know About It Today.](#)

Wall Street Journal - [Chevron Girds for Activist Challenge After Exxon's Proxy Battle Defeat](#)

CNBC - [Engine No. 1 takes climate fight to other big oil companies after underdog win at Exxon](#)

Indoor Air Quality

Public News Service – [Air Quality Faces Dual Threats from Wildfires, Gas Appliances](#)

Be sure to subscribe to [EPA's IAQ Bulletins](#)

UPCOMING CALLS/EVENTS/NOTICES **Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes**

NEW! Call: EPA National Environmental Justice Community Engagement Call

September 14; 11:00am – 12:00pm PT | [Register Here](#)

The purpose of these calls is to inform communities about EPA's environmental justice work and enhance opportunities to maintain an open dialogue with environmental justice advocates. As environmental justice continues to be integrated into EPA programs and policies, the Agency hopes that these calls will help reaffirm EPA's continued commitment to work with community groups and the public to strengthen local environmental and human health outcomes.

NEW! Webinar: Strategies for effective health risk communication during wildfire smoke – Ana Rappold, EPA Office of Research and Development (ORD)

September 15; 12:00am – 1:00pm PT | [Register Here](#)

This webinar will discuss air pollution and wildfire smoke and how both can have immediate and lasting health effects. Individuals who are regularly exposed to poor air quality may report different health behaviors and conditions than those who are less exposed. EPA researchers set out to determine whether self-reported protective behaviors or health conditions differed by air quality.

NEW! Webinar: Traditional Knowledge – Federal Agencies' Considerations

September 15; 11:30am – 1:00pm PT | [Register Here](#)

This webinar will discuss how some federal agencies are considering traditional knowledge in the implementation of their missions. This webinar is one of a two-part webinar mini-series on traditional knowledge. The second webinar, planned

for October, will focus on how federally recognized tribes and indigenous peoples engage federal agencies on traditional knowledge. This webinar is part of the U.S. EPA [Environmental Justice Webinar Series for Tribes and Indigenous Peoples](#) - to build the capacity of tribal governments, indigenous peoples and other environmental justice practitioners, and discuss priority environmental justice issues of interest to tribes and indigenous peoples.

NEW! AQSync: Calibration Station for Sensor-Based Mobile Monitoring

October 6; 10:00am – 10:30am PT | [Register Here](#)

With the explosion of sensor use for air monitoring, the eternal question on everyone’s mind is “what about calibration”? Sensor calibration can pose a daunting task for communities without access to a regulatory site. In this webinar we introduce the new AQSync by 2B Technologies. The AQSync represents an exciting evolution in air monitoring by combining miniaturized FEM and near-FEM instruments in a weatherproof enclosure. In this webinar we will explore some of the current applications of the AQSync, including drive-by calibrations of mobile sensors. Lastly, we will share information on the effort underway to use AQSyncs placed at schools as the hub of community monitoring and air pollution mapping efforts

Call for Tribal Participants to Help Revise EPA, QAPP, and QMP Requirements/Guidance Documents

EPA is seeking Tribal participation (particularly tribal scientists and environmental staff with experience in writing or updating QMPs and/or QAPPs for their EPA grants) in revising three of the Agency’s most used and downloaded Quality Assurance (QA) documents:

- EPA QA/R-2, EPA Requirements for Quality Management Plans (March 2001)
- EPA QA/R-5, EPA Requirements for Quality Assurance Project Plans (March 2001)
- EPA QA/G-5, Guidance for Quality Assurance Project Plans (December 2002)

There are a variety of ways tribes can participate:

- Take part in listening sessions
- Attend document revision webinars on QA topics of interest
- Review and Comment on the draft QMP and QAPP Standards during pre-clearance review
- Contact their Regional QA Manager [here](#)
- Provide feedback in implementing revised QA documents.

Please see the [Project Notice](#) for more details. For more information, please feel free to contact [Linda Himmelbauer](#), Directives Project Lead, or [Katherine Chalfant](#), Acting, Enterprise Quality Management Division (EQMD) Director.

Fourth National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy Workshop, Virtual Event

October 4 – 8, 2021 | [Register Here](#)

The 4th National Cohesive Strategy Workshop will center on this theme and focus sharply on understanding, co-managing, transferring, and accepting risk at federal, state, Tribal and local stakeholder levels to prioritize and invest in decisions, projects and other efforts that result in widespread reduction in risk across landscapes, and communities, the public and firefighters collectively.

Since the inception of The National Cohesive Wildland Fire Management Strategy, we have learned that there are multiple “hard truths” of living with fire that must be accepted in order to make meaningful progress towards the three national goals of *Resilient Landscapes, Fire Adapted Communities and a Safe, Effective, Risk-Based Wildfire Response*.

EPA’s air quality training program is released three new training materials! These materials are foundational in level, and are being offered to tribal, state, and local air agencies in an e-learning format through our learning management system (LMS).

The materials include:

- A course that explains the purpose of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) within the air quality management process.
- A module that explains each of the six criteria pollutants under the Clean Air Act. This module represents “micro-learning”— a short, focused bit of training on a particular topic.
- A module that explains what air toxics are. Similar to the criteria pollutants module, this module represents “micro-learning.”

To access the course and modules on the LMS (<https://epaapti.csod.com>), please register (if you haven’t already!), then log in and refer to the “What’s New” section on the home page.

NTAA Upcoming Calls

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.

<p>Mobile Sources Work Group: This monthly work group addresses all mobile source pollution issues. Attend by clicking here.</p>	<p>Thursday, September 9, 2pm ET</p>
<p>Wood Smoke Work Group: Join this work group every other month to address wood smoke issues in Indian Country. Attend by clicking here.</p>	<p>Thursday, September 23, 2pm ET</p>
<p>EPA Policy Call: Call in to hear updates from EPA on policies, actions, and tools relevant to Indian Country and Air Quality. Attend by clicking here.</p>	<p>Thursday, September 30, 2pm ET</p>
<p>Indoor Air Quality Work Group: Join this work group every other month to help support IAQ work throughout Indian Country. Attend by clicking here.</p>	<p>Thursday, October 21, 2pm ET</p>

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](#)

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

US EPA Announces Upcoming Climate and Energy Webinars for State, Local, and Tribal Governments

The US EPA announces there will be nearly 30 webinars on climate and energy topics offered by federal agencies and others during the month of September. All webinars are free of charge, but space may be limited or require registration in advance. For more information subscribe to the [US EPA's State and Local Energy Newsletter](#).

ITEP's Climate Change Adaptation Training Courses registration is online!
[Learn more about the courses and register here.](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

EPA is in the process of conducting a residual risk and technology review of the 2002 National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) for Major Source Primary Copper Smelting and a technology review of the 2007 Primary Copper Smelting Area Sources NESHAP

After EPA publishes the rules in the *Federal Register*, EPA plans to accept comment on these proposals for at least 45 days after publication in the *Federal Register*. Interested parties can download additional information and a copy of the proposed rules (when they are officially issued by EPA) from [EPA's website](#) and this [website](#). The proposed rules and other background information will also be available either electronically [here](#), EPA's electronic public docket and comment system. Materials for the proposed actions can be accessed using **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2020-0430**. For further technical information about the rule, contact Tonisha Dawson, EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards, at (919) 541-1454 or dawson.tonisha@epa.gov.

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

- August 5, 2021: [EPA proposes to revise the greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions standards for light-duty vehicles for 2023 and later model years to make the standards more stringent.](#)
- August 5, 2021: [EPA announces plans to reduce greenhouse gas \(GHG\) emissions and other harmful air pollutants from heavy-duty trucks through a series of rulemakings over the next three years.](#)

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

Indoor Air Quality

Schools as Community Cleaner Air and Cooling Centers: An American Rescue Plan Supplemental Funding Project by the U.S EPA Request for Letters of Interest

U.S. EPA's Office of Community Revitalization received American Rescue Plan funding to develop and implement local strategies for using available COVID-recovery dollars to also create cleaner air and neighborhood cooling refuges for vulnerable communities. Funding will support direct technical assistance that pulls together state school facilities agencies, state emergency response agencies, school districts and community-based organizations to analyze gaps where populations that are more vulnerable to poor air quality and heat events lack access to community shelters.

The letter must be signed by an elected official or other representative of the tribe, state, county, or city, which might include one or more elected officials, an agency decision maker, or a nonprofit leader. **This signature represents support and commitment to this program and assistance.** The letter of interest must be submitted in an attachment (Microsoft Word or PDF file) by email to Abby Hall (hall.abby@epa.gov) no later than **September 30, 2021, at 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time**. If you have questions about this request for letters of interest, please contact Abby Hall at hall.abby@epa.gov or 202-631-5915.

U.S. Department of Education Encourages Use of American Rescue Plan Funds to Improve Ventilation and IAQ in Schools

Indoor air quality is critical to reopening schools safely and keeping them open. The U.S. Department of Education has released [new guidance](#) encouraging the use of American Rescue Plan (ARP) funds to improve ventilation systems and make other indoor air quality improvements in schools to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and tackle longstanding school ventilation improvement needs. The new Department of Education guidance highlights EPA resources to support investments in improved ventilation and indoor air quality. Use the following resources from EPA to supplement the information in the guidance:

- [Indoor Air and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#): Visit this page for the latest guidance on best indoor air practices to limit the spread of COVID-19.
- [Ventilation and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#): Ventilation is an important approach to lowering concentrations of indoor air pollutants, including

viruses. Increase the ventilation in your school with outdoor air when possible.

- [**Air Cleaners, HVAC filters, and Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)**](#): Air cleaners and HVAC filters can help to reduce viruses and pollutants in the air. Consider upgrading the HVAC filters in your system and using safe, effective portable air cleaners to supplement HVAC filtration. *Note: **Do not use air cleaners that intentionally generate ozone in occupied spaces.***
- [**Implementing a Layered Approach to Address COVID-19 in Public Indoor Spaces**](#): A layered risk reduction approach is best to limit airborne transmission of COVID-19 – learn how to combine increased ventilation and filtration with other [CDC recommendations](#), such as wearing masks and social distancing.

Wildfire Smoke and Indoor Air Quality

This summer, wildfires have spread across the U.S. creating devastation and dangerous smoke events affecting millions of American lives. If you are in need of immediate wildfire guidance, see EPA's [wildfire webpage](#) for more resources. Smoke from wildfires can adversely affect indoor air quality and put people's health at risk from exposure to particulate matter and other pollutants. Read on to learn more about:

- [How Indoor airPLUS Homes Protect Against the Harmful Effects of Wildfire Smoke](#)
- [Reduce Exposure to Wildfire Smoke Inside the Home](#)
- [Additional Resources](#)

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!

RESOURCES & FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

Now Hiring!

NEW! (I have not seen any new job opportunities)

Ambient Air Quality/EPA/NTAA/Tribes

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is pleased to announce the availability of funding to support the hiring of Tribal Climate Resilience Liaisons in Alaska, the Northwest, and the Southwest through the BIA's Tribal Resilience Program (Program). Eligible applicants include tribal non-profit, non-governmental organizations and tribally-controlled colleges or universities (TCUs) that serve federally-recognized tribes. Other entities may participate as sub-grantees. The solicitation is available on [grants.gov](https://www.grants.gov), and named [BIA-2021-TCRP](#).

To view and/or receive ITEP's American Indian Air Quality Training Program newsletter, [Native Voices, click here!](#)

Climate Change/Energy

Join NCAI's [Climate Action email](#) listserv here!

Sign up for the [Alliance for Green Heat's](#) newsletter!

To view and/or receive [ITEP's Climate Change newsletter, click here!](#)

Toxics/Mobile Sources

EPA Announces \$10 Million Available for States, Tribes, and Territories to Address Environmental Challenges

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is announcing the availability of Multipurpose Grant (MPG) funding to support states, Tribes and territories in addressing high-priority environmental issues, including PFAS, environmental justice and climate change. For more information on eligibility, use of funding, process for award, and timelines, please reference the [Multipurpose Grant guidance](#).

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Indoor Air Quality

Resource for Healthy Indoor Air Quality

Check out the website <https://forhealth.org/> for many resources related to healthy homes and indoor air quality!

The Tribal Healthy Homes Network (THHN) has a webpage dedicated to [Funding Opportunities!](#) Additionally, THHN has developed a [Funding Guide for American Indian and Alaska Native Communities](#).

Most Recent Listing: EPA Rules from the Federal Register can be [found here](#).

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