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## NTAA Monthly Update: August 2024

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### Current NTAA Activities

#### Policy Resource Kits

**Recently released PRKs** include Project Emissions Accounting and National Tribal Caucus Reorganization. Upcoming PRKs include the OSWI Rudimentary Combustion Device Definition.

#### Webinars

A webinar on Oil and Gas Rules is scheduled for September 4, and a PFAS and air quality webinar is scheduled for October 3. A webinar on engaging with the particulate matter NAAQS designations process is in the works. Find NTAA webinar information [here](#).

#### Status of Tribal Air Report

The 2023 STAR is being finalized and will be made available soon.

#### National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

Planning for the 2025 NTFAQ is underway. The 2024 NTFAQ Summary Report was recently made available [here](#).



### Note From the Chair

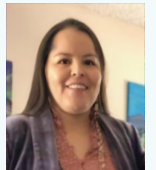
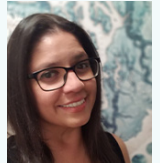
As we are moving into the middle of the year, we have some bittersweet staffing changes to report.

Carolyn Kelly, our Program Manager, left NTAA in mid-July. We are grateful for all of her work and friendship over the last few years and wish her good luck as she moves on to a position with the Washington Department of Natural Resources.

We are excited to welcome Max Benning, who joined NTAA in June as the Program Coordinator. Max is looking forward to supporting Tribes on air policy.

We are also excited to welcome Davina Whitethorne, who joined NTAA in July as our Project Assistant. Davina is eager to support NTAA's work and Tribes in any capacity.

Regards,  
Syndi Smallwood  
NTAA Chariwoman



### Contact Us

Max Benning  
NTAA Program Coordinator  
Maxwell.Benning@nau.edu

Find more information on all things NTAA on our website at [ntaatribalair.org](http://ntaatribalair.org)

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## PFAS/PFOA: A NTAA Priority

### What are per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances?

Per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) are a large group of man-made chemicals that are used in industry and consumer products.

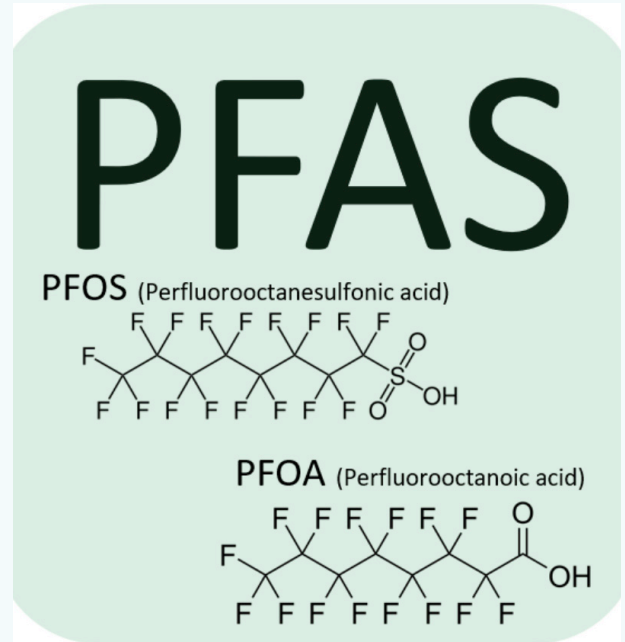
These chemicals are used to make common products that resist stains, grease, and water, such as stain resistant carpet, clothing, non-stick cookware, and firefighting foam. PFAS do not occur naturally but are now widespread in the environment.

PFAS do not break down easily in the environment and can stay in people's bodies for a long time. This is why they are sometimes known as "forever chemicals."

### What are the health effects of PFAS?

The health problems after being exposed to PFAS depends on which PFAS, how much, for how long you are exposed, and personal factors including age, lifestyle, and overall wellness. Communities with known PFAS contamination should take special care to reduce exposure. Exposure to PFAS can increase the risk of health issues, including:

- Reproductive effects, such as increased high blood pressure in pregnant people.
- Developmental effects or delays in children, including low birth weight, bone variations, or behavioral changes.
- Increased risk of some cancers, including kidney, liver, and testicular cancers.
- Reduced ability of the body's immune system to fight infections, including reduced vaccine effectiveness.
- Interference with the body's natural hormones, including thyroid hormones.
- Increased cholesterol levels.
- Liver damage.



### I thought PFAS was only a water issue? How does PFAS work in the air?

There is more information and monitoring about soil and water contamination. However, PFAS are emitted by chemical plants, manufacturers, military facilities, and other sources. PFAS emitted to the air can impact surrounding communities through inhalation pathways, but also through deposition contamination on soil, plants and crops, and water sources. There is much we do not know about how PFAS can be captured and destroyed. Incineration is common destruction method, but the effectiveness and possible byproducts of this method are unclear. Monitoring technology to capture the range of PFAS chemicals are evolving but not fully available for emissions ambient monitoring.

### How can I help my Tribe in understanding the potential impacts on our citizens?

Participate in the NADP PFAS pilot study. Develop an inventory of potential PFAS sources. Stay in touch with NTAA and EPA to be updated about evolving PFAS programs.



## EPA Updates

- Comments are due August 8, 2024 for a **proposed rule**: "Removal of Affirmative Defense Provisions From Specified New Source Performance Standards and NESHAP."
- Comments are due August 9, 2024 for a **proposal**: "Proposed Establishment of the National Tribal Caucus Under the Federal Advisory Committee Act." The NTAA has created a fact sheet and a template letter Tribes can use to comment, which can be found on the NTAA website [here](#).
- The 2024 **National Ambient Air Monitoring Conference** is taking place August 12-15 in New Orleans, Louisiana.
- The EPA is hosting an **informational webinar** only for Alaska Tribes on August 12 at 11:30am Alaska time regarding a **proposed rule**: "Other Solid Waste Incinerators - Supplemental Notice of Proposed Rulemaking to Add a Definition for Rudimentary Combustion Device." Comments are due September 9, and NTAA is creating a fact sheet and a template letter Tribes can use to comment.
- The EPA will be holding a **virtual public hearing** on August 14 at 10am Eastern regarding California's Advanced Clean Fleets Waiver and Authorization Request. Registration is required, and information will be provided in both English and Spanish.
- The U.S. Department of Energy and EPA released a **funding opportunity** for methane emissions reduction. There is \$50 million available under Area of Interest 1c: Reducing Methane Emissions from Marginal Conventional Wells and Oil and Gas Assets on Tribal Lands. Applications are due August 26.
- EPA's AirNow program and the U.S. Forest Service are soliciting feedback for the beta version of the soon-to-be updated AirNow Fire and Smoke Map. View the beta now at [this link](#) and send feedback to [firesmokemap@epa.gov](mailto:firesmokemap@epa.gov).



## ITEP Updates

- ITEP has developed an air permit screening tool to help Tribes assess the impacts from new and modified sources of air pollution on Tribal lands. ITEP is hosting a webinar with the designer of the screening tool to discuss how to use it, what information it can provide, and other resources for preparing comments on air permits. This event will be held on August 28, 2024 virtually. Please [register here](#).



- ITEP is hosting a variety of in-person trainings for Tribal air quality staff in 2024. Upcoming trainings include "Tribal Air Grants and Program Management" in Quapaw, Oklahoma from August 20 to 22 and "Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities" in Albuquerque, New Mexico from September 17 to 19. Find the full schedule and register [here](#).
- Many ITEP programs are hosting conferences in upcoming months. Conferences include the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum in Eugene, Oregon from August 12 to 15 and the National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference in Anchorage, Alaska from September 9 to 12. Find more information regarding these conferences [here](#).



## NTAA Events Calendar

August  
**8**  
**Wildfire Smoke Work Group**  
11am PT, 2pm ET

August  
**15**  
**Itep Indoor Air Quality Office Hour**  
11am PT, 2pm ET

August  
**29**  
**NTAA-EPA Air Policy Updates**  
11am PT, 2pm ET

September  
**4**  
**Oil and Gas Rules Webinar**  
1pm PT, 4pm ET

September  
**5**  
**Wildfire Smoke Work Group**  
11am PT, 2pm ET

September  
**18**  
**Alaska Air Work Group**  
11am PT, 2pm ET

September  
**26**  
**NTAA-EPA Air Policy Updates**  
11am PT, 2pm ET

Email Max Benning (Maxwell.Benning@nau.edu) to be added to the invitation list for these meetings. Find webinar information [here](#).

## News Updates

**Durango Herald:** Southern Ute Indian Tribe take federal regulatory authority of minor air pollution sources

**E&E News:** Tribal fight explodes over uranium shipments near Grand Canyon

## Job Vacancies

The National Tribal Air Association is hiring a **Program Manager** to lead NTAA's work and supervise NTAA staff. Applications are due August 12, 2024 by 11:59pm Arizona time.

The Gila River Indian Community's Department of Environmental Quality has an opening for a **Senior Environmental Technician** in the Air Quality Program focused on operating and maintaining regulatory ambient air monitoring equipment. Applications are due August 7, 2024.

## NTAA Executive Committee

<p><b>Region 1</b></p> <p>Marvin Cling, Sr., <i>Passamaquoddy Tribe at Pleasant Point</i></p> <p>Josh Paul, <i>Penobscot Nation</i></p>	<p><b>Region 7</b></p> <p>Billie Toledo, <i>Prairie Band of Potawatomi Indians (Secretary)</i></p> <p>Kurt Lyons, <i>Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska</i></p>
<p><b>Region 2</b></p> <p>Steven Smith, <i>Shinnecock Indian Nation</i></p> <p>Angela Benedict, <i>Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe</i></p>	<p><b>Region 8</b></p> <p>Janice Archuleta, <i>Ute Mountain Ute Tribe</i></p> <p>Randy Ashley, <i>Confederated Salish &amp; Kootenai Tribes</i></p>
<p><b>Region 3</b></p> <p>Vacant</p>	<p><b>Region 9</b></p> <p>Syndi Smallwood, <i>Jamul Indian Village of California (Chair)</i></p> <p>Lisa Gover, <i>Gila River Indian Community</i></p>
<p><b>Region 4</b></p> <p>Amy Smoker, <i>Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians</i></p> <p>Tiffany Lozada, <i>Poarch Band of Creek Indians</i></p>	<p><b>Region 10</b></p> <p>Lucas Bair, <i>Spokane Tribe</i></p> <p>Caleb Minthorn, <i>Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (Treasurer)</i></p>
<p><b>Region 5</b></p> <p>Brandy Toft, <i>Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe</i></p> <p>Vallen Cook, <i>Grand Portage Band of Chippewa</i></p>	<p><b>Alaska</b></p> <p>Vacant</p>
<p><b>Region 6</b></p> <p>Tara Weston, <i>Santa Ana Pueblo (Vice Chair)</i></p> <p>Kristy Lawson, <i>Muscogee (Creek) Nation</i></p>	

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