



NTAA Monthly Update: September 2024

Contents

- Note From the Chair
- EPA Updates
- ITEP Updates
- NTAA Events Calendar
- 2023 STAR
- PFAS Webinar Information
- NTAA Logo Contest

Current NTAA Activities

NTAA EC Fall Meeting- 2025 Workplan development
New year new logo – see logo contest announcement
2026 Budget planning

2024 STAR Report- Now that the 2023 STAR is out we are ramping up to develop the 2024 STAR report.

Planning for the 2025 NTFAQ- Planning has started to select the next location for NTFAQ. Contact us if you want to joining the planning committee.

Contact Us

Find more information on all things NTAA on our website at ntaatribalair.org

The NTAA Monthly Update is a monthly e-newsletter providing updates and resources to Tribes regarding air policy and other relevant topics.

To advertise an announcement, or to be added or removed from the distribution list, please email Mehrdad Khatibi (Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu)



Note From the Chair

We are excited to release the 2023 State of Tribal Air Report. The purpose of the report is to give a snapshot of air quality programs in Indian country, including the successes and challenges. Please take the time to read the report and share it with Tribal leaders, and EPA decision makers to inform them on the priorities and needs of Tribal Air Programs. With the release of this report we are diving into the development of the 2024 STAR report. Please support us by sharing your stories, priorities, successes and challenges. You can also join the workgroup capturing the important work that our Tribal Air colleges are accomplishing. Please reach out to any EC representative or Laura McKelvey with your input.

Regards,
Syndi Smallwood, Environmental Director
Jamul Indian Village of California

Announcements

Congratulations to the Yaamava' San Manuel Band of Mission Indians for becoming the 158 NTAA member Tribe!!!

The NTAA Executive Committee is looking for both a primary and alternative representative for Alaska, and for Tribes in EPA Region 3. Please considering joining the NTAA EC to ensure the voice and the needs of Alaskan Native Villages and the Tribes in Virginia are heard!

2024 Rocky Mountain Wildfire Symposium: October 17 & 18 Adapting to a Future with Fire:

Enhancing wildfire resilience in the Mountain West through: Community, State, & Regional Partnerships!

Location: In person at the University of Montana's University Center Ballroom; virtual option will be available. Register [HERE](#):



EPA Updates

Good Neighbor Plan Judicial Stay Orders :

On August 5, EPA released a memorandum describing how the Agency plans to comply with the Supreme Court's June 27, 2024 order granting applications for a stay of the 2023 Good Neighbor Plan, pending Judicial Review. The memorandum also addresses the next steps the Agency intends to undertake to ensure that states' obligations to address interstate ozone pollution under two prior rules, the CSAPR Update and the Revised CSAPR Update, continue to be met.

<https://www.epa.gov/Cross-State-Air-Pollution/epa-response-judicial-stay-orders>

Indoor AirPLUS V2 Program Update: On August 5, EPA announced enhancements to its Indoor AirPlus home labeling program. These improvements are designed to advance indoor air quality protection and expand market accessibility for new home buyers. [Learn More](#)

Proposed Rulemaking: Fuels Regulatory Streamlining Amendments

Rule: On August 16, EPA announced a proposed rule that makes revisions, updates, and corrections to its streamlined fuel quality regulations. This action does not propose to change the stringency of any existing fuel quality standard. [Learn More](#)

Grant Funding to Address Indoor Air Pollution at Schools: On August 22, EPA announced the five selected recipients of \$34 million in grant funding to address indoor air pollution in schools. [Learn More](#)

Amendments to the CAA Rules for Stationary Engines: On August 19, EPA issued amendments to the CAA rules for stationary engines to add electronic reporting requirements and to clarify and correct inadvertent and other minor errors in the CFR. [Learn More](#)

Clean School Bus Program: As part of the 2024 Sammies Summer Series, Matt Lakin (R9) and Karl Simon (OTAQ) represented the Clean School Bus program for a segment on "Better, Faster, Stronger". View the recorded interview [HERE](#):

Summary of Requirements for Oil and Natural Gas Emissions

Guidelines: On August 27, EPA released "Summary of Requirements" document to assist states and Tribes in developing plans for limiting methane emissions from existing sources under the agency's Emissions Guidelines for oil and natural gas operations. [Learn More.](#)

EPA Issues Request for Information (RFI) on the Potential

Expanded Use of Advanced Methane Technologies in GHGRP: The U.S. EPA is inviting public comment on the potential for expanded use of advanced and emergin technologies for methane emissions quantification in the Agency's Greenhouse Gas Reporting Program (GHGRP). Responses to the RFI are due October 28, 2024. [Learn More.](#)

DERA FY23 – FY24 State Program Update

On August 27, EPA posted the 2023-2024 Diesel Emissions Reduction Act (DERA) State Grants Program Guide. Deadlines for states and territories to submit 2023-2024 Notice of Intent to Participate is September 10. [Learn More.](#)



ITEP Updates

Upcoming In-Person Air Quality Workshops

Indoor Air Quality in Tribal Communities: Sept 17-19 Albuquerque, NM
Fundamentals of Air Monitoring: October 29-31, TAMS Ctr, Las Vegas, NV
Air Quality in Alaska Native Communities: November 5-7, Fairbanks, AK
Particulate Matter 2.5 Monitoring: Dec 10-12, TAMS Ctr, Las Vegas, NV
Click here for more information: [HERE](#)

On-Line Self-Paced Courses

ITEP also offers 14 on-line courses on various air quality topics ranging from Indoor Air Quality, to Quality Assurance, and Emission Inventories that Tribal air quality professionals can take FREE of charge and complete at their own pace. Click [HERE](#) for a complete list of ITEP on-line course catalogue.

AIAQTP & TAMS Office Hours

Drop in monthly for short, informative and casual virtual sessions to discuss topics such as Indoor Air Quality, Education & Outreach, and Technical Air Monitoring.

* TAMS Office Hours: October 8

* IAQ Office Hours: September 19, and October 17

* Grants Office Hours: November 6

* Outreach & Education Office Hours: September 15, and October 17.

Contact Christal.Black@nau.edu to be notified of ITEP air program events.



NTAA Events Calendar

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

October
3
PFAS and Air Quality Webinar
1pm PT, 4pm ET

October
3
Wildfire Smoke Work Group
11am PT, 2pm ET

October
23
Tribal Participation in the PM2.5 NAAQS Designations
1pm PT, 4pm ET

October
31
NTAA-EPA AIR POLICY UPDATES CALL
11am PT, 2pm ET

Email Mehrdad Khatibi(Mehrdad.Khatibi@nau.edu) to be added to the invitation list for these meetings.

News Updates

Department of Interior Announces Protection of 28 Million Acres of Public Lands in Alaska. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

American Lung Association: Dozens of Health Organizations Urge EPA to Approve Lifesaving Clean Air Rules proposed by the state of California. Click [HERE](#) for more information about this effort .

Job Vacancies

Hopi Tribe: Program Manager, Wildlife Ecosystems Management Program. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

Navajo Nation: Senior Environmental Engineer
Superfund Program. Position # 242039
Click [HERE](#) for more information.

NTAA Executive Committee

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

2023 STAR Overview

The National Tribal Air Association recently released the 2023 Status of Tribal Air Report (STAR). The STAR aims to provide an annual snapshot Tribal air quality and air programs nationally and is written for Tribal Leaders and Tribal environmental professionals. The 2023 STAR presents information on Tribal air quality and air programs, features an emissions data highlight, summarizes the academic literature on the health impacts of air pollution, defines NTAA’s air policy priorities, requests a suitable annual budget for Tribal air programs, and highlights the important air quality work being conducted in Indian Country. Continue reading for key points from the report. The full report can be found on the NTAA’s website <https://www.ntaatribalair.org/status-of-tribal-air-report/>

Tribal Air Program Statistics

Tribes received slightly fewer total CAA grants in 2023 (120 grants) compared to 2018 (122 grants), but the number of mature Tribal programs has grown significantly over time. Additionally, more Tribes in 2023 had approved Treatment as a State status(71), Tribal Implementation Plans, State and Tribal Indoor Radon Grants, and ambient monitoring programs than in 2018(61 Tribes with TAS).

Tribes received many non-Clean Air Act grants from the U.S. EPA in 2023. Specifically, Tribes received 90 Climate Pollution Reduction Grant planning grants, and 19 Tribes received an American Rescue Plan Enhanced Air Quality Monitoring Competitive Grant. Tribal and Territory Diesel Emissions Reduction Act grants were disbursed in 2024.

While the number of areas in nonattainment largely stayed the same nationally between 2018 and 2023, the number of areas in nonattainment in EPA Region 9 decreased from 154 to 100 from 2018 to 2023, indicating air quality improvements. Areas in nonattainment in Region 6 increased from 0 to 1, reflecting either air degradation or the NAAQS being made stricter over the six-year period.



Photo credit: Farley Ketchum Jr.
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe



Data Feature on Oil and Natural Gas Wells

The “Data Feature” section is a new addition to the STAR in 2023. The 2023 Data Feature highlights emissions from oil and natural gas wells, considering their prevalence on Tribal Lands in the central U.S. In 2023, 64,000 oil and natural gas wells producing up to 40 barrels of oil equivalent per day operated on Tribal Lands, almost 90% of which were marginal conventional wells (MCWs). Plugging and abandoning MCWs may significantly reduce methane emissions in Indian Country.

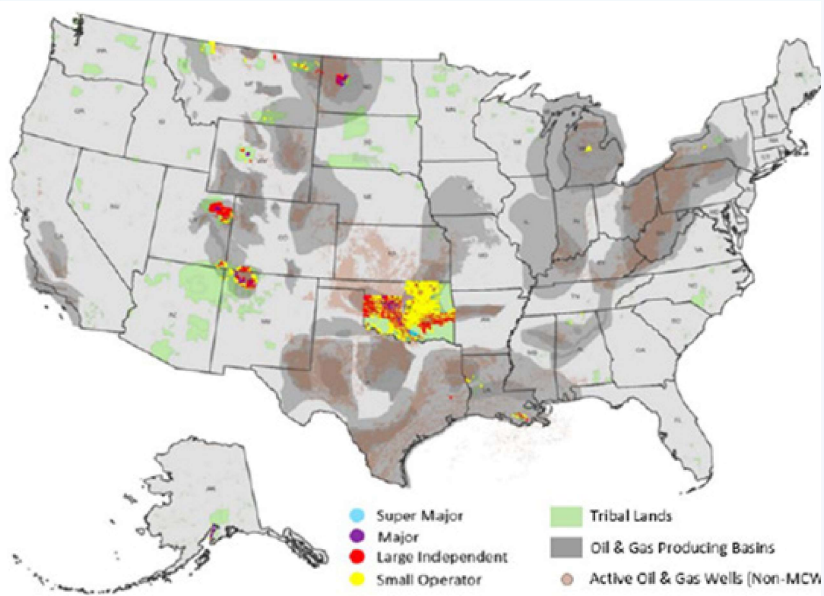
NTAA Priority Issues and Budget Request

The NTAA’s 2023 Priority Issues were based on a survey of member Tribes and focus on three main themes: consultation, funding, and air policy. Related to funding, the NTAA determined the budget need for Tribal air programs in 2023 to be \$79 million, while the EPA’s STAG budget for Tribal air programs was \$15.5 million. The EPA’s STAG budget has limited the ability of Tribes to access funds for new air programs and has inhibited the maintenance and growth of existing air programs. Additionally, while IRA and ARP funds are helpful, they are one-time infusions of resources that cannot sustain programs long-term.

Tribal Case Studies

Tribal Case Studies showcase the important work that Tribal air programs conducted in 2023. The 2023 case studies cover projects focused on leveraging funding sources, engaging with Tribal communities, and more. The case studies include programs nationally, from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community to the La Posta Band of Mission Indians.

Visit the [NTAA website](#) for the full report.



Credit: U.S. Department of Energy and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



Photo credit: Eric Baca, Pueblo of Santa Ana



**NATIONAL TRIBAL
AIR ASSOCIATION**

WEBINAR PFAS and Air Quality

PFAS

PFOS (Perfluorooctanesulfonic acid)



PFOA (Perfluorooctanoic acid)



[Join Meeting](#)

October 3, 2024

4pm ET, 3pm CT,
2pm MT, 1pm PT

Speakers

Laura McKelvey

National Tribal Air Association

Dr. David Gay, Coordinator,
National Atmospheric
Deposition Program

Brandy Toft, Environmental
Director, Leech Lake Band of
Ojibwe

Syndi Smallwood, Moderator,
Environmental Director Jamul
Indian Village of California



LOGO DESIGN CONTEST

The National Tribal Air Association (NTAA) Executive Committee is seeking artists interested in updating the NTAA logo. The NTAA is looking for a logo that best represents our mission statement. The NTAA wants YOU to create our next logo.

Guidelines:

- Represents the [NTAA mission](#)
- A color scheme focusing on blues
- Represents air/wind, but does not look like water
- Circular design preferred
- Symbolizing the four directions, but not required
- Can include or not include text - if text is included, can be "NTAA" or "National Tribal Air Association"

Prize: \$500 honorarium and free admission to the 2025 National Tribal Forum on Air Quality

Enter to Win!

Notify your intent to submit by
September 30, 2024

Deadline for logo submission
November 8, 2024

Please submit your NTAA logos
to: Laura McKelvey
(lauradmckelvey@gmail.com)

