



NTAA EC In-Peron MEETING NOTES
September 25, 2024

NTAA Executive Committee: Primary and Alternate Representatives in Attendance
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Region 1	Marvin Cling	X	Region 5	Brandy Toft	X	Region 9	Syndi Smallwood	X
	Josh Paul			Vallen Cook	X		Lisa Gover	X
Region 2	Angela Benedict		Region 6	Tara Weston	X	Region 10	Lucas Bair	X
	Steve Smith	X		Kristy Lawson	X		Caleb Minthorn	
Region 3	Vacant		Region 7	Billie Toledo	X	Alaska	Vacant	
	Vacant			Kurt Lyons		Alaska	Vacant	
Region 4	Amy Smoker	X	Region 8	Janice Archuleta	X			
	Tiffany Lozada/Chris Head			Randy Ashley	X		Quorum Reached	X

EPA Representatives and others		
Pat Childers	OAR	
Jason Walker	NTC	
James Payne	OAQPS	
Hillary Ward	OAQPS	

NTAA Staff / Fiduciary Representatives	
Laura McKelvey, NTAA	X
Mehrdad Khatibi, ITEP	X
Program Manager Vacant	
Program Coordinator Vacant	
Davina Whitethorne NTAA	

X = present on the call

NTAA Action Items Generated During This Call

ACTION ITEMS	RESPONSIBLE PARTY	DUE DATE
ACTION ITEM 1: Send Thank you note to Janet McCabe And Jane Nashita ASAP	Laura McKelvey	10/3/2024
ACTION ITEM 2: Action Item: NTAA to considering providing a support letter, and determine potential support role.	Laura McKelvey & Mehrdad Khatibi in coordination with research team	Early November
ACTION ITEM 3: Research team will send a couple of scenarios for NTAA participation. Add discussion and vote to next EC agenda for these scenarios.	NTAA staff, Chairwoman and Secretary	November meeting

NTAA EC Standing Monthly Meeting

September 25, 2024

NTAA Executive Committee Caucus, NTAA Staff and Invited Guests only

Vallen, Amy, Janice, Steven, Billie, Steven, Lucas, Brandy, Marvin, Tara
Online: Mehrdad, Pat, Randy, Kristy, Lisa

9:00am – 9:45am: EPA Office of Radiation and Indoor Air (ORIA) Briefing with NTAA Executive Committee

Office Director, Jonathan Edwards, Radiation Protection Division Deputy Director, Rick White, Dan Schultheisz, Tribal Air Coordinators, Danielle Montecalvo and Ellen Wang Center for Radon and Air Toxics, Director, Bill Long and Team Member, Peggy Bagnoli, and Kristina Synder, Pat Childers, OAR Senior Advisor, Tribal Program Management

Topics Include:

- a. High Assay Low Enriched Uranium (HALU) Reactors and Fuel Cycle Plans and EPA involvement – Currently all the uranium for the pilot mills will come from White Mesa. Right now, EPA is aware of pilot projects and is working with DOE. The Pilot reactors are being tested by different companies and are currently using different technologies and different fuels. They are also designed to move which shifts the risks to multiple areas. EPA is currently in a tracking role and not in a

regulatory role. The mini reactors look to be at least 5 years away some are looking to repurpose old coal or reactor sites like 3-mile island. Most are currently doing their NEPA reviews.

Tribes are concerned that the Tribal liaison with NRC are not effectively doing outreach with Tribes.

- b. ORIA & HUD coordination on radon & IAQ: HUD requirement for Tribes extended for two years. Kansas State has a training effort. They are working through Pat and Mansel to coordinate with ITEP.
- c. SIRG Budget: Grants were issued by the Regions. Each Region did a tribal set aside. This was the first year and seemed to be successful. ORIA will continue to learn and improve. Some Regions are doing a better job of outreach to the Tribes and asking for what the Tribes truly need instead of giving the Tribes a set amount.
- d. HUD implementation for new Radon Mitigation Policy Discussion: HUD representative provided a presentation of new Radon policy requirements. New requirements go into effect for Tribes January 11, 2026. More details provided in this [HUD presentation](#).

9:50am – 10:35am: EPA Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) Briefing with NTAA Executive Committee

Invited guests: Assistant Administrator for OAR Joe Goffman, Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Alejandra Nunez, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Tomás Elias Carbonell, Deputy Assistant Administrator for Implementation Jennifer Macedonia, Sebastian Irby, Maria Laverdiere and Pat Childers, OAR Senior Advisor, Tribal Program Management

Topics Include:

- a. 2023 STAR Update
- b. EPA's Plan for Addressing the Request for Reconsideration on the Taconite Rule
 - Final Rule issued in March 2024
 - Petitions received from Fond du Lac
 - Still reviewing all requests for reconsiderations
 - Fond du Lac also filed a petition to stay the rule.
- c. Update on Inflation Reduction Act grant programs
 - Pat Childers provided updates on several IRA grant programs.
- d. CPRG Update
 - 31 Tribes, 2 Tribal Consortia, 1 territory – Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands – competitive grant

- <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/cprg-implementation-grants-tribes-and-territories-competition-selections#map>

e. Discussion

Action Item: Send a thank you letter to Janet McCabe. Send letter of congratulations to Jane Nishida.

10:40am – 11:15am: EPA Office of Atmospheric Protection (OAP) Briefing with NTAA Executive Committee

Invited guests: Director Paul Gunning, Tribal and Environmental Justice Coordinator Erica Bollerud and Pat Childers, David Schmeltz and Melissa Puchalski, OAR Senior Advisor, Tribal Program Management

Topics include:

- a. Update on CASTNET/NADP Monitoring Program/Workgroup
 - CASTNET measures specific Toxics and is managed by BLM. NADP has several networks under that umbrella and has 80 funding programs, which allows it to be a broader program
 - SO2 sites and some NO/NOy sites are being closed to provide cost savings. Focus is shifting to air toxics.
- b. PFAS monitoring project & webinar
 - There are several Tribal sites conducting deposition monitoring
 - On November 4th there will be a panel at NADP meeting, field trip to Wolf Bridge. For more details please go to: <https://nadp.slh.wisc.edu/nadp2024/> Reach out to David or Melissa at NADP for any questions.
 - How do Tribes get involved? Have a monitoring site and work with NADP: NADP is looking for people to participate on their committees. Used equipment can also be recycled
 - Haskell University in the process of establishing their CASNET site.
- c. Discussion
 - a. Busy year with Methane grants and regulatory updates on the GHG reporting rule.

11:20am – 12:05pm EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs (OITA) and American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO) Briefing with NTAA Executive Committee

Invited guests: Principal Deputy Assistant Administrator Rafael DeLeon; AIEO Director Kenneth Martin; Lisa Berrios; Caroline Klos; AIEO Program Analyst Daniel Vaught and Pat Childers, OAR Senior Advisor, Tribal Program Management

Topics Include:

- a. Executive Order 14112
 - Briefing on EO 14122
 - [Clearinghouse | Indian Affairs \(bia.gov\)](#)
 - Listening Session: We encourage you to register as soon as possible using this link:
<https://www.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltdOCqqj4tE666WWndnfMivfNNQJzHTtA>

- b. Update on the NTC Reorganization Proposal
 - Upcoming letter on planned commitments on moving forward
 - NTC will form a workgroup: 4 Tribal reps, 4 EPA, Director Martin for AIEO
 - At this time open to all information, no deadline on this action. Planning to work quickly to get a product and to complete the NTC Charter
 - Send suggestions to NTC Chair Tabitha Langston (tabitha.oto@gmail.com) and AIEO Director Kenneth Martin (Martin.Kenneth@epa.gov)

12:05pm – 1:30pm: Lunch (prepaid lunch delivered)

1:45pm – 4:00pm: Working Session with Dr. Kyle Whyte University of Michigan
Invited guests: Dr. Kyle Whyte, Dimitris Goundaridis, Josh Newell, Ben Leffel, Pat Childers, OAR Senior Advisor, Tribal Program Management

Topics include:

- (1) Brief Overview of Research Project
 - Project looking to existing data sources such as Toxic Release Inventory, AQS, and other appropriate publicly available sources to determine if air pollution “hot spots” existing within Indian Country to warrant further investigation.
 - Are there tribal areas that disproportionately polluted compared to another territory?
 - Researchers want to fill knowledge gaps – want to provide story maps, give access to the map to NTAA and work towards possible solutions
 - What is the scope of the pollutant coverage? Looking at pollutants that are detectable, want self-reported data, have your group looked at criteria pollutants that at the EPA website, NEI has toxics info, <https://www.epa.gov/air-emissions-inventories/national-emissions-inventory-nei>

- ALA is doing supplemental studies with satellite data on PM that could be beneficial to this project. As well as data that EDF has on methane data set early next year
 - It may be a good idea to use this information and map where there are monitors, this would assist NTAA to show where there are monitoring gaps – AQS and Toxics which has a public website, there is a site for researchers, AQS, NEI, AQI, ITEP also has QREST which is an open source for Tribes to submit data to and can submit from there to AQS, NATA (National Air Toxics Assessment Assessment)
 - EPA Toxic Release Inventory: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program>
 - GHG inventory optional to send to NEI,
 - CAFO (Consolidated Animal Feedlot Operations) use this information to augment the study (this is sensitive for EPA), methane studies
 - Tribes are under State PQAQ like Leech Lake and Vallen’s Tribe, Eastern Cherokee has their own PQAQ
- Overview National Science Foundation grant opportunity

(2) Getting a better understanding of the information sources and suggestions on other potential

- Overview of data sources proposed by the researchers
- Discussion about other potential data sources (NEI, NATA)
- Tribal inventories that aren't included in the NEI (if Tribes want to share them) **Make sure to evaluate Alaska tribal areas in the grant.**

(3) What support or roles would NTAA be interested in?

- Formal role: or grant partner (subcontract or collaborative research)
 - Grant will be led by Univ of Las Vegas, Univ of Michigan will be a collaborator.
 - Potential for NTAA to be a sub-awardee or contractor
 - The next deadline for submitting a proposal is January 2025. The grant budget is approximately \$400,000.

Action Item: NTAA to considering providing a support letter, and determine potential support role.

- Timeline: end of October for the decision on whether to be a sub-awardee or contractor and to get a support letter with budget

Action Item: Add discussion and vote to next EC agenda for these scenarios.

- What will the cultural impacts be from deposition for ex: from methane. What are the health impacts that will be looked at?
- Who will own the data? NTAA is requesting co-ownership, co-producers if appropriate within the project design.
- Practical work to support the project:
 - Outreach to gather information, can NTAA give assistance with outreach and in what way?
 - Facilitation with other Tribal organizations such as TAMS
 - Dissemination of project updates and preliminary and final results, for feedback and awareness
 - Depending on the results, a co-authorship and/or reference plan for NTAA
 - NTAA may produce its own documents or create conference sessions, depending on the results

(4) Plan for information for the 2024 or 2025 STAR

- How will grant timeline and work timeline for research align with STAR timelines? This remains to be answered based on results of application and award.
- What should the researchers know in advance to tailor their work to be ready for featuring in STAR?

(5) What's next?

- Do we want a working group to meet periodically for input and progress? To be determined.
- What's the best mode of communication? Email for now, and perhaps future NTAA EC calls.