



NTAA Monthly Update MARCH 2025

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NTAA Executive Committee Spotlight

Yá'át'ééh/Greetings!

Tsénabahitnii nishł, Bilagáana bashishchiin, Naasht'ézhí Dine'é dashicheii, Kintichíí'nii dashinalí.

For those who know me or those I have yet to meet me, I am the Region 6 primary representative and the Vice Chair for NTAA. I work for the Pueblo of Santa Ana in New Mexico as their Environmental Program Manager, dividing my time between managing their air quality and brownfield programs. Our air program began with a 103 grant in 2017 and has been sustained through 105 funding after we received TAS in 2019.

My first experience with Tribal air was as an ITEP summer intern hosted by the Inter-Tribal Council of Michigan in the Upper Peninsula. Little did I know this would mark the beginning of a career supporting Tribal environmental programs in various capacities. Since then, I have worked with environmental remediation, water quality, and solid waste programs, always striving to use my experience and education to assist Tribal communities. We, as Native people, have an inherent connection to the land and a responsibility to protect and preserve Mother Earth for current and future generations. As we all face new challenges, I encourage you to reflect on your origin story that led you into the environmental field and what fuels your passion to advance the



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Newsletter:

The NTAA Monthly Update is a monthly e-newsletter providing updates and resources to Tribes regarding air policy, grants, and resources. To advertise an announcement, please email Miranda O'Neill - Miranda.ONeill@nau.edu
To subscribe or unsubscribe from our newsletter, click [here](#).

Find us at:

www.ntaatribalair.org

important work you do in your communities. We have demonstrated our resilience and strength against immeasurable hardships in the past and will continue to do so well into the future.

Please reach out if you have any questions, or concerns, or want to make connections in the Tribal air world. I look forward to seeing you fellow airheads at NTFAQ in sunny Southern California!

Stay strong, and yéego on.

Tara Weston
Vice Chair, National Tribal Air Association

Feature Article



Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Air Quality Program Katie Tiger, EBCI Air Quality Program Supervisor



The Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI) initiated ambient air monitoring in 1999 as an environmental protection effort in response to growing concerns about air quality in relation to human health, culturally significant natural resources, and loss of visibility. The primary objective of the EBCI Air Quality Program (AQP) is to protect human health and natural resources by identifying any violations of the criteria pollutants (ozone and PM_{2.5}) National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) within the EBCI boundary.

Over the years the AQP has grown into much more than the standard ambient air monitoring program. The EBCI AQP strives to implement renewable energy and fuel solutions to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions in the region. EBCI AQP staff are leading ongoing efforts with federal, state, and university partners to create long-term climate resilience plans and strategies for the EBCI community. Aside from the normal ambient air monitoring efforts, some recent projects include the Sensor Network and Community Alert System (highlighted in this newsletter), the Carolinas Collaborative on Climate, Health, and Equity and the Native Electric School Bus programs, which will be highlighted in the April newsletter.

Sensor Network and Community Alert System

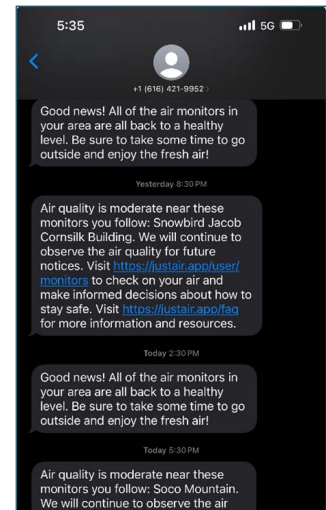
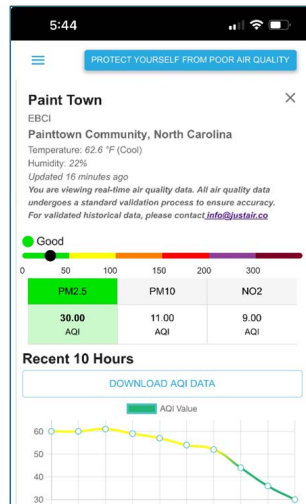
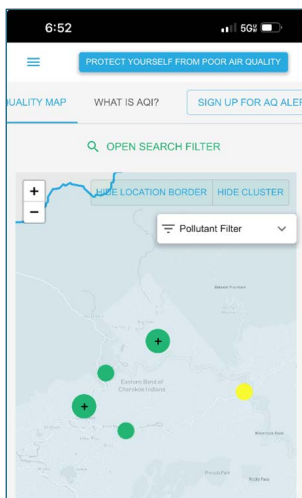
The EBCI AQP established a boundary wide air sensor network and alert system to enable community-level characterization of air quality pollutants. A critical piece of establishing this sensor network involved community engagements to (1) raise awareness around EBCI AQP monitoring efforts; (2) inform the placement of air quality sensors across tribal communities and (3) guide the development of an early warning system and real-time data dashboard to map, monitor, and visualize air quality.

The air quality sensor network was implemented and informed by the community engagement efforts and consists of Clarity Node particulate matter and NO₂ sensors, along with meteorology and ozone add-on modules.



The EBCI AQP has placed Clarity Nodes in each of the nine EBCI communities. These sensors were selected because they are powered using solar power and use a cellular modem for data acquisition, which works best in the remote areas of EBCI and USFS lands. All the sensors are connected to the air quality public facing dashboard and community alert system through JustAir.app. The JustAir system sends text alerts to subscribers when the EBCI air quality is a concern for public health.

The EBCI AQP hopes that by engaging the community from the beginning they will be vested in this initiative and be informed when the air quality is impaired from fire on the EBCI landscape for forest and cultural resource management efforts. This initiative is supported by the overarching co-stewardship plan with the USFS.



Pictures: screen shots of the JustAir public facing dashboard and community alert system.

NTAA Announcements

New Tribal Members!

The NTAA now has a membership of 160 Tribes and seven Associate members. The NTAA Executive Committee recently voted in the following applicants:

San Manuel Band of Mission Indians in California joined in 2024

Native Village of Brevig Mission in Alaska joined in 2024

Shoshone Paiute Tribes from the Duck Valley Indian Reservation in Nevada and Idaho joined in 2025

Ada Wilmer an environmental health specialist for Tana Ana Chiefs Conference and serving interior Alaskan Native Villages) in Region 10 is a new Associate member and was voted in by the EC in 2025

Alaska Air Working Group

Wednesday, April 2nd 2025, 12:00 - 2:00 p.m. MTN
Please email Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu if you are interested

Wildfire Smoke Working Group

Thursday, April 3rd, 2025, 1:00 - 2:00 p.m. MTN
Please email Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu if you are interested

NTAA Executive Committee Openings

EPA Region 3 open
Please email Miranda.Oneill@nau.edu if you are interested

State of Tribal Air Report (STAR)

Photos for STAR

If you have photos of your Tribal Air Programs, we would love to feature them in the State of Tribal Air Report. Please email your photos to Marty.Johnson@nau.edu

Regional Priorities for STAR Report

We need your feedback! What issues are important in your Region? Click [here](#) to provide your feedback.

National Tribal Forum on Air Quality (NTFAQ)

Interested in becoming a sponsor? Click [here](#) for the sponsorship packet.



2025 NTFAQ

The 25th Annual
National Tribal Forum on Air Quality
is coming soon!

SPONSORSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE!

**SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS
MAY INCLUDE:**

- INCLUSION OF YOUR LOGO ON OUR WEBSITE
- COMPLEMENTARY REGISTRATION*
- COMPLEMENTARY EXHIBTOR BOOTH*
- LOGO DISPLAYED DURING SPECIFIED BREAKS
- ORGANIZATION NAME PROMINENTLY DISPLAYED AT REGISTRATION AREA

*MAY VARY DEPENDING ON SPONSORSHIP LEVEL

CONTACT ZANE JACOBS AT:
ZANE.JACOBS@NAU.EDU

HARRAH'S RESORT
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA
MAY 19-22, 2025

Logos: INSTITUTE for TRIBAL ENVIRONMENTAL PROFESSIONALS, NTAA NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION, Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center

NATIONAL TRIBAL AIR ASSOCIATION

THIRD ANNUAL FILM FESTIVAL

MAY 19 - 22, 2025
HARRAH'S RESORT SOCIAL
NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY

OPEN TO ALL TRIBES
10 TO 20 MIN FILMS
ENVIRONMENTAL THEME

SUBMISSIONS BY APRIL 25, 2025
TO LAURADMCKELVEY@GMAIL.COM

National Tribal Air Association

NTFAQ BREATH OF FRESH AIR 5K FUN RUN OR WALK

22 May
2025

SUGGESTED DONATIONS \$30
PROCEEDS SUPPORT THE
RINCÓN RECREATIONAL
EDUCATIONAL AND YOUTH
SERVICES PROGRAM

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
LAURADMCKELVEY@GMAIL.COM

NTFAQ 2025 NATIONAL TRIBAL FORUM ON AIR QUALITY

MAY 19-22, 2025
Harrah's Resort Southern California
777 S. Resort Dr Valley Center, CA 92082

REGISTRATION

NEW limited access online option available at no cost.
- \$250 for General Attendee
- \$450 for Exhibitor
Click [HERE](#) to Register

LODGING

The conference will be held at Harrah's Resort & Casino Southern California. Nightly rates for lodging for conference attendees is \$129 plus tax. Reserve your room by May 1st to get the discounted rate.

WEBSITE

Click [HERE](#) to navigate to the NTFAQ Website



ITEP and TAMS Announcements

ITEP Listservs and Newsletters

Want to be in the know about all things pertaining to Tribes and the environment? Join our listservs/and or newsletters! Click [here](#) to view the various listservs, then click on the specific listserv to join.

2025 ITEP Office Hours

Each month ITEP partners with EPA, Tribes, and other content experts to have a lively discussion on a specific topic. Please join us via Zoom, each month participants will hear a short presentation and have the opportunity to ask questions of the host and audience. Hope to see you at a Grants, Indoor Air Quality, or TAMS Center office hour.

Zoom Meeting ID is 659 096 3943; Password: AIAQTP

For more information please contact:

Christal Black Christal.Black@nau.edu

Upcoming Trainings

[Air Quality Data Management](#)

June, TBD

Online Take at Your Own Pace Workshops

Click [here](#) for more information

2025 ITEP OFFICE HOURS

TAMS OFFICE HOURS
Second Tuesday
11:00AM Pacific

- January 14
- March 11
- May 13

TAMS STEERING COMMITTEE AIR MONITORING WORKGROUP
11:00 AM Pacific

- February 11
- April 8th
- June 10

INDOOR AIR QUALITY OFFICE HOURS
Third Thursday
11:00 AM Pacific

- January 23
- February 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 18

GRANTS OFFICE HOURS
First Wednesday
10AM Pacific

- January 8
- February 5
- March 5
- April 9
- May 7
- June 4

OUTREACH & EDUCATION OFFICE HOURS
Third Thursday
12:00 PM Pacific

- January 23
- February 20
- March 20
- April 17
- May 15
- June 18

ZOOM MEETING ID: 659-096-3943
PASSWORD: AIAQTP



US EPA - TAMS Center
4220 S. Maryland Parkway Bldg C
Las Vegas, NV 89119
itep@nau.edu

Tribal Air Monitoring Support Center (TAMS)

[Equipment Loan Program](#)

Equipment for Ambient Air Quality, Indoor Air Quality, and Calibration



EPA Announcements

National Air Toxics Conference

Click [here](#) for more information



Tribal New Source Review Preconstruction Air Permitting Virtual Trainings

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is holding a series of virtual trainings to educate tribal, small business, and industry professionals about the New Source Review (NSR) preconstruction air permitting program as it applies in Indian Country with a focus on the preconstruction air permitting requirements that apply to minor sources of air pollution in Indian Country.

Identifying Facilities Operating Without a Required NSR Air Permit

April 1, 2025, 1 pm to 2 pm EST

[Online meeting Link](#)

Meeting ID: 214 996 704 175

Passcode: U8Bn9j6k

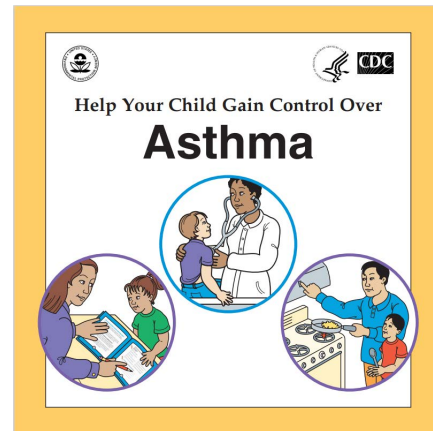
+1 984-444-7480

Phone conference ID: 670 741 723#

Asthma Booklets Available

Help Your Child Gain Control Over Asthma

This brochure offers tips on how to manage asthma and follow simple steps to minimize exposure to asthma triggers found indoors and out. Please email India Young young.india@epa.gov



EPA Wildfire Resources Available

Protect Yourself from Ash [Factsheet](#)

Wildfires and Your Mental Health Resources

[Disaster Distress Helpline](#)

Protect Family Mental Health During Wildfires

[video](#)

Wildfire and Indoor Air Quality

Prepare for a Flood, Landslide, or Mudflow -

EPA [Webpage](#) on Flooding





Other Announcements

ATCEM (Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management)

March 25-28, 2025

ATCEM is hosted by Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium in Anchorage, Alaska Click [here](#) for more information.

Free Tribal Data Management Management Training & Technical Assistance Opportunities



Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions

Come with a question, share a resource of your own, or simply listen to what others have to say.

Held the third Thursday of every month from 10-11am (Pacific Time). Register [here](#).

Kansas State University In-Person CE Courses

Click [here](#) for more information

Kansas State University





National Association for Clean Air Agencies (NACAA)

EPA Nominees Face Senate EPW Questions During Hearing

Aaron Szabo and David Fotouhi testified before the U.S. Senate Committee on Environment and Public Works (EPW), seeking to have their nominations ratified to serve in senior roles at EPA. Szabo, a senior adviser to Administrator Lee Zeldin, has been nominated to serve as Assistant Administrator to head EPA's Office of Air and Radiation; Fotouhi is currently an attorney at the firm of Gibson, Dunn and Crutcher and has been nominated to become the agency's Deputy Administrator.

Click [here](#) for more information

Second Federal Court Issues Preliminary Injunction Blocking Federal Funding Freeze

In response to a motion by 22 states and the District of Columbia, the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island issued a preliminary injunction that bars the federal government from "reissuing, adopting, implementing, giving effect to, or reinstating under a different name" the directives in the January 29th Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Directive M-25-13 that barred "the disbursement and transmission of appropriated federal funds to states under awarded grants, executed contracts, or other executed financial obligations."

Click [here](#) for more information

EPA Refers GGRF to OIG

In a letter from Administrator Lee Zeldin, EPA has formally referred the \$20 billion Greenhouse Gas Reduction Fund accounts held at Citibank to its Inspector General for investigation.

Click [here](#) for more information

D.C. Circuit Acts on More EPA Motions to Place CAA Rule-Challenge Cases on Hold; EPA Tells Court It Intends to Initiate Rulemaking on RMP Rule

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit ruled on three more EPA motions to place cases challenging Clean Air Act rules in abeyance while new agency leadership reviews the rules (for information on previous rulings on abeyance motions, see related article in the February 22-28 Washington Update). EPA stated in these motions that it may decide to take "further action" on the challenged rules (all of which were promulgated under the Biden administration) that would eliminate the need for judicial review.

Click [here](#) for more information



GAO: California Waivers Aren't "Rules"

The U.S. Government Accountability Office (GAO) has reaffirmed its 2023 decision that waivers of preemption granted to California under CAA Section 209 to set standards for mobile sources are decisions of record – not rulemakings – and are therefore not subject to review under the Congressional Review Act (CRA).

Click [here](#) for more information

House passes CRA disapproval of air toxics rule on tire manufacturers

Using the CRA, the U.S. House of Representatives has voted to 216 to 202 to disapprove a rule promulgated in 2024 addressing air toxics emissions from tire manufacturing.

Click [here](#) for more information

EDF Sues to Compel EPA Response to FOIA Request on Endangerment Finding

The Environmental Defense Fund (EDF) filed suit in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia over EPA's failure to respond to the group's January 29th Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) request for correspondence and records of EPA transition team members and political appointees related to the 2009 Endangerment Finding.

Click [here](#) for more information

Senate Democrats Seek Explanation of EPA Decision to Reconsider Endangerment Finding

Thirteen Senators submitted a letter to EPA Administrator Zeldin Wednesday demanding answers regarding EPA's decision to reconsider the endangerment finding. Their questions are centered around transparency and scientific support, including what new scientific evidence justifies the reversal of the endangerment finding, the legal precedent upholding EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gases, and if political or economic pressure is impacting EPA's decision.

Click [here](#) for more information

American Lung Association Report Uses Satellite Data to Identify NO2 Hotspots

The American Lung Association has produced a second volume of its "Something in the Air" report series exploring the use of satellite and other nonregulatory data to identify overlooked pollution issue.

Click [here](#) for more information

European Union Weakens Auto Rules

The European Commission is proposing an amendment to change the way emissions targets are calculated for carmakers, allowing targets to be based on a three-year average, 2025-2027, instead of just 2025 sales.

Click [here](#) for more information



EPA Region 4 Administrator Announced

Kevin McOmber has been selected to serve as the Region 4 Administrator at EPA, based in Atlanta, GA. Currently senior vice president at a construction planning firm, McOmber has expertise in environmental planning, water resources, stormwater management, and sustainable urban development.

Click [here](#) for more information

State Department Ends Air Monitoring Program at U.S. Embassies Abroad

The U.S. State Department has suspended its air monitoring program, under which it collected and reported real-time PM2.5 and ozone data from more than 80 U.S. embassies and consulates around the globe. Data from the monitors are no longer being reported on AirNow, and news reports cite State Department officials confirming that the program has been cancelled due to budget restraints.

Click [here](#) for more information