



Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter



■ **TWAR Steering Committee Meets in Washington DC**

The TWAR Steering Committee recently had their annual February meeting in Washington DC, where they met with their colleagues at US EPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management (OLEM) and also worked on their annual Priority Document.

We were very excited to welcome three new members of the TWAR SC to their first meeting in Washington DC – **Tracy Horst** (Choctaw Nation), **Page Hingst** (Santee Sioux Nation), and **Quinton Jacket** (Ute Mountain Ute). We also welcomed a new member of the ITEP team – **Lisa Vandever**! Lisa joined ITEP in late January, and will be working with the team on all TWRAP and TSWEAP activities. You can view Lisa's biography by clicking her name in the sidebar.

The TWAR SC did extensive outreach to their colleagues across the country in preparation for this meeting and working on the 2019 Priority Document. Once this document is completed in early March, it will be provided not only to senior US EPA personnel, but also the National Tribal Caucus

We here at ITEP consider ourselves very fortunate to work with such an amazing group of people. Each of them give their all to their tribes, but also volunteer their time to serve on this committee. We thank each of them for their dedication and passion!

Meet Our Staff:

Todd Barnell, Program
Manager, TSWEAP and
TWRAP
Todd.Barnell@nau.edu

Julie Jurkowski, Program
Coordinator Sr, TSWEAP
and TWRAP
Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu

Jennifer Williams, Program
Coordinator Sr, TSWEAP
and TWRAP
Jennifer.Williams@nau.edu

Lisa Vandever, Program
Coordinator, TSWEAP and
TWRAP

■ **Full Circle Network**
Did someone forward this
newsletter to you? Send an
email to Todd Barnell to
subscribe or unsubscribe to
the newsletter. Archived
issues can be found at:
www7.nau.edu/itep/waste

You can learn more about the TWAR SC, view their past Priority Documents, and read their bios on their website at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/twarsc/Home/Index>.

■ **Tribal Solid Waste Professionals Lose a Dear Friend**

We recently lost a very dear friend, a man we know touched not only our lives but many of you working in tribal solid waste programs across the country.

For those of you lucky enough to live in the Northeast, where Garrett Smith worked for the US EPA as a Tribal Solid Waste Circuit Rider, you no doubt have many fond memories of working with him on tribal solid waste issues. For the rest of us, we had to wait until the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum each year to spend time with this wonderful man.

Garrett was a regular at the TLEF, and he always seemed to be everywhere at once! He greeted everyone with a huge smile, and he loved having the opportunity to talk with tribal solid waste professionals from across the country. His deep, and passionate, dedication to waste diversion and minimization strategies (especially compost!) was an inspiration to all of us.

We are going to greatly miss his smile at this year's TLEF. But we know his spirit will continue to walk wherever new seeds of sustainability and hope are planted.



■ **Check Out the New Additions to Our Video Page: Water Resources and Tribal Law & Policy**

ITEP has added videos on various water topics and environmental law & policy to their website. The water videos include topics that may be of interest to new employees and professionals that focus on other disciplines. Water videos include presentations on water quality assessments, water management on tribal lands, water law and policy, introduction to water infrastructure and treatment, and introduction to wastewater treatment. The law and policy videos include presentations on cooperative federalism, federal Indian policy and law, federal environmental review processes, the status of Indian tribes in federal law, introduction to tribal law, treatment of Indian tribes like states, tools for engaging with federal agencies, environmental justice, and

an overview of specific laws such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, Safe Drinking Water Act, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, and the Tribal Forest Protection Act.

The water videos can be accessed by selecting the Tribal Water Resources tab at [ITEP's video page](#). Please visit the Tribal Waste & Response tab on [ITEP's video page](#) to access the Environmental Law and Policy videos as well as the other videos that are available.

■ **New ITEP Course Coming in May: Managing Household Hazardous Waste at Tribal Transfer Stations**

ITEP is working with experienced tribal professionals and EPA to develop and deliver a new course, Managing Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) at Tribal Transfer Stations, in Florida on May 7-9, 2019. This tuition-free course is specifically designed for tribes that plan to collect, store, and ship HHW or want to improve their current management practices.

The course will include a field trip to the Seminole Tribe of Florida's transfer station at the Brighton reservation. Tribal professionals will provide additional case studies, and all concepts covered in the course are applicable to all types of designated collection facilities/areas.

Save the dates and sign up online at https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Training/training_waste soon!



■ **Two Tribal Superfund Opportunities Are Coming Soon!**

We have coordinated two different opportunities for tribal professionals working on Superfund and other contaminated sites – a webinar and an in-person training.

- **TSFWG Training and Site Visit:** Navajo Nation. April 2-4, 2019. We are working with the Navajo Nation EPA to bring you a three day training that will also include a site visit to sites in the Cameron area. Some of the topics to be covered include an overview of how the CERCLA Process has been applied on the Navajo Nation; Diné Fundamental Law and TEK; Utilizing

Geospatial Technology; Outreach Strategies and Community Impacts/Engagement in the Cameron area; and Upcoming Disposal Options. While the deadline for this course has passed, **we do have a few spots still available!** If you want an application email Julie.Jurkowski@nau.edu.

- **Webinar on the Influence of Storm-Wildfire Cycles on Radionuclide Contaminant Transport at the Pueblo de San Ildefonso: February 27, 2019 at 11:00 am to 12:30 pm MST.** Kaylene Ritter, Abt Associates and Raymond Martinez and Michael Chacon, Pueblo of San Ildefonso. The Pueblo de San Ildefonso is located directly adjacent and downstream of the Los Alamos National Laboratory (LANL), New Mexico. Releases of hazardous substances from this nuclear facility dating back to the 1940s have resulted in a legacy of contamination, including radionuclides, metals and other contaminants in local canyons. In particular, canyon-bottom soils and sediments in Los Alamos and Pueblo canyons are contaminated with plutonium and other radionuclides upstream of the Pueblo de San Ildefonso. We evaluated the effect of cycles of wildfire and subsequent storm events on the mobilization and transport of plutonium in the canyons, and impacts to the Pueblo. Forest fires, including the 2000 Cerro Grande and the 2011 Las Conchas fires, have resulted in decreased soil/sediment retention in the canyon watersheds, and increased sediment transport during subsequent storm events. This has in turn resulted in mobilization and downstream transport of sediment-bound plutonium contamination, and deposition on Pueblo lands.

■ Other News of Interest

6th Annual National Joint Tribal Emergency Management Conference

This year's conference is being hosted by the **Oneida Nation**, and will take place August 19-23, 2019. It will bring together tribal emergency planners from across the country, as well as federal, state, and municipal emergency management and hazard mitigation professionals. For more information please visit www.ntemc.org.

EPA Acting Administrator Announces First-Ever Comprehensive Nationwide PFAS Action Plan

Acting Administrator Andrew Wheeler announced EPA's Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances (PFAS) Action Plan. This historic PFAS Action Plan responds to extensive public interest and input the agency has received over the past year and represents the first time EPA has built a multi-media, multi-program, national communication and research plan to address an emerging environmental challenge like PFAS. EPA's Action Plan identifies both short-term solutions for addressing these chemicals and long-term strategies that will help provide the tools and technologies states, tribes, and local communities need to provide clean and safe drinking water to their residents and to address PFAS at the source—even before it gets into the water.

- **Information** - <https://www.epa.gov/pfas>
- **Action Plan** - <https://www.epa.gov/pfas/epas-pfas-action-plan>
- **Press Release** – <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-acting-administrator-announces-first-ever-comprehensive-nationwide-pfas-action-plan>
- **Supporting Tribes on PFAS** - <https://www.epa.gov/sciencematters/supporting-states-tribes-and-communities-pfas>



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Learn more...

➔ **[Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program \(TWRAP\)](#)**

TWRAP is a program focused on assisting tribes with all waste management, brownfields, USTs, contaminated sites, and response programs. This program is funded by the USEPA's Office of Land and Emergency Management.

➔ **[Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program \(TSWEAP\)](#)**

TSWEAP's focus is providing training and assistance to tribes working on solid and hazardous waste management and diversion. This program is funded by the USDA, IHS, and USEPA.