



# FULL CIRCLE

Waste Management & Tribal Response



Newsletter for Tribes

## Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

Tribal Solid Waste Education and Assistance Program  
Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program

March/April 2021 Vol.13, Issue 2

### Welcome to Full Circle Newsletter

#### ■ The TLEF Will Be Virtual

While all of us are very much looking forward to having in-person events again, we have decided that we will be conducting the 2021 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum on a virtual platform. The progress made by the many amazing scientific and medical professionals around the world is nothing short of miraculous. And we are all thrilled that vaccines are already showing up in many communities.

However, it is going to take some time before we feel that it is safe to bring a large group of people together again for the TLEF. After many discussions, and a lot of research, we have decided to design a new TLEF: A Virtual Gathering for you. We have chosen a new platform for this year, and are exploring new ways to create a true online community for you, so you can connect with your friends, recharge your batteries, and maybe even learn a few new tips and tricks.

We'll send you updates soon, but in the meantime do please make a note on your calendars! The TLEF will be held online **August 16 through 19, 2021**

One silver lining is we doubled the number of people who attended the TLEF last year, as it did not require any travel. While online events will never replace our coming together in-person, it does create an opportunity for us to meet so many new colleagues we may not have met otherwise. And we are very grateful for all the new people we met in 2020, as well as seeing so many old friends!

All of us send our wishes for peace and good health to you, and we hope you'll be able to join us at the 2021 TLEF!

#### ■ Accepting Applications for the TWAR Steering Committee Soon

We are now accepting applications from Tribal professional interested in serving on the **Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee (TWAR SC)**. This committee is composed of ten dedicated people working in the fields of solid waste, Superfund, USTs, emergency response, and brownfields for Tribal Nations and Alaskan Native Villages.

The TWAR SC is one of seven official Tribal Partnership Groups, supported by US EPA cooperative agreements. They produce an annual Priority Document, that provides senior US EPA staff with feedback on Tribal concerns and priorities; assist ITEP with the TLEF and other activities; serve as mentors to their Tribal colleagues across the country; work in cooperation with other Tribal Partnership Groups; and provide US EPA with Tribal feedback on a regular basis.

If you, or one of your colleagues, is interested in applying you can access the online application

#### Meet Our Staff:

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■ **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](http://www7.nau.edu/itep/waste)

at: <http://bit.ly/2021TWARSCApp>.

We encourage you to all visit the TWAR SC's website at <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/twarsc/Home/Index> where you can learn more about their work, and see if you'd be interested in joining their team!

### ■ **Virtual Mentoring Opportunities Are Available!**

While we are not conducting the onsite mentor matches we have done the past several years, we have started putting together special mentor matches that are taking place online. We've been able to pair several Tribal staff with peers on video chats over the past year, helping them share ideas and resources with one another. And we are expanding this opportunity to cover all the media we work on: Superfund, USTs, solid waste, emergency response, and brownfields.

If you are facing a specific challenge, and think it might be helpful to connect with a peer to help you find some possible solutions, we have created a new online form you can fill out. We'll be reviewing applications each quarter, with the first evaluation taking place on January 25. After we review your application, we'll let you know if we think we might be able to find you a good mentor or not.

You can access the mentor match application at: <http://bit.ly/ITEPMentorProgram>.

### ■ **Annual TSFWG Meeting: Hosted Virtually by the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe**

As we continue to do what we can to protect our relatives both near and far, and yet still create opportunities for us to learn from one another and share, we holding this year's annual meeting of the Tribal Superfund Working Group virtually. We are very excited to work with our friends at the Saint Regis Mohawk Tribe on this special event. The meeting will be taking place over six different days: **March 29, 30, 31 and April 6, 7, 8, 2021**. Each day's activities will build on each other, and will include two hours of presentations, Q&A, and discussion (from 3:00 – 5:00 pm EST), with a 30 minute optional networking time before the presentations. In order to create an atmosphere where everyone can share, we will be limiting the number of people accepted for this event. To learn more about what is on offer, and to apply, please visit [http://bit.ly/TSFWG\\_SRMT\\_VIRTUAL](http://bit.ly/TSFWG_SRMT_VIRTUAL). **The deadline for applications is March 15, 2021.**

### ■ **Terrific Trainings, Webinars, and Opportunities Coming Up!**

**EPA Nominations for NEJAC Membership is Now Open** - The US EPA invites nominations from a diverse range of qualified candidates to be considered for appointment to its [National Environmental Justice Advisory Council](#) (NEJAC). There is a vacancy for one Tribal governments/ Indigenous organizations (1 vacancy). Individuals are encouraged to self-nominate. The nomination process for NEJAC Membership is open until **March 24, 2021**. Learn more about how to submit nominations [HERE](#). Any interested person or organization may nominate qualified persons to be considered for appointment to this advisory council. Individuals are encouraged to self-nominate. The nomination process for NEJAC Membership is open until March 24, 2021. For questions regarding the NEJAC nomination process, please email: [nejac@epa.gov](mailto:nejac@epa.gov).

EPA is providing two offerings of their **Introduction to Spill Prevention, Control, and Countermeasure Regulation (SPCC) Webinar for Tribes**: Wednesday, April 21 at 1:00 PM EDT and Wednesday, July 21 at 1:00 PM EDT. This webinar will acquaint participants with the tools and resources available to assist Tribes in understanding the scope and implementation of the SPCC regulations for above ground storage of oil, the EPA inspection process, spill

notification and response. To learn more about this in-depth training opportunity, and to register, please click on the date that works best for you:

- [Wednesday, April 21 at 1:00 PM EDT](#)
- [Wednesday, July 21 at 1:00 PM EDT](#)

**The USEPA is seeking candidates for an Alaska Tribal Health fellowship position** - The fellow would be working on research assessing health risks and health impacts from waste in rural Alaska, impacting Alaska Tribes. The position is open to applicants who have completed a graduate program within the past 5 years or will have completed a graduate program by June 15, 2021. US EPA is working remotely. When back in offices, the position can be served in one of our EPA offices in Anchorage, AK; Seattle, WA; Cincinnati, OH; or Washington, DC. More information on the position, including application information at the link below. [Applications are due by March 29](#), though I recommend applying sooner if interested, as we may close the announcement before that date. **More information** on the position description and application instructions for, EPA Alaska Tribal Public and Environmental Health Impacts Fellowship can be found at this link through the ORISE program:

<https://www.zintellelect.com/Opportunity/Details/EPA-ORD-CPHEA-HEEAD-2021-01>

**Virtual Tribal Nations Training by the Center for Domestic Preparedness** – A series of special virtual trainings, which will be of interest to those working on Tribal response programs, will be conducted **March 22 through April 30**. A wide variety of subjects will be covered, so please take a look at the document attached to this issue of *Full Circle*. Be aware that registration for each course is the Wednesday *prior* to the week of the course.

**Department of Health and Human Services Webinars on Tribal Consultation** – The HHS is holding a series of webinars in March. These webinars are in response to the Presidential Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships, release January 26. As the President’s memorandum states, “History demonstrates that we best serve Native American people when Tribal governments are empowered to lead their communities, and when Federal officials speak with and listen to Tribal leaders in formulating Federal policy that affects Tribal Nations.” To that end, HHS is seeking your recommendations and feedback on how we can improve the Department’s policies, and practices to better engage with Indian Country through meaningful consultation. Consultation times, dates and links are below:

- **Monday, March 22, 2021** (10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ET): [Register for Regions 1, 2, 3, & 4](#)
- **Monday, March 22, 2021** (2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ET): [Register for Region 5](#)
- **Tuesday, March 23, 2021** (2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ET): [Register for Regions 7 & 8](#)
- **Wednesday, March 24, 2021** (10 a.m. – 1 p.m. ET): [Register for Region 6](#)
- **Wednesday, March 24, 2021** (2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ET): [Register for Region 9](#)
- **Thursday, March 25, 2021** (2 p.m. – 5 p.m. ET): [Register for Region 10](#)

