

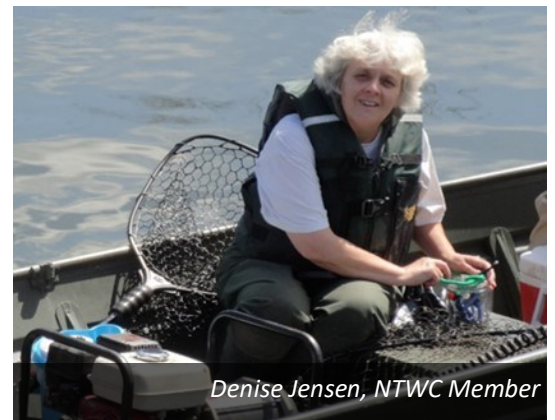


Mother Earth: A Love Story

By Denise Jensen, NTWC Member, Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska EPD

Earth Day is once again quickly approaching, and April 22nd will be upon us without notice or regard for our busy schedules. So, I decided to take a few moments to remind us all to celebrate the planet upon which we live on this very special day. But first comes the science lesson.

Mother Earth is about 4.5 billion years old supporting about 8 billion people. She is the third planet from the sun, the fifth largest planet in our solar system and has one moon. The planet is made up of three different layers: the crust, the mantle, and the core. The crust is the outside layer or surface that we live on. The mantle, the next deeper layer, is mostly solid bulk. The core is the very hot, very heavy center of the planet. She is the right distance from the sun, so she is protected from harmful sun's rays by her magnetic field. She is kept warm by a shielding sky and has the right chemical ingredients for life including water, air, and carbon.



Denise Jensen, NTWC Member

Known as the 'Blue Planet' because water covers about 71% of the Earth's surface and from outer space appears blue, most of the water is found in the oceans. Only about 1% of the Earth's water is available to us for our daily water supply needs. The water on the Earth today is the same water that's been here for 4.5 billion years. We haven't managed to create any new water, just to contaminate it. Just a tiny fraction of our water has managed to escape into space. The only thing that changes is the form that the water takes as it travels through the water cycle. But that's a science lesson for another day.

Mother Earth is a giving planet. She has provided everything we need to survive, such as water, food, shelter, medicine, and natural wonders. Yes, man has created imitation materials, but it all starts with the Mother, much like an infant carried in their mother's womb. She supplies the precious metals that we prize so much; animals that feed our body and our spirits; energy needed to run our cars, homes, and factories; and natural wonders where one can get lost and reconnect on a physical and spiritual level.



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NEWSLETTER

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<https://nau.edu/ntwc>

Mother Earth: A Love Story, By Denise Jensen *(continued)*



She greets us every morning as our feet hit the floor after awaking from our slumber. She creates the sound of the wind whispering through the leaves of the trees, the babble of the water in a stream traveling on its way, the smell of wildflowers dancing in the meadow, the quick glimpse of a deer leaping through thick brush, a choir of birds singing their songs during pre-dawn light, children's laughter as they play, the gentle tapping of rain on the window pane, and so many other wonders as humans we may take for granted. Her voice speaks to us in a quiet whisper, but we are often too busy to hear. Her wisdom guides and grounds us. Her embrace heals, protects, teaches, and nurtures us.

What would make Mother Earth happy? I can speak of the normal things such as conserve water and energy; reduce, reuse, and recycle; plant trees; and eat organic foods. These all sound great and in fact are very important. Most of all, I think, she wants our love. Blessed is the mother whose children love her.

I started this story to express how much we all should love our Mother Earth, but during the journey, she revealed to me how much she truly loves us. So, let's kiss and hug our Mother Earth each and every day the best we can from our hearts. Rejoice in the love story Mother Earth has for us, and as we should have for her in return. Be thankful and express our blessing for her.

Oh, I would not be doing right by Mother Earth if I didn't remind everyone that really when it all comes down to it, every day is Earth Day. Celebrate her.

For more information: <https://winnebago-tribe.com/water-quality/>

Resources obtained from various sources included but not limited to USGS, EcoWatch, and Wikipedia.



UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians Tribal Water Summit on June 26-30, 2023

The Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians are hosting a Tribal Water Summit on June 26-30, 2023, in North Bend, Oregon. Tribes and Native communities are uniquely positioned to advance their sovereign, legal, cultural, and basic human right to clean water. Changing Currents Water summits are inter-tribal convenings designed to bring together staff and leadership from Northwest Tribes and Native communities to foster dialogue and collaboration around common water interests and work toward a shared agenda. The registration fee is \$175 and \$225 after June 1, 2023. To register, please visit: <http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?oeidk=a07ejpd1vj993bf3b49&llr=vlmoveab>

Updates & Announcements *(continued)*

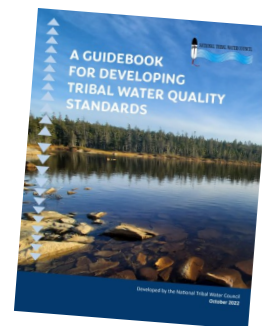
Tribal and State Webinar Series on the Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States” (2023 Rule)

On January 18, 2023, the EPA and the Department of the Army (Army) [published](#) the final “[Revised Definition of ‘Waters of the United States’](#)” rule in the Federal Register. The rule became effective on March 20, 2023. The agencies developed this rule with consideration of the relevant provisions of the Clean Water Act and the statute as a whole, relevant Supreme Court case law, and the agencies’ technical expertise after more than 45 years of implementing the longstanding pre-2015 “waters of the United States” framework. This rule also considers the best available science and extensive public comment to establish a definition of “waters of the United States” that supports public health, environmental protection, agricultural activity, and economic growth.

EPA and the Army hosted a series of webinars in March and April specifically for Tribes and States to learn about the final rule and implementation considerations. Webinar topics included rule overview, relatively permanent standard, significant nexus standard, and exclusions. The webinars, but not the Q&A sessions, were recorded and will be posted to EPA’s website at <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>.

NTWC Tribal Water Quality Standards Guidebook Webinar Recording

On January 26, the National Tribal Water Council held an informational webinar on its “[A Guidebook for Developing Tribal Water Quality Standards](#).” The 90-minute webinar included the purpose and background of the guidebook, tribal legal authority, tribal experiences, and a Q&A session. Webinar presenters included NTWC Chairman Ken Norton, Law Professor James Grijalva, and NTWC members Dan Kusnierz, Yolanda Barney, and Nancy Schuldt. The webinar recording is now available on the NTWC website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>.



GRANT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Climate Pollution Reduction Grants

Deadline: June 15, 2023

EPA’s Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program will provide noncompetitive planning grant opportunities for federally recognized Tribes, tribal consortia, and U.S. Territories interested in participating in the Climate Pollution Reduction Grants program. The Climate Pollution Reduction Grants (CPRG) program will provide grants to states, territories, tribes, air pollution control agencies, and local governments to develop and implement plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and other harmful air pollution. Section 60114 of the Inflation Reduction Act provides an investment of \$5 billion to support these efforts to develop and implement strong, local greenhouse gas reduction strategies. This two-staged grant program provides funding of \$250 million for noncompetitive planning grants, and \$4.6 billion for competitive implementation grants.

The CPRG program will provide significant resources to state, territory, local, and tribal governments to develop ambitious climate action and air pollution reduction plans and to implement measures from those plans.

For more information including grant guidance and information on how to apply, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/inflation-reduction-act/climate-pollution-reduction-grants>.



Membership Recruitment for Region 10 and At-Large Representatives

Applications Accepted until **April 28, 2023**

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water. The Council is currently accepting applications from tribal water professionals for two (2) open voluntary positions.

Region 10 Representative

This voluntary position is open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization from Region 10 (Alaska, Idaho, Oregon, and Washington).

At-Large Representative

This voluntary position is open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally-authorized organization in the United States (Regions 1 through 10).

Member duties include, but not limited, to:

- Participating in monthly conference calls;
- Attending bi-annual meetings; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

We are seeking individuals that are passionate and vocal about tribal water issues. Interested candidates must submit the following: application form, letter of interest, and professional resumé. The application packet may be found at the NTWC's website: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu or (480) 452-6774.



TRIBAL CONSULTATION OPPORTUNITIES

EPA's Proposed Re-Issuance of EPA's General Permit for Ocean Disposal of Marine Mammal Carcasses under the MPRSA

Deadline: April 30, 2023

EPA has initiated consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes on EPA's proposal to reissue the existing General Permit for Ocean Disposal of Marine Mammal Carcasses, pursuant to the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act (MPRSA), also known as the Ocean Dumping Act. Under the MPRSA, general permits expire after seven years. EPA intends to review and reissue this permit as it is set to expire in 2024, after issuance in 2017. The general permit authorizes federal, state, tribal, and/or local governmental authorities, as well as any Alaska Native, who already may take marine mammals under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act, to dispose of all or part of a marine mammal carcasses at sea under MPRSA.

Your tribe may be interested in this general permit because disposal at sea may relate to traditional hunting or whaling practices; however, the permit was developed and intended to avoid interference with such practices. The permit is primarily intended to be used in public health threat situations, for example, after discovery of a carcass washed ashore in an advanced state of decay, and there is not another viable option for the carcass other than disposal at sea. Additionally, during the pre-proposal consultation period, EPA is soliciting input on the reporting requirements described in Section B of the General Permit for Ocean Disposal of Marine Mammal Carcasses. Section B authorizes any Alaska Native to transport and dispose of a marine mammal carcass in ocean waters but requires the permittee to submit a report on disposal activities annually.

EPA held two identical informational webinar and listening sessions on March 15 and April 5. The webinar recordings are available on the EPA website. For more information: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1681:::>

EPA's Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers Point Source Category (OCPSF ELG)

Deadline: May 8, 2023

EPA has initiated consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes on forthcoming proposed revisions to the Organic Chemicals, Plastics and Synthetic Fibers (OCPSF) Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Pretreatment Standards (ELGs). This ELG revision is focused on facilities that manufacture per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Revised limitations on the discharge of pollutants from OCPSF facilities, once finalized by rule, would subsequently be incorporated into National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permits for direct dischargers, and permits or other control mechanisms for indirect dischargers, potentially reducing pollutant discharges into waters of the United States.

PFAS can be found in the environment and in humans across the world as they have been, and continue to be, released into the environment. On September 14, 2021, EPA announced its decision to undertake a rulemaking to determine whether more stringent limitations and pretreatment standards for PFAS manufacturing facilities are appropriate and consistent with the technology-forcing statutory scheme and goals of the Clean Water Act.

EPA plans to hold two identical Tribal Webinar and Listening Sessions on April 13 and April 24, 2023. The first webinar was held on April 13. These webinars will be an opportunity for EPA to provide an overview of this forthcoming rulemaking and to receive input from tribal representatives about this action.

- **Tribal Webinar and Listening Session #2: April 24, 2023, 11:00 AM ET**

To register: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_efCipikCQYWEuxo1PMgZ0A

The deadline to submit comments is May 8, 2023. Consultation materials are also available on EPA's Tribal

Tribal Consultation & Public Comment Opportunities *(continued)*

Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) website located at: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1686:::>. For any questions, please contact Erica Mason, U.S. EPA, Office of Science and Technology, by email at mason.ERICA@epa.gov or by phone at (202) 566-2502.

Proposed Revisions to EPA's Consultation Policy and Treaty Rights Guidance

Deadline: May 19, 2023

EPA's Office of International and Tribal Affairs has initiated tribal consultation and coordination with tribes on proposed revisions to EPA's tribal consultation policy and guidance for discussing tribal treaty rights when consulting with tribes. The consultation and coordination period is scheduled from March 1, 2023 – May 19, 2023. Additional information is available in the consultation notice and plan, and via TCOTS here: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1644:::>

EPA's Consumer Confidence Report Rule Revisions

Deadline: May 22, 2023

On March 28, 2023, EPA announced a Notice of Proposed Rulemaking that would strengthen the Consumer Confidence Report (CCR) Rule making annual drinking water quality reports with important public health information more accessible to residents and businesses across the country. EPA's proposal would support public education by more clearly communicating important information in water quality reports and improving access to the reports.

EPA will be holding an informational webinar on April 20, 2023 for the drinking water professional community. Registration is required to attend. The webinar recording and presentation materials will be made available on the EPA website.

- April 20, 2023 (1:30-3:30 PM ET) - To register, please visit: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/drinking-water-professional-webinar-on-epas-proposed-revised-ccr-rule-tickets-591463141177>

The deadline to submit comments is May 22, 2023. Public comments can be provided at that time at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0260. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ccr/consumer-confidence-report-rule-revisions>

EPA's Proposed PFAS National Primary Drinking Water Regulation

Deadline: May 30, 2023

On March 14, 2023, EPA announced the proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation (NPDWR) for six PFAS including perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid (HFPO-DA, commonly known as GenX Chemicals), perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), and perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). The proposed PFAS NPDWR does not require any actions until it is finalized. EPA anticipates finalizing the regulation by the end of 2023. EPA expects that if fully implemented, the rule will prevent thousands of deaths and reduce tens of thousands of serious PFAS-attributable illnesses.

EPA held an informational general overview webinar of the proposed PFAS NPDWR on March 16, 2023, and another informational webinar about the proposed PFAS NPDWR specifically for water utilities and the drinking water professional community on March 29, 2023. Webinar recordings and copies of the presentation materials are available here: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>.

EPA will be holding a public hearing on May 4, 2023, where members of the public can register to attend and

Tribal Consultation & Public Comment Opportunities *(continued)*

provide verbal comments to EPA on the rule proposal. [Registration](#) is required to attend and the last day to register to speak at the hearing is April 28, 2023. For questions related to the public hearing, please visit: PFASNPDWR@epa.gov.

The public comment period is now open following the proposed rule publishing in the Federal Register on March 29, 2023. The deadline to submit comments is May 30, 2023. Public comments can be provided at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0114. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/and-polyfluoroalkyl-substances-pfas>

EPA's Steam Electric Power Generating Effluent 2023 Proposed Rule

Deadline: May 30, 2023

EPA is proposing to strengthen the wastewater discharge standards that apply to coal-fired power plants. The agency's proposal follows the latest science and applies EPA's authority under the Clean Water Act to reduce discharges of toxic metals and other pollutants from these power plants into waterbodies. The proposed rule would help protect our nation's vital water resources that support safe drinking water, agriculture, industry, recreation activities, and thriving communities.

The proposed rule would establish more stringent discharge standards for three wastewaters generated at coal fired power plants: flue gas desulfurization wastewater, bottom ash transport water, and combustion residual leachate. The proposal would also establish a new set of definitions for various legacy wastewaters, which may be present in surface impoundments prior to more stringent limitations in a discharge permit going into effect.

EPA will be holding two public hearings on the proposed rule.

- April 20, 2023 (10:00AM-2:00 PM ET) - To register, please visit: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_DSW_AHQ4TAyNDyontsoPLw
- April 25, 2023 (1:00-5:00 PM ET) - To register, please visit: https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_e9nLbSnHTZqUDq5JGzAHtQ

The deadline to submit comments is May 30, 2023. You may submit comments online at regulations.gov. The Docket Number is EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0819. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/steam-electric-power-generating-effluent-guidelines-2023-proposed-rule>.

EVENTS & WEBINARS

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing live online training. Each course consists of sequential lessons that are provided in a series of live online classes that are 3-hours in length.

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Wastewater Math: June 13 to July 11, 2023 (Online)
- Wastewater Lagoons Operations & Maintenance: July 24-31, 2023 (Online)

To register or to view the 2023 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Events & Webinars *(continued)*

Tribal Climate Health Project's Tribal Health and Adaptation Peer-Learning Roundtable Webinars

The Tribal Climate Health Project has developed training to assist Tribes to begin to prepare, cope, build resilience to, and recover from the health and other impacts of climate change. This advanced training from the Tribal Climate Health Project is for Tribal-serving practitioners, including environmental and health professionals, who have gained some level of transferable, real-world climate and health knowledge and experience through their work with Tribes. This training is open to Tribes and Tribal-serving professionals throughout the United States who work within the intersections of climate change, health, and community well-being.

Below is the upcoming schedule:

- April 20, 2023: Coordinating climate adaptation and Tribal disaster and emergency management and public health
- May 18, 2023: Conducting advanced planning to prepare for adaptation project implementation

For the complete schedule and more information about the webinars, please visit: <http://ped.palatribe.com/tcha-webinar-vi/>

Native American Water Association

The Native American Water Association is a National Non-Profit, 501(c)6 Organization founded to provide Tribal water and wastewater operators, managers, utility commissions and Tribal leadership with continued training and technical assistance in their goals to: Strengthen tribal sovereignty and Self-determination and protect health and environment in Indian Country.

Below is the upcoming schedule:

- April 26, 2023: Small Water System O&M – Part 2

For more information, please visit: <https://www.nawainc.org/wordpress/>

EPA Watershed Academy's Hazard Mitigation Planning and Water Resource Management Module

This module is intended for water quality and hazard mitigation professionals that are interested in integrating water quality issues and/or nature-based solutions into state or local Hazard Mitigation Plans (HMPs), and highlights the benefits of working across water quality and hazard mitigation programs. Modules in this series can be used as training tools to help planners from both worlds explore activities of mutual interest and benefit. Case studies and examples are provided to assist hazard mitigation planners with integrating water resource programs into HMPs and help watershed planners understand the synergies between water resource plans and HMPs. To begin the course, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy/hazard-mitigation-module>.

Contaminated Site Clean-Up Information (CLU-IN) Training

To register, please visit: <https://clu-in.org/training/>

- May 2, 2023: Environmental Data Management – Best Practices for Achieving and Maintaining Quality within Environmental Data Management
- May 12, 2023: SRP Progress in Research Webinar: Environmental Justice and Emerging Contaminants
- June 13, 2023: Microplastics

Events & Webinars *(continued)*

National Association of Wetland Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

To register, please visit: <https://www.nawm.org/nawm/nawm-webinarscalls/4840-epa-region-10-tribal-wetland-training-webinars>

- April 20, 2023: Monitoring and Assessment Data Collection and Applications for Tribal Wetland Programs
- June 15, 2023: Geospatial Mapping Tools and Techniques for Tribal Wetland Programs
-

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/research-states/epa-tools-and-resources-webinar-series>

- May 17, 2023: National Nutrient Inventory

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-drinking-water-systems-webinar-series>

- April 25, 2023: Manganese
- May 30, 2023: Harmful Algal Blooms and Algal Toxins

EPA Water Utility Resilience Workshops and Webinars

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/register-water-utility-resilience-workshops-and-webinars-now>

- April 18, 2023: Forging Relationships Between Water Utilities and Interdependent Sectors
- May 24, 2023: Addressing Public Water System Cybersecurity in Sanitary Surveys

NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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