



National Tribal Water Council Newsletter | February 2021, Volume 3, Issue 2

ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change Program's Status of Tribes and Climate Change (STACC) Report

In September 2020, the Institute for Tribal Professionals' (ITEP) Tribes & Climate Change Program invited the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC) to collaborate on their upcoming Status of Tribes and Climate Change (STACC) Report. The development of the report is led by Dara Marks-Marino, Nikki Cooley, and Karen Cozzetto of the ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change Program.

Background

The STACC Report focuses on the impacts and responses to climate change from a tribal perspective. The Tribes & Climate Change Program sought contributors to provide narratives and testimonials from tribes, particularly highlighting tribal experiences. The testimonials of tribal members, leaders, and environmental professionals include description of the climate change impacts, continuing challenges, and in some cases solutions to those challenges.

The STACC Report includes two sections: (1) Introduction & Briefing on Climate Change in the Tribal Context, and (2) Impacts and Solutions by Topic. Each section includes subsections that cover various topics related to climate change and its impacts to tribal communities. Section 2 of the report includes, but not limited to, air, water, health, and cultural resources.

The NTWC contributed to the water section of the report. The topics covered within the water section of the report include:

- Overall Water Quality
- Drought and Impacts on Water Security
- Ocean Acidification
- Monitoring for Harmful Algae and Biotoxins
- Water and Food Security
- Flooding Related to Climate Change



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NEWSLETTER

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NTWC Members Contribution

NTWC members Ann Wyatt of the Klawock Cooperative Association, and Daniel Mosley of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe, contributed to the STACC Report. Ann Wyatt participated in coordination conference calls on a regular basis. She was integral in obtaining testimonials from tribes in Alaska. Additionally, Ann provided guidance and recommendations for the ecosystems and biodiversity section in addition to the water section.

Daniel Mosley provided a tribal narrative on how climate change is impacting the water quality and aquatic life of the Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe. He provided data and observations on how the Pyramid Lake's water temperature has increased due to climate change. The increased water temperature has impacted the water quality of the lake.

Additionally, the NTWC's Technical Advisory Committee member Charlie Schlinger contributed to the STACC Report. Charlie researched and reported on flooding due to climate change. For example, the rise of the sea level has impacted coastal regions by causing flooding. He also coordinated a group of subject matter experts as coauthors who contributed to the water section.

Next Steps

The STACC Report is currently in a peer review process. The STACC Report is the first to be developed and published by the ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change Program. With extensive review and editing, the information from the Report may be cited in the upcoming Fifth National Climate Assessment (NCA5), which will be published by the U.S. Global Change Research Program.

The anticipated publication date of the Report is mid-May 2021. Once published, the Report will be accessible on the ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change Program's website. The program plans to publish a second STACC Report in 2023.

The National Tribal Water Council would like to thank the Tribes & Climate Change Program for their invitation to collaborate on this inaugural STACC Report.

Useful Links

Fourth National Climate Assessment (NCA4): [Fourth National Climate Assessment \(globalchange.gov\)](https://www.globalchange.gov/)

ITEP's Tribes & Climate Change Program: [Tribes & Climate Change - Tribes & Climate Change \(nau.edu\)](https://nau.edu/tribes-climate-change/)

Updates and Announcements

NEW! Managing Harmful Algal Blooms in Tribal Waters Webinar Series

In collaboration with the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) and the Sitka Tribe of Alaska, U.S. EPA is hosting a three-part webinar series on the impacts of marine and freshwater harmful algal blooms (HABs) and their toxins. The webinars are scheduled for Wednesday, **March 10**, Tuesday, **March 16**, and Thursday, **March 18** from 10:00 AM to 12:30 PM PST.

Attendees will have the opportunity to:

- Listen to and talk with Tribes from across the country about their experiences addressing the impacts of HABs and their toxins in fresh and marine waters.
- Learn about strategies to build tribal capacity for effectively collecting baseline data on HABs.
- Ask national experts about data collection, funding, outreach, and other HABs management needs.

To register, please visit: [U.S. EPA: Managing Harmful Algal Blooms in Tribal Waters Webinar Series Tickets, Multiple Dates | Eventbrite](#)

NEW! EPA's Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS) Webinar

The Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters (DWMAPS) is an online mapping tool that provides state and utility drinking water professionals, watershed protection groups, source water protection partnerships, and others with information to update source water assessments and prioritize source water protection measures in any location or watershed in the country.

The EPA is hosting a webinar on Thursday, **March 11** at 12:00 PM EST. The webinar topics include, but limited to:

- Find data to support source water assessments and plans to manage potential sources of contamination
- Evaluate accidental spills and releases, identifying where emergency response resources for accidental releases must be readily available
- Promote integration of drinking water protection activities with other environmental programs at the EPA, state, and local levels

To join the webinar: [Click here to join the meeting](#) (Microsoft Teams Meeting)

To call in: (202) 991-0477 Conference ID: 987 360 094#

To learn more about DWMAPS, please visit: [Drinking Water Mapping Application to Protect Source Waters \(DWMAPS\) | Source Water Protection | US EPA](#)

NEW! EPA's Operating and Managing Small Wastewater and Water Utilities Webinar Series

The EPA is hosting a training webinar series for tribal and small community operators and leaders on "Operating and Managing Small Wastewater and Water Utilities." This webinar series will use presentations, case studies, and group discussions how best to operate, maintain, and manage small utilities. The webinars are scheduled from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM PST.

Here are the webinar schedule and topics:

- April 1, 2021: Wastewater Treatment System O&M for Small Communities [Register Here](#)
- April 8, 2021: Drinking Water System O&M for Small Communities [Register Here](#)
- April 15, 2021: Finding and Retaining Good Leaders and Staff [Register Here](#)
- April 22, 2021: Asset Management - Planning for the Future [Register Here](#)
- April 29, 2021: Emergency Response and Cyber Security [Register Here](#)

To learn more about Small and Rural Wastewater Systems, please visit: [Small and Rural Wastewater Systems | US EPA](#)

Updates and Announcements *(continued)*

2021 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Multi-Sector General Permit and Informational Webinar

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) issued the 2021 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Multi-Sector General Permit (MSGP) for stormwater discharges from industrial activity on January 15, 2021. This final permit will become effective on March 1, 2021 and replaces the 2015 MSGP, which expired on June 3, 2020. The 2021 MSGP covers stormwater discharges from industrial facilities in areas where EPA is the NPDES permitting authority and establishes requirements for eligibility, Notice of Intent, effluent limits, inspections, monitoring, and other conditions for 29 sectors of industrial activity. For more information, visit EPA's Industrial Stormwater website: <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/stormwater-discharges-industrial-activities>.

EPA is hosting a second public informational webinar on Thursday, **March 4** from 1:00 PM - 3:00 PM EST on the new 2021 MSGP. This webcast will cover industrial stormwater program basics, discuss the structure and requirements of the new permit, including how to renew coverage or get coverage for the first time, and highlight new provisions and changes from the 2015 MSGP. This webinar will cover the same content covered in the February 18, 2021 webinar, so if you attend that session, please let others register for this one.

To register, please go to: https://meet684417651.adobeconnect.com/eh3tdkcaralp/event/event_info.html

2013-2014 National Rivers and Streams Assessment Report

The National Rivers and Streams Assessment (NRSA) report is one of the four National Aquatic Resource Surveys (NARS) collectively designed to assess the quality of America's water resources. The report describes the results of a nationwide statistical survey that was conducted in the summers of 2013 and 2014 by EPA and its state, tribal, and federal partners. The report and its related documents may be found at: [National Rivers and Streams Assessment 2013-2014 Results | National Aquatic Resource Surveys | US EPA](#)

EPA Signed Final 2021 Financial Capability Assessment for CWA Obligations

On January 12, 2021, EPA signed a federal register notice finalizing the 2021 Financial Capability Assessment (FCA) for Clean Water Act (CWA) Obligations. The 2021 FCA helps communities accurately demonstrate the financial burdens they face and increases EPA's transparency as it consistently applies FCA methodologies across the country.

When announced in the Federal Register, EPA intends that the recommended expanded matrix for water quality standards (WQS) decisions in Appendix D, along with the [electronic spreadsheet tools for the public sector](#), would replace the worksheets and calculations for the public sector sections of the [Interim Guidance for Water Quality Standards](#). This replacement would then guide states and authorized tribes in determining the degree of economic impact for use in WQS decisions for public entities including revisions to designated uses, WQS variances, and antidegradation reviews. To access the pre-publication FR notice and other documents, please visit: [Economic Guidance for Water Quality Standards | Water Quality Standards: Regulations and Resources | US EPA](#)

EPA releases 2019 Toxics Release Inventory National Analysis Report

On January 12, 2021, EPA released its 2019 TRI National Analysis. The TRI tracks the management of certain chemicals from the information reported to EPA each year by facilities located in the U.S. in industry sectors such as manufacturing, metal mining, electric utilities, and hazardous waste management. The data reported to TRI are compiled in a publicly available EPA database. To access the report, please visit: [Introduction to the 2019 TRI National Analysis | Toxics Release Inventory \(TRI\) National Analysis | US EPA](#)

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Revising the Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act

Ends: March 15, 2021

The EPA is initiating consultation and coordination on the revisions to the Final Guidance on Awards of Grants to Indian Tribes under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act. The guidance serves as the primary guidance for Section 106 tribal grant recipients and grant project officers. The goal of the revisions is to improve existing guidance and ensure it serves as a water quality program development roadmap.

The consultation period will end on March 15, 2021. Information on this consultation opportunity and related materials can be found at <https://tcots.epa.gov/>.

Grant Opportunities

Bureau of Reclamation Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Deadline: March 18, 2021

Through the WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects, Reclamation provides 50/50 cost share funding to irrigation and water districts, tribes, states and other entities with water or power delivery authority for small water efficiency improvements that have been identified through previous planning efforts. Projects eligible for funding include installation of flow measurement or automation in a specific part of a water delivery system, lining of a section of a canal to address seepage, or other similar projects that are limited in scope.

Applications are due on March 18, 2021 at 4:00 P.M. (MDT). For more information, please visit: [WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects | Bureau of Reclamation \(usbr.gov\)](#)

Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Exchange Network (EN) Grant Program

Deadline: March 31, 2021

The Exchange Network is a communication, data, and services platform for sharing environmental information to foster informed decision-making, managed under the collaborative leadership of EPA, states, and tribes. In support of the FY 2021 Exchange Network (EN) Grant cycle, the EPA will host a tribal webinar to assist interested tribal applicants on Monday, March 1, 3:00-4:00 PM ET.

Webinar link: [Join conversation \(microsoft.com\)](#)

Dial-In Option (Audio Only) - Number: 1(202) 991-0477; Conf. ID: 859131039#

The webinar will cover the following topics: a brief overview of the EN Grants Program and FY 2021 timeline, critical elements of the Solicitation Notice, notable changes from FY 2020, an overview of new guidance materials and optional templates, special opportunities for tribes, and common mistakes to avoid. The EPA will also be hosting additional general webinars, open to all potential applicants, on February 25th and March 8th. Tribal applicants are welcome to join the general webinars instead of or in addition to the tribal session.

Applications are due on March 31, 2021 at 11:59 P.M. (EST). For more information: <https://www.grants.gov/web/grants/view-opportunity.html?oppld=331293>

Events and Webinars

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. - National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training and 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:

- SDWA Training: March 17-29, 2021
- SDWA Training: April 2-14, 2021

For more information, training schedule, and to register, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

EPA Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series

- March 30, 2021: Disinfection Byproducts Control
- April 27, 2021: Very Small Systems
- May 25, 2021: Harmful Algal Blooms and Algal Toxins

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series>

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

- April 28, 2021: Enhanced Aquifer Recharge: Influence of Stormwater on Groundwater Quality and Aquifer Recharge

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/water-research-webinar-series>

NTWC Members: For more information, visit [Meet the Council](#)

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