



In Memoriam **MICCO EMARTHLA**

April 11, 1967 - January 6, 2020

Micco Emarthla was an Environmental Specialist for the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in Oklahoma. He was a passionate advocate and tribal voice since 2010 when he started working with the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. He served on various committees and organizations on tribal issues including Cultural Director and Water Quality Specialist,

both while actively involved in regional and national organizations including the National Tribal Water Council (Council). He served as a member on the Council for five years. The work he did positively influenced the lives of millions of Americans most of whom are tribal members.

As a tribal citizen and avid outdoorsman, Micco always had the interests of the people and the environment at heart. He understood the complex and unique relationship between people and the environment leading to advancements for tribal citizens and the environment. His involvement and passion for his work helped to elevate tribal issues onto the national stage. With the help of the National Tribal Water Council and others, Micco had expressed his desire for this important and critical work to continue, which the Council will do in his honor.

Micco was born on April 11, 1967 to Walter and Saundra (Sweeden) Emarthla in Tulsa, Oklahoma, where he grew up. He attended Oklahoma State University and received a bachelor's degree in Engineering. He worked as a Deputy at the Payne County Sheriff's Department prior to becoming an Environmental Specialist for the Seneca-Cayuga Nation in 2010. He was proud of his Native American heritage and was a follower of the Longhouse beliefs. He was an avid outdoorsman, loved sports, and loved spending time at the creek and collecting rocks, mowing and chopping wood. He is survived by his wife Brandi Emarthla, seven children, his father, and two siblings. The National Tribal Water Council sends their condolences to the family. He will be missed.

"Micco you are and always be my hero. Until we meet again, dear friend."
Denise Jensen, Region 7, NTWC

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Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

Public Comment Opportunity: Adding PFAS Chemicals to the Toxics Release Inventory

ENDS: February 3, 2020

The EPA is considering including certain per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) to the list of chemicals that companies are required to report to the agency according to the Toxics Release Inventory (TRI). The EPA is requesting public comment on which PFAS to list, how to list them, and determining the reporting thresholds.

Please submit comments through **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-TRI-2019-0375** at www.regulations.gov. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/toxics-release-inventory-tri-program/advance-notice-proposed-rulemaking-adding-certain-pfas-tri>

Public Comment Opportunity: Lead and Copper Rule Proposal

ENDS: February 12, 2020

The EPA's proposed Lead and Copper Rule (LCR) includes a suite of actions to reduce lead exposure in drinking water where it is needed the most. The proposed rule will identify the most at-risk communities and ensure systems have plans in place to rapidly respond by taking actions to reduce elevated levels of lead in drinking water. The public comment period has been extended.

Please submit comments through **Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300** at www.regulations.gov. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/proposed-revisions-lead-and-copper-rule>.

Public Comment Opportunity: Draft Technical Support Document on Implementing the 2019 Recommended Human Health Recreational Ambient Water Quality Criteria or Swimming Advisories for Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin

ENDS: February 14, 2020

The EPA released a draft technical support document, in the form of a questions and answers document, to support the implementation of the EPA's recently published recommended Clean Water Act section 304(a) Recreational Water Quality Criteria or Swimming Advisories for Microcystins and Cylindrospermopsin. The draft technical support document addresses the adoption, assessment and listing for the new recreational criteria.

Please submit written comments to wqs-implementation@epa.gov. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/wqc/draft-technical-support-document-implementing-2019-recommended-human-health-recreational-ambient>.

Tribal Consultation Opportunity: Draft Guiding Principles for Consulting with Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) Corporations

ENDS: April 14, 2020

In 2004, through two Consolidated Appropriations Acts, Congress directed all federal agencies to hereafter consult with corporations established under ANCSA in 1971 "on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order 13175." The EPA has a long history of engaging with ANCSA corporations and now seeks to formalize this process. The proposed action is also responsive to the findings and recommendations of the Government Accountability Office's draft report, "Tribal Consultation Additional Federal Action Needed for Infrastructure Projects (GAO-19-22)," which recommended that the EPA "develop a documented policy or clarify existing policy to implement the statutory requirement to consult with [ANCSA corporations] on the same basis as Indian tribes under Executive Order 13175."

Scheduled outreach:

- An in-person consultation is planned concurrent with the Alaska Forum on the Environment the week of February 20, 2020.
- A national conference call is scheduled for March 2, 2020, from 10:00 – 11:30 AM AKST. The call-in number is: 1-866-299-3188, and the code is: 202-564-9957.

For more information: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

Update: Waters of the United States - Step 2

On January 23, 2020, the EPA and the Department of the Army finalized the Navigable Waters Protection Rule to define “waters of the United States.” Most Clean Water Act regulatory programs—including tribal and state water quality certification programs, pollution permits, and oil spill prevention and planning programs—apply only to “waters of the United States.” The Navigable Waters Protection Rule clearly delineates where federal regulations apply and gives state and local authorities more flexibility to determine how best to manage waters within their borders.

The agencies will be hosting a public webcast to help explain the key elements of the final rule. Please note that this is a webcast, not a webinar. There will not be an opportunity for questions and answers, and participants must join via an internet-connected device (there will be no dial-in audio).

Public Webcast Discussing the Final Navigable Waters Protection Rule

February 13, 2020; 12:00 PM - 1:00 PM MST

To register, please visit: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/4984953028082855948>



Upcoming Events

Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. – Tribal Operator Certification Training

This course is for tribal drinking water treatment facility operators. Course topics include, but not limited to, intro to surface water, groundwater and wells, water treatment processes, regulatory compliance, Safe Drinking Water Act, water safety, and math relating to water

facility operations. For more information, please visit http://itcaonline.com/?page_id=2987

- **Water Distribution - Level 1**
March 9-12, 2020; Laughlin, NV
April 6-10, 2020; Flagstaff, AZ
- **Water Treatment - Level 1**
April 20-24, 2020; Mobridge, SD

Native American Water Association - Available Trainings

The Native American Water Association provides tribal water and wastewater operators, managers, utility commissions and tribal leadership with training and technical assistance. For more information on the training events, please visit https://www.eventbrite.com/o/native-american-water-association-22061331832#live_events

- **Sustainable Management of Rural and Small Water Utilities**
February 25, 2020; Hollywood, FL
March 24, 2020; Sacramento, CA

Association of State Wetland Managers, Inc. – Building Wetland Program Capacity in an Ever-changing Environment

April 7-9, 2020

Registration Fee: \$375 member/\$510 non-member

An annual meeting for state and tribal wetland program managers that will cover changes to Clean Water Act and how states and tribes need to re-evaluate their programs in order to protect state/tribal waters.

The deadline for abstracts is January 3, 2020 and early bird registration ends on January 30, 2020. Limited travel scholarships are available and the deadline to apply is March 6, 2020. For more information, please visit: <https://www.aswm.org/wetland-programs/state-wetland-programs/10209-2020-state-meeting>

Funding Opportunity

EPA Environmental Justice Grant Opportunity

Application Deadline: February 7, 2020

The Environmental Justice Collaborative Problem-Solving (EJCPS) Cooperative Agreement Program provides funding to support community-based organizations in their efforts to collaborate and partner with local stakeholder groups (e.g., local businesses and industry, local government, medical service providers, and academia) as they develop and implement community-driven solutions that address environmental and/or public health issues for underserved communities. The EJCPS program will award approximately \$1.2 million nationwide for this competitive opportunity. The EPA anticipates issuing 10 awards (1 per EPA region) of up to \$120,000 each. These awards are for two-year projects.

Deadline for proposal submission is **Friday, February 7, 2020**. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/environmental-justice/environmental-justice-collaborative-problem-solving-cooperative-agreement-0#tab-2>



Resources

Tribal Climate Health Project

This is a national webinar training series on how to develop a climate change adaptation plan that addresses both environmental and human health impacts. The training provides tools, templates and other resources to help tribal environmental and health professionals.

- February 18, 2020 (11:00 AM – 12:30 PM MST)
- March 17, 2020 (10:00 AM – 11:30 AM MST)

For more information, visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/8077001825854440972>

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

- February 26, 2020: Science to Support and Implement Microbial Water Quality Criteria
- March 25, 2020: Water Treatment Modeling Tools for Removing PFAS and other Organic Contaminants

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

Technical Assistance Webinar Series: Improving CWA-NPDES Permit Compliance at Small Wastewater Treatment Systems

- February 19, 2020 (1:00 – 3:00 PM EST) Troubleshooting Facultative Wastewater Lagoon Systems Part 1

To register, please visit: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/111251188694335500>



NTWC Monthly Newsletter Reader Survey

We are inviting our readers to complete a brief survey about our monthly newsletter's content. Your feedback is greatly appreciated and it will be helpful in considering future water-related topics that we may include this year.

You may access the survey by clicking [here](#).

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

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