



Tribal PFAS Working Group - A Review of 2021 Activities

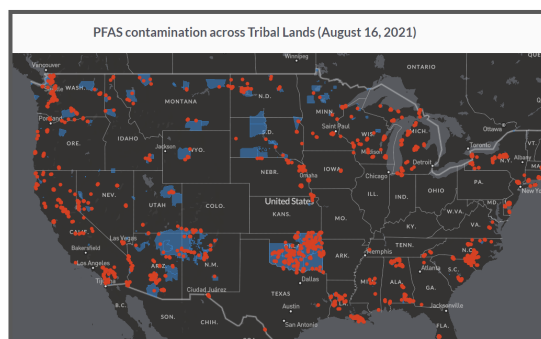
In 2021, the Tribal PFAS Working Group took the opportunity to outline several key priority actions that are important and crucial to understanding the impacts of PFAS contamination in tribal communities. The working group is comprised of members from the National Tribal Water Council, Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, and Tribal Pesticide Program Council. Below are highlights of the working group's activities throughout 2021.

Tribal PFAS
Working Group
members include:

- Page Hingst, Tribal Science Council
- Scott Walz, Tribal Science Council
- Diane Barton, National Tribal Toxics Council
- Mark Junker, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee
- Jasmine Brown, Tribal Pesticide Program Council
- Dan Kusnierz, NTWC
- Shaun Livermore, NTWC
- Ann Wyatt, NTWC

Develop a Database and Map

In August 2021, the Tribal PFAS Working Group collaborated with the Environmental Working Group to develop an interactive map where users may search for known and potential PFAS contamination sites within five (5) miles of tribal lands. The major sources of contamination include airports, industry, and landfills. The map may be accessed at: https://www.ewg.org/interactive-maps/PFAS_tribal_lands/map/



Establish a Tribal PFAS Working Group Webpage

In September 2021, a Tribal PFAS Working Group webpage was created and may be found at the National Tribal Water Council's website. The webpage may be accessed at: <http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS>

The webpage includes an overview of the Tribal PFAS Working Group, presentations, publications, and resources related to PFAS. Copies or recordings of presentations conducted by Tribal PFAS Working Group members or invited speakers to the monthly working group call are available on the webpage. The Tribal Working Group will post



CONTACT INFO:
Elaine H. Wilson
NTWC Manager
(480) 452-6774
Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu

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▶ TPWG: A Year End Review of 2021 Activities (*continued*)

pertinent information related to PFAS on the webpage, which include EPA publications and research papers. The webpage will continue to evolve as additional information is collected and shared.

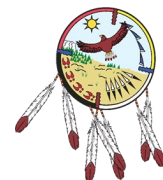
Additionally, current relevant trainings and webinars related to PFAS will be posted to the working group's Facebook page. The page may be accessed at: <https://www.facebook.com/TribalPFASWorkGroup>

Formulate 2022 Priorities

The Tribal PFAS Working Group members reviewed and updated their key priorities for 2022 to reflect the accomplishments in 2021 and what still remains to be done to engage tribal communities in recognizing the harmful impacts of PFAS on their lands. Thus, the working group identified five (5) key priorities, which include the following:

- Identify tribes that are impacted by PFAS.
- Enhance the database and map to reflect updated information.
- Enhance and promote the Tribal PFAS Working Group webpage with current publications, presentation videos, research, and resources.
- Advocate for and identify funding opportunities for tribal PFAS science needs, such as monitoring, testing, research, etc.
- Create opportunities for the Tribal PFAS Working Group to collaborate with the EPA Council on PFAS.

For more information, please contact Page Hingst, Tribal Science Council, at page.hingst@santeeoep.com or Dianne Barton, National Tribal Toxics Council, at bard@crtifc.org.



▶ Updates and Announcements

EPA Announces the UCMR 5 Final Rule and Public Webinar Meetings

On December 20, 2021, EPA finalized the Fifth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 5) to establish nationwide monitoring for 29 per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) and lithium in drinking water. This action is essential to addressing the public health and environmental risks of PFAS in drinking water and marks a significant milestone in EPA's PFAS Strategic Roadmap.

EPA will host two virtual meetings on a first-come, first served basis to provide public water systems (PWSs), states, laboratories, and other stakeholders with a comprehensive overview of the UCMR 5 program. The meetings will address: a general introduction to the UCMR program, PWSs subject to UCMR 5 requirements, the analytes to be monitored, monitoring locations and frequency, reporting requirements, ground water representative monitoring plans (GWRMPs), and the laboratory approval program.

- March 16, 2022; 9:00 AM - 12:30 PM ET - [Register](#)
- March 17, 2022; 1:00 PM - 4:30 PM ET - [Register](#)

For more information, please visit: <https://www.regulations.gov/docket/EPA-HQ-OW-2020-0530>



Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

Proposed Revised Definition of “Waters of the United States” Rule

Deadline: February 7, 2022

On November 18, 2021, the EPA and the Department of the Army signed a proposed rule to re-establish the pre-2015 definition of “waters of the United States” which had been in place for decades, with revisions to reflect consideration of relevant Supreme Court decisions. The proposed rule supports the agencies’ goal of establishing a durable definition of “waters of the United States” that protects public health, the environment, and downstream communities while supporting economic opportunity, agriculture, and other industries dependent on clean water.

The deadline to submit comments is **February 7, 2022**. Comments can be submitted at <https://www.regulations.gov/commenton/EPA-HQ-OW-2021-0602-0001>. EPA has developed a video introduction and overview of the rule, which may be found at: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OULjgbgkW4k&ab_channel=U.S.EPA. For more information about WOTUS: <https://www.epa.gov/wotus>

EPA Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category

Deadline: March 29, 2022

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes on Effluent Limitations Guidelines and Standards for the Steam Electric Power Generating Point Source Category (the Steam Electric ELG). On July 26, 2021, EPA announced its decision to undertake a rulemaking in which the Agency will determine whether more stringent limitations and standards for coal-fired power plants are appropriate and consistent with the technology-forcing statutory scheme and the goals of the Clean Water Act. Additional information on the Steam Electric ELG can be found at <https://www.epa.gov/eg/steam-electric-power-generating-effluent-guidelines>.

The deadline to submit comments is March 29, 2022. Consultation materials may be found at: <https://tcots.epa.gov>. EPA plans to hold two identical Tribal Webinars and Listening Sessions for EPA to provide an overview of this forthcoming rulemaking and to receive input from tribal representatives about this action. To register:

- February 1 (1:00 PM-2:30 PM ET): https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_dR5Vg1NbSq-5_e0r4p2WYw
- February 9 (1:00 PM-2:30 PM ET): https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_c3TOTjz-TuOlg5ABN7GN1Q



Events and Webinars

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

- General Module & Very Small Water System: February 2 to March 7, 2022
- Water Distribution - Level 2 & 3 (Region 5 Priority): February 2 to March 16, 2022

To register, or to view the 2022 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>



Events and Webinars (*continued*)

Native American Water Association, Inc.

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.

Upcoming events include:

- Biological Treatment Process Control - Part 2: January 27, 2022
- Filament Foam Control and Management: February 8, 2022
- Nitrification/Denitrification Summary: February 22, 2022

To register: https://www.eventbrite.com/o/native-american-water-association-22061331832#live_events

Eurofins Environment Testing America Webinar

- February 8, 2022: PFAS 2022 State of the Union

To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/5896743952081426957>

EPA Water Security Division Webinar

- February 3, 2022: Sampling Guidance for Unknown Contaminants in Drinking Water

To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/2104112732556002828>

EPA Technical Assistance Webinar Series - Improving CWA-NPDES Permit Compliance

- February 17, 2022: Optimizing Nutrient Removal in Sequencing Batch Reactors

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/technical-assistance-webinar-series-improving-cwa-npdes-permit-compliance>

EPA Small Drinking Water Systems Webinar Series

- February 22, 2022: Tribal Community Water Systems

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

SHARE YOUR STORY

We publish our newsletter on a monthly basis and would like to share your story. All submissions must be made by second Wednesday of each month for consideration. Please note: we reserve the right to make final decisions regarding all submitted content.

You may submit your story and photos to elaine.wilson@nau.edu



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

Ken Norton

*Hoopa Valley Tribe
Region 9 (NTWC Chair)*
kenpnorton@gmail.com

Region 2 Representative

Vacant

Nancy Schuldt

*Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior
Chippewa, Region 5*
nancyschuldt@fdlrez.com

Colin Larrick

*Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Region 8*
clarrick@utemountain.org

Ann Wyatt

*Klawock Cooperative Association, Tribe
Region 10 – Alaska*
annwyatt@klawocktribe.org

Michael Bolt

*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Region 4 (NTWC Vice Chair)*
michbolt@nc-chokeee.com

Shaun Livermore

*Poarch Band of Creek Indians
Region 4*
slivermore@pci-nsn.gov

Region 6 Representative

Vacant

Dan Mosley

*Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe
Region 9*
dmosley@plpt.nsn.us

Region 10 Representative

Vacant

Daniel Kusnierz

*Penobscot Indian Nation
Region 1*
dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org

Kathleen Brosemer

*Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa
Region 5*
kbrosemer@saulttribe.net

Denise Jensen

*Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Region 7*
denise.jensen@winnebago-tribe.com

Eric Morrison

*Salamatof Tribe
Region 10*
emorrison@salamatoftribe.org

Navajo Nation Representative

Vacant

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email: itep@nau.edu