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## NTWC's New Region 6 Representative Stephen Wolfe



Stephen Wolfe (Cherokee Nation) is the environmental assistant for the Seneca-Cayuga Nation. In this role, he participates in many department functions including water monitoring, cultural/environmental education, and solid waste management. In addition, Stephen serves as a tribal trustee on the Tar Creek Trustee Council of Indian Tribes, which works on issues surrounding the Tar Creek Superfund Site located upstream of Grand Lake o' the Cherokees, and serves as the Region 6 Representative to the National Tribal Toxics Council.

Stephen received his Bachelor of Integrated Studies with an emphasis on Sustainability, Society, and Resource Management from Pittsburg State University in 2017, and he is now pursuing a Master of Environmental Science from the University of Oklahoma with an emphasis in Hydrology and Water Security. There he hopes to expand his knowledge and understanding of how water issues uniquely affect tribal populations. In his spare time, Stephen is an active outdoorsman. His favorite pastimes include kayaking and hiking, with ample breaks to forage for wild edible plants and fungi.

### **NEW!** Updated Model Water Quality Standards Template for Waters on Indian Reservations

The EPA recently updated its *Model Water Quality Standards Template for Waters on Indian Reservations*. The template is designed to facilitate drafting of water quality standards. Water quality standards, which authorized tribes adopt under section 303(c) of the Clean Water Act (CWA), are the foundation of the water quality-based pollution control programs mandated by the CWA. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/wqs-tech/water-quality-standards-tools-tribes>.



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# Updates and Announcements

## Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Final Rule

On June 1, 2020, the EPA finalized the “Clean Water Act Section 401 Certification Rule” to implement the water quality certification process consistent with the text and structure of the Clean Water Act. The final rule established procedures that promote consistent implementation of CWA Section 401 and regulatory certainty in the federal licensing and permitting processes.

The Agency’s website provides online materials, such as a Frequently Asked Questions Fact Sheet. For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401/final-rule-clean-water-act-section-401-certification-rule>.

## **NEW!** How’s My Waterway

EPA recently released *How’s My Waterway*, a tool that assembles publicly available water quality data into a user-friendly package that provides information on water quality in our nation’s waters. Map-centric and mobile-friendly, *How’s My Waterway* works on all different screen sizes—from desktop computers and tablets to mobile phones. The Agency’s goal is that EPA, partners and the public will use *How’s My Waterway* to learn about water, explore data and find out what is happening to improve the health of our waters. The tool provides the public with an easily accessible and understandable summary of water quality at the community-, state- and national-level.

Enter your zip code on *How’s My Waterway* (<https://mywaterway.epa.gov>) and explore the waters near you.

## EPA’s Online Resources on COVID-19 and Water

To obtain information on COVID-19, please visit EPA’s coronavirus website at: <https://www.epa.gov/coronavirus>

# Upcoming Events

## ITEP Tribal Lands and Environment Forum: A Virtual Gathering

**August 17-20, 2020**

The ITEP Waste & Response Team and the Tribal Waste & Response Steering Committee are hosting a virtual variation on the Tribal Lands and Environment Forum during these challenging times. ITEP has chosen and built a platform that will allow you to not only learn, but also connect with friends and colleagues. There is no registration fee. **The deadline to register is August 3.**

To register, visit <https://tlef2020.pathable.co/>.

## 17<sup>th</sup> Annual EPA Drinking Water Workshop: Small System Challenges and Solutions

**August 31 - September 3, 2020**

The EPA’s free annual drinking water workshop, held in partnership with the Association of State Drinking Water Administrators (ASDWA), will be held on August 31 to September 3, 2020. An in-depth training is offered on August 31<sup>st</sup>. This virtual workshop will provide in-depth information and training on solutions and strategies for handling small drinking water system challenges with focus on monitoring, distribution, source, and treatment topics.

To view the agenda and register, visit <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/17th-annual-epa-drinking-water-workshop-small-system-challenges-and-solutions>.

# Upcoming Webinars

## **First Nations: Native Lands Stewardship Webinar Series**

This webinar series is intended for natural resource professionals, particularly those working on tribal lands, and other interested in learning innovative approaches to ecological stewardship.

- July 28, 2020 (12:00 PM MST): GIS Mapping in Indigenous Communities

To register, visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/3754685281643484943>.

## **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.

- August 18, 2020 (11:00 AM – 12:30 AM MST)

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

## **EPA Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series**

- July 28, 2020: America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) Risk and Resilience Check List and AWIA Lessons Learned

To register, visit <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/563471530212677131>

## **EPA Tools & Resources Training Webinar**

Removing PFAS from drinking water can be an expensive proposition. It is known that three treatment processes can be effective for PFAS removal: granular activated carbon, ion exchange resins, and high-pressure membrane systems. This webinar will provide an overview of treatment issues and the EPA models that are available free to the public, along with examples of how they can be used.

- August 6, 2020 (3:00 - 4:00 PM ET) PFAS Removal in Drinking Water Treatment Systems

To register, visit: [https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/toolstraining\\_august2020/event/registration.html](https://epawebconferencing.acms.com/toolstraining_august2020/event/registration.html)

## **Partnering for Security and Resilience Webinar Series**

The EPA is partnering with water sector association on this webinar series. The webinar series will highlight the role water agencies have in enhancing security and resilience of the water sector. The EPA's Office of Water – Water Security Division hosts these webinars to communicate directly with utility managers/operators, technical assistance providers, as well as federal, state, local, and tribal governments to foster collaboration and dissemination of information.

- July 29, 2020 (1:00 - 2:00 PM EST): Climate Resilient Water Sector
- August 19, 2020: Prepare, Respond, Recover: Emergency Response Resources for Public and Environmental Health Laboratories

To register, visit <https://www.epa.gov/waterresiliencetraining/partnering-security-and-resilience-webinar-series>

## **EPA Water Research Webinar Series**

- July 29, 2020: Water Reuse for Agricultural Purposes
- August 26, 2020: Wildfires & Resulting Impacts to Water Bodies Used as Drinking Water Sources

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



## 2020 National Tribal & Indigenous Climate Conference

September 14-17, 2020

The ITEP is honored to host the United States' First Biennial National Tribal and Indigenous Climate Conference (NTICC) along with support from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Tribal Resilience Program. The NTICC is open to all US tribal nations and Indigenous Peoples from throughout the world, with an emphasis on including our Elders and Youth. The NTICC will convene experts on climate change and will include a balance of Traditional Indigenous Knowledges and Western Science.

The deadline for the Call for Proposals is **August 7, 2020**. Conference tracks cover climate-related impacts, assessments, tools, adaptation, mitigation, actions, and the intersection of western science and adaptation strategies with Traditional/Indigenous Knowledges.

For more information, visit <https://sites.google.com/view/2020-nticc-itep/home?authuser=0>.

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

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