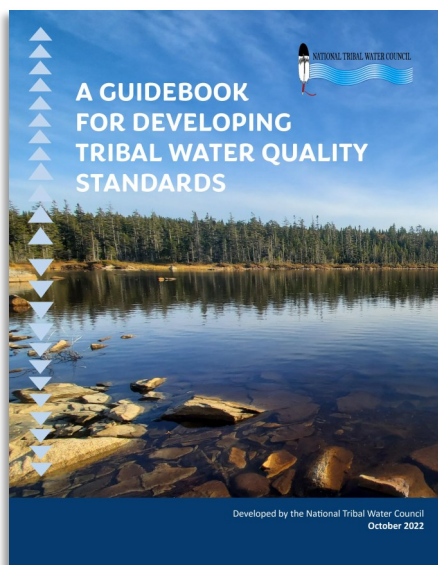




Newly Released National Tribal Water Council's Tribal Water Quality Standards Guidebook

On October 26, 2022, the National Tribal Water Council released its ***Guidebook for Developing Tribal Water Quality Standards***. The guidebook was developed to serve as a tool and a guide to assist tribes in developing a water quality standards program under tribal legal authority. The guidebook is co-authored by James Grijalva, Friedman Professor of Law - University of North Dakota, and Cheryl Pailzote, White Mountain Apache Tribe Water Resources Director, with input from the NTWC. Also, staff from the EPA Office of Water reviewed the guidebook.



The first section of the guidebook briefly describes the legal and administrative aspects of developing a water quality program. The section covers constitutional law, tribal law, and tribal jurisdiction. Additionally, the section includes the benefits of developing water quality standards under tribal law. Having general familiarity with the legal background will help tribes more effectively create and operate the program.

The second section of the guidebook briefly describes the technical aspects of developing the program, including setting and administering water quality standards for waterbodies on tribal land. The section identifies the components of developing a water quality program.

While the federal government has set out a water quality management approach under the Clean Water Act and Environmental Protection Agency regulations, tribes may decide to take different approaches to water protection. Likewise, even when a tribe participates in the federal

Clean Water Act system, the basic building block is still a tribal program, designed by tribal staff and adopted under tribal law.

The NTWC plans to schedule an informational webinar on the guidebook in January 2023.

To view or download a copy of the guidebook and for updates on the upcoming informational webinar, please visit the National Tribal Water Council's website at <https://nau.edu/ntwc>.



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Updates & Announcements

EPA 2023 National Fish Forum

The EPA Office of Water will hold a virtual National Forum on Contaminants in Fish (Fish Forum) to bring together interested stakeholders to discuss the many issues related to human health and contaminants in fish. This is a free virtual conference that will include topics such as environmental justice, emerging science in developing fish consumption advisories, and sampling and analysis. The virtual conference will be held as follows:

- Week 1: February 28 and March 2, 2023 (12:00-5:30 PM ET)
- Week 2: March 7 and 9, 2023 (12:00-5:30 PM ET)

For more information and to register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/fish-tech/2023-national-fish-forum>

Grant/Cooperative Agreement Opportunities

U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service National Fish Passage Program

Deadline: December 30, 2022

The National Fish Passage Program (NFPP) is a voluntary program that provides direct technical and financial assistance to partners. NFPP aims to maintain or increase fish populations in order to improve ecosystem resiliency and to provide quality fishing experiences for the American people. Example project types include dam removals, culvert replacements, and the installation of fishways. For more information: <https://www.fws.gov/service/fish-passage-technical-and-planning-assistance>

FEMA Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities Grant

Deadline: January 27, 2023

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grant program will support states, local communities, tribes, and territories as they undertake hazard mitigation projects, reducing the risks they face from disasters and natural hazards, including: wildfires, drought, hurricanes, earthquakes, extreme heat, and flooding. The BRIC program's guiding principles are supporting communities through capability and capacity building; encouraging and enabling innovation; promoting partnerships; enabling large projects; maintaining flexibility; and providing consistency. The deadline for submissions is January 27, 2023. For more information: <https://www.fema.gov/grants/mitigation/building-resilient-infrastructure-communities>

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

EPA's Notification of Consultation and Coordination on the Establishment of the IIJA, Section 40306 Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI Grant Program

Deadline: November 24, 2022

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized tribes to obtain input on the establishment of a new Underground Injection Control (UIC) Class VI grant program for states, territories, and tribes, as authorized by Section 40306(c) of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA) of 2021, also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL). Specifically, the EPA is seeking your input on the questions found in the consultation and coordination plan to help guide the implementation of the grant program.

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

Section 40306(c) of the IIJA authorizes \$50 million to be appropriated to EPA to award grants to states and tribes to defray expenses related to the establishment and operation of a Class VI UIC primary enforcement authority (primacy) program. Class VI UIC wells are used for geologic sequestration of Carbon Dioxide (CO₂), where CO₂ is injected into deep rock formations for long term storage. Pursuant to section 1422 of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), if a state, territory, or tribe meets the requirements, including the promulgation of regulations that meet the federal requirements, the state, territory, or tribe may be approved for UIC primacy.

The consultation and coordination period ends on November 24, 2022. EPA held two informational webinar and listening sessions for tribal governments on October 18, 2022, and October 25, 2022.

At any point in the tribal consultation process, tribes may submit written comments via email to Dyroff.Colin@epa.gov, or via U.S. Mail to: U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Mail Code: 4606M, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention: EPA UIC Class VI Grant Program Tribal Consultation.

For more information: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1571::::>

EPA's Proposed National Primary Drinking Water Regulation for Lead and Copper Rule Improvements **Deadline: December 9, 2022**

EPA is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian tribes to obtain feedback on the agency's forthcoming proposed rulemaking for the Lead and Copper Rule Improvements (LCRI). EPA is evaluating further revisions to the Lead and Copper Rule Revisions (LCRR), issued in January 2021, to improve the regulatory framework. The LCRI would impact owners and operators of public water systems (PWS) that must comply with the rule and government agencies that have primacy to enforce drinking water regulations in their jurisdiction.

The consultation and coordination period ends on December 9, 2022. EPA held two informational webinar and listening sessions for tribal governments on October 27, 2022 and November 9, 2022.

Tribes may submit written comments by emailing LCRI@epa.gov, or mailing comments to U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Water, Water Policy Staff, Mail Code: 4101M, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention: Proposed LCRI Tribal Consultation.

For more information: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1577::::>

EPA's Notification of Continued Consultation and Coordination on Potential EPA Actions to Increase Tribal Capacity to Maintain and Expand Nonpoint Source Management Programs **Deadline: December 23, 2022**

EPA is continuing consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes to inform potential EPA actions the Clean Water Act (CWA) (§) 319 national Nonpoint Source (NPS) program could take to better support CWA §319-eligible Tribes in their efforts to manage NPS pollution.

As outlined in EPA's September 27, 2021, national policy memorandum, [Near-term Actions to Support Environmental Justice in the Nonpoint Source Program](#), in fiscal year (FY) 2022, EPA committed to engaging the national NPS community, including Tribal, state, and territorial CWA §319 grantees, in a dialogue on advancing equity and environmental justice in the national NPS program. Over the past year, EPA hosted a series of Tribal CWA §319 grantee equity listening sessions, then convened workgroups, which included EPA staff and Tribal volunteers, to develop suggestions for potential EPA CWA §319 program actions to help achieve equity goals. As part of this



Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

engagement effort, on March 29, 2022, EPA initiated consultation and coordination with Tribes to help identify potential CWA §319 program actions to address challenges facing Tribal NPS programs.

Based on input received over the last year, EPA released a second national policy memorandum on September 30, 2022, entitled [Continued Actions in FY23 to Increase Equity and Environmental Justice in the Nonpoint Source Program](#). This memo outlines a set of new actions in support of national NPS program equity goals, including EPA's intention to implement the FY23 President's Budget proposal to commit an additional \$7 million to the Tribal CWA §319 set-aside, contingent on a final appropriation from Congress.

As part of this continuing consultation and coordination process, EPA is now soliciting Tribal input on potential changes to the CWA §319 Tribal grant allocation formula. Specifically, EPA invites Tribal input on proposed alternative approaches in how the NPS program awards CWA §319 base grants to eligible Tribes.

The consultation and coordination period ends on December 23, 2022. EPA held two informational webinar and listening sessions for tribal governments on November 1, 2022 and November 10, 2022.

Tribes may submit written comments by emailing comments to Steve Epting at tribal319grants@epa.gov, or submitting comments through an [electronic form](#). Additionally, Tribal governments may request one-on-one consultation meetings with EPA. If you are interested in requesting consultation with EPA during the consultation and coordination period, please contact Steve Epting at tribal319grants@epa.gov.

For more information: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::1457:::>



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:

- Finance, Asset Management, & Water Loss: December 12-15, 2022
- General Module & Very Small Water System: January 17-March 2, 2023

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

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



Events and Webinars

professionals throughout the United States who work within the intersections of climate change, health, and community well-being.

Below is the upcoming schedule:

- December 15, 2022: Approaches to scoping climate/health adaptation based on Tribe's unique needs
- January 19, 2023: Lessons on conducting tribal vulnerability assessments that incorporate TEK, community input, and Western and Indigenous science

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

EPA WaterSense Webinars

- December 7, 2022: Achieving Water and Cost Savings in Capital Improvement Projects

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/watersense/webinars>

National Association of Wetlands Managers Tribal Wetland Programs Webinars

- December 8, 2022: A Path to Successful EPA Grant Applications for Your Tribal Wetland Program
- December 15, 2022: Protecting Waters and Wetlands in Indian Country – An Overview and Case Studies from EPA's New Tribal Wetland Program Guide

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

North Central CASC Webinar: Fires of Unusual Size – Future of Extreme Wildfire in the Continental U.S. on December 8, 2022 (11:00 AM MT)

Today, the majority of wildfire ignitions are caused by human activities—so capturing anthropogenic aspects of changing fire activity beyond those associated with climate change is critically important. North Central CASC-supported researchers are using climate models to make predictions regarding the number, size of the largest fire, and overall area burned by wildfires across the U.S. over the next four decades. To register: <https://cuboulder.zoom.us/meeting/register/tJcvde-qpi8qHty4ap9DX1Xi9fY-gGnmRIhh>

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

- December 14, 2022: Remediation to Restoration to Revitalization (R2R2R)

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



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

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