



NTWC Member Spotlight: **Lee Anna Martinez-Silversmith**



Lee Anna Martinez-Silversmith is a Senior Environmental Specialist/401 Coordinator and works with the Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Quality Program. Lee Anna is a member of the Navajo Tribe. She's worked in the environmental profession for over 14 years and is an alumna of Arizona State University (ASU). Upon graduating from ASU, Lee Anna worked with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality as an Environmental Specialist before working for the Navajo Nation EPA.

Currently, she administers the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 401 Program. The Navajo Nation has a land mass of 15.4 million acres, and it is often referred to as the size of West Virginia. The Navajo Nation land is in three

states – Arizona, New Mexico and Utah. Lee Anna strives to bring awareness of the Navajo Nation environmental laws and regulations to the public, governmental entities and private entities; and collaborating within the three states, counties, and federal agencies within the boundaries of the Navajo Nation. She works to ensure that entities comply with the CWA Section 401 regulations and adhere to all applicable environmental regulations on the Navajo Nation.

As a regulator of the Clean Water Act, Lee Anna knows it is continuous work in progress, and she finds it stressful at times to assist entities to become compliant, especially when they fail to fully understand Navajo Nation's priority to protect its environment. Her efforts are focused on protecting Navajo Nation perennial, intermittent and ephemeral waters. Additionally, Lee Anna works with surface water quality monitoring and assessment in the summer months. Her goal is to continue implementing environmental laws and environmental programs for the benefit of the Navajo Nation. She hopes one day that all entities and projects would be compliant with Navajo Nation environmental laws and regulations.

Outside of work, Lee Anna is busy with her family. She has three beautiful boys, ages eight (8), five (5), and one (1). They keep her and her husband busy with school homework and sporting activities. She states, "This is just the beginning and soon to become exciting."

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NEWSLETTER

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DEADLINE EXTENDED

National Tribal Water Council: At-large Member Recruitment

The Council is currently seeking one tribal water professional to serve as an at-large member. The application packet is available on the NTWC's website at <https://www.nau.edu/ntwc>. The deadline to submit an application is **November 29, 2019**.

If you have any questions, please contact Elaine H. Wilson, Project Manager for the National Tribal Water Council, Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals, Northern Arizona University, by email at: Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu or by phone at (480) 340-2306.

In the News

EPA Proposes Update to Lead and Copper Rule to Better Protect Children and At-Risk Communities

EPA announced a proposed rule that improves the actions that water systems must take to reduce lead in the nation's drinking water. This is the first major overhaul of the Lead and Copper Rule since 1991 and advances the Federal Action Plan to Reduce Childhood Lead Exposures.

The proposed rule change will:

- Require more water systems to act sooner to reduce lead levels and protect public health;
- Improve transparency and communication; and
- Better protect children and the most at-risk communities.

EPA's Lead and Copper Proposed Rule reflects input received from the agency's state, local and tribal partners, the Science Advisory Board, the National Drinking Water Advisory Council, and best available peer-reviewed science. EPA is taking public comment on this proposal for 60 days after publication in the Federal Register via <http://www.regulations.gov> [Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2017-0300].

To learn more about the proposed changes, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/ground-water-and-drinking-water/proposed-revisions-lead-and-copper-rule>

Consultation Opportunity: Water System Restructuring Rule

Closes: November 15, 2019

EPA initiated tribal consultation to obtain input for the development of the forthcoming proposed Water System Restructuring Rule. This rule is mandated under the America's Water Infrastructure Act of 2018. The America's Water Infrastructure Act (AWIA) of 2018 amended the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) subsection 1414(h) - Consolidation Incentive - to require that the EPA issue, by October 2020, a regulation that will authorize primacy agencies to mandate assessments of restructuring options for water systems meeting the 1414(h)(3) criteria.

EPA seeks to understand the following:

1. Factors that the EPA should consider when defining the criteria for "tailoring" tribal water system assessments.
2. Whether and how the AWIA changes to the SDWA might affect the number of restructuring plans submitted by tribal water systems to obtain enforcement relief from primacy agencies.
3. Whether and how the AWIA changes to the SDWA might affect the number of restructuring plans submitted by tribal water systems, under the new provision for liability protection for compliant (non-responsible) water systems which are consolidating with assessed public water systems.

In the News Continued

The consultation period ends on **November 15, 2019**. For more information on consultation for the EPA's Water System Restructuring Rule, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

At any point in the tribal consultation process, tribes may submit written comments to:

- E-mail bowman.will@epa.gov
- Mail: 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: WSRR Tribal Consultation.

Open for Public Comment: Water Quality Trading under the NPDES Program

Closes: November 18, 2019

EPA is requesting comments on the policy approaches for addressing “baseline” issues in watersheds with EPA-approved Total Maximum Daily Loads where policy makers would like to pursue water quality trading as a regulatory option for National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit compliance.

The public comment period closes on November 18, 2019. Please submit comments to www.regulations.gov and use docket number EPA-HQ-OW-2019-0415. For more information on the water quality trading, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/npdes/nonpoint-source-baselines-water-quality-trading>

Consultation Opportunity: 2020 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment

Closes: November 28, 2019

EPA has initiated tribal consultation on the proposed design and approach for the EPA’s forthcoming 2020 Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment (DWINSA), which will include surveying the 20-year infrastructure investment needs of public water supply systems owned or operated by federally recognized American Indian Tribes or by Alaskan Native Villages. The last time the needs of tribal water systems was included in the DWINSA in 2011, and EPA is looking to consult as it works to develop its final design and approach to the 2020 survey.

The consultation period ends on **November 28, 2019**. For more information on the EPA's Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessment, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/dwsrf>. For more information on consultation for the EPA's 2020 DWINSA, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

At any point in the tribal consultation process, tribes may submit written comments to:

- E-mail barles.robert@epa.gov
- Mail: Attn: Robert Barles, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water, Mail Code: 4606M, 1200 Pennsylvania Ave. NW, Washington, DC 20460, Attention: DWINSA Tribal Consultation

Tribes may request for follow up consultation meetings and must submit the request in writing to barles.robert@epa.gov by October 18, 2019. More information can be found at <https://tcots.epa.gov>.

Open for Public Comment: EPA’s Draft National Water Reuse Action Plan

Closes: December 19, 2019

On September 10, EPA announced the release of a draft National Water Reuse Action Plan, which seeks to foster greater consideration of water reuse across the water sector, such as agriculture, industry, potable water, national security, environmental restoration, and more. EPA seeks the engagement of governmental and non-governmental water sector organizations to identify priority actions and to lead and collaborate on actions identified in the draft plan.

The public comment period closes on **December 19, 2019**. Please submit comments to www.regulations.gov and use docket number EPA-HQ-OW-2019-0174. For more information on the Draft National Water Reuse Action Plan, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/waterreuse/water-reuse-action-plan#draft>.

Upcoming Events

RCAC Available Training

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is a nonprofit organization that provides training, technical assistance, and resources for rural communities. For more information, visit: https://www.events.rcac.org/rcac/calendar.asp?Cal_View=YEARVIEW&Cal_Day=1&Cal_Month=8&Cal_Year=2019

- **Water Quality Sampling - Online**

November 6, 2019 (10:00 AM-12:00 PM)

ITEP Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program

Stresses and Successes: A Difficult Responsibility for Tribes Restoring Contaminated Lands and Water

November 6, 2019; 9:00 AM PST

Presented by Whitney Fraser, Lodestone Environmental Consulting LLC.

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (Colville Tribes) have endured more than a century of injuries to natural resources in and around their Reservation as a consequence of the release of hazardous substances from industrial activities, in particular the proximity of their traditional lands and waters to the world's largest lead-zinc smelter, operated since 1896 in the city of Trail, BC (Canada), upstream of the US-Canada border on the banks of the Columbia River.

This presentation will focus on the specific successes that have been achieved in these processes and the common themes that those victories share, including the Colville Tribes' understanding of their fundamental responsibility for taking care of the land and water.

To register, please visit:

<https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/8783276417357365762>

R E S O U R C E S

U.S. EPA Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series

Upcoming webinar topics include:

- October 29, 2019 - Funding Opportunities through EPA's Drinking Water Program
- November 26, 2019 - Risk Assessments, Emergency Response, and Resiliency

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

EPA Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water Webinars

- December 5, 2019 (2:00 PM - 3:00 PM ET) Lead Service Line Identification and Replacement Webinar Series: Focus on Large Public Water Systems

For more information, visit <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>

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

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