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Photo: Scenic overlook of the Elk River branch of Grand Lake, this site is located on Seneca-Cayuga ceremonial grounds that border it.

Seneca-Cayuga Nation Water Program

Stephen Wolfe

Environmental Assistant, Seneca-Cayuga Nation | NTWC Member

Seneca-Cayuga Nation

The Seneca-Cayuga Nation is located in Northeast Oklahoma with a jurisdictional area that is surrounded by rivers and creeks which flow into Grand Lake O' The Cherokees. The former Grand River acted as a primary corridor for trade and travel for the Seneca-Cayuga people and was dammed to generate hydroelectricity in 1940, creating Grand Lake O' The Cherokees. The streams and lake have continued to serve as a symbol for the Nation and a resource for traditional foodstuffs and recreation.

Environmental Program's Mission

The environmental program was founded with a mission to protect human health, the environment, and the cultural heritage of the Seneca-Cayuga people through applying sound scientific methods in understanding impacts to our natural world.

The department currently consists of two staff, director and assistant. The Environmental Director administers environmental programs and is responsible for verifying that project plans are followed and data of known quality is being produced. The Environmental Assistant functions under the direction of the Environmental Director in performing and carrying out all environmental duties of the department. The assistant directly implements all Quality Assurance and Quality Control objectives



CONTACT INFO:

Elaine H. Wilson
NTWC Project Manager
(480) 340-2306
Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu

NEWSLETTER

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as specified in the Nation's Quality Assurance Project Plan (QAPP), when coordinating, preparing and implementing environmental duties.

Water Quality Program

The primary function of the Environmental Department is to implement the Clean Water Act (CWA) 106 Water Monitoring Program. Sample sites located around the lake reflect areas of use by the Seneca-Cayuga people and have been chosen to monitor mixing zones where rivers/creeks and the lake interact. Water samples are collected and later processed in-house for nitrogen/phosphorous and bacteria. Measurements are taken using a KorEXO Multi-parameter Sonde to include dissolved oxygen, pH, turbidity, Total Dissolve Solids (TDS), etc. Heavy metals samples are collected annually to address issues of contamination from the Tar Creek Superfund Site located upstream of Grand Lake. As a representative on the Tar Creek Trustee Council of Indian Tribes (TCTCIT), the Nation works with tribal, state, and federal partners to develop cleanup initiatives.

In addition to water monitoring, the Environmental Department also operates a solid waste program collecting recyclables from the tribal campus and the Turkey Ford Tribal School. Materials are taken to a recycling facility owned and operated by the Modoc Nation at no cost to the department.

These collection activities allow for education and outreach to students and staff about the importance of environmental topics. In July, the environmental and cultural departments collaborated to educate cultural interns on the interconnectivity of scientific knowledge and traditional ecological practices.



Micco Emarthla

The mission and many department functions have only been made possible by the selfless work of the late Micco Emarthla. His dedication to the Seneca-Cayuga people is largely responsible for the current activities of the department.

Updates and Announcements

NEW! EPA's Vessel Incidental Discharge Act Pre-Publication Proposed Rule

On October 5, 2020, EPA Administrator Andrew Wheeler signed the proposed rule for national standards to reduce the environmental impact of discharges, such as ballast water, that are incidental to the normal operation of commercial vessels. The proposed rule includes discharge-specific standards for 20 different types of vessel equipment and treatment systems.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/commercial-vessel-discharge-standards>

Updates and Announcements *(continued)*

NEW! EPA Releases New Curriculum to Protect Children in Indian Country and Communities from Lead Exposure

EPA collaborated with the National Tribal Toxics Council and the National EPA-Tribal Science Council to develop the curriculum to include relevant tribal scenarios and cultural information to increase awareness and education in Indian country. The *Lead Awareness in Indian Country: Keeping our Children Healthy!* curriculum is a series of four modules which include lesson plans, worksheets, key messages, presentation slides, and kids activity sheets that community leaders and other instructors can use to improve public awareness of the dangers associated with lead exposure and promote preventative actions.

Upcoming events for tribal partners to discuss how to use the curriculum:

- Tuesday, October 27, 2020, at 1:00pm ET: **Tribal Children's Health Web Series** - An informational session on the Curriculum, hosted by the Eight Northern Indian Pueblos Council. To register: <https://enipc-org.zoom.us/j/9681111111>
- Tuesday, November 10, 2020, at 1:00pm ET: **Virtual Roundtable Discussion** - An interactive session with tribal partners to discuss their experiences and how they plan to use the Curriculum. To register: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/us-epa-tribal-lead-curriculum-virtual-roundtable-discussion-tickets-121550239037>

To view the curriculum and learn more about EPA's actions on lead, visit <https://www.epa.gov/lead>.

National Water Quality Monitoring Council Call for Award Nominations

The National Water Quality Monitoring Council is seeking nominations for three awards recognizing excellence, leadership, and collaboration in water quality monitoring to protect public health and the environment. The deadline for nominations is Friday, January 8, 2021. Award recipients will be recognized at the virtual National Monitoring Conference during the week of April 19, 2021.

For more information on the award categories, please visit: https://www.nalms.org/2021nmc/call-for-award-nominations/?utm_source=Master+List&utm_campaign=6eeef21d7-NMC+Call+for+abstracts+20200908&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_caeffd9c94-6eeef21d7-182734841

Navigable Waters Protection Rule Implementation Memos

The EPA and the Army have developed several implementation memos to ensure consistent and effective implementation of the Navigable Waters Protection Rule. The memos may be found on EPA's website at : <https://www.epa.gov/nwpr/training-and-implementation-materials#ImplementationMemos>.

Funding Opportunities

NOAA's Species Recovery Grant for Tribes

Deadline: October 29, 2020

Species Recovery Grants to Tribes support tribally-led management, research, monitoring, and outreach activities that have direct conservation benefits for listed species under the Endangered Species Act. Recently delisted species, proposed, and candidate species are also eligible.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.fisheries.noaa.gov/grant/species-recovery-grants-tribes>

Tribal Consultation and Public Comment Opportunities

Tribal Consultation Opportunity: FY 22-25 FIFRA Cooperative Agreement Guidance

Ends: November 2, 2020

EPA's Office of Chemical Safety and Pollution Prevention and the Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance are updating the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Cooperative Agreement Guidance for application to federal fiscal years 2022-2025. The EPA uses the guidance to establish and identify pesticide program and enforcement program areas that must be addressed in tribal, state, and territory FIFRA funded cooperative agreements.

Information on this consultation opportunity can be found at <https://tcots.epa.gov/>.

Public Comment Opportunity: Army Corp of Engineers' Proposal to Reissue and Modify Nationwide Permits

Ends: November 16, 2020

On September 15, 2020, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (ACOE) announced its proposal to renew and revise 52 nationwide permits for work in wetlands and other waters that are regulated by Section 404 of the Clean Water Act and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899. The ACOE is requesting comments on all aspects of the proposed nationwide permits.

The comment period ends on November 16, 2020. For more information and to submit comments, please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2020/09/15/2020-17116/proposal-to-reissue-and-modify-nationwide-permits>.

Upcoming Events

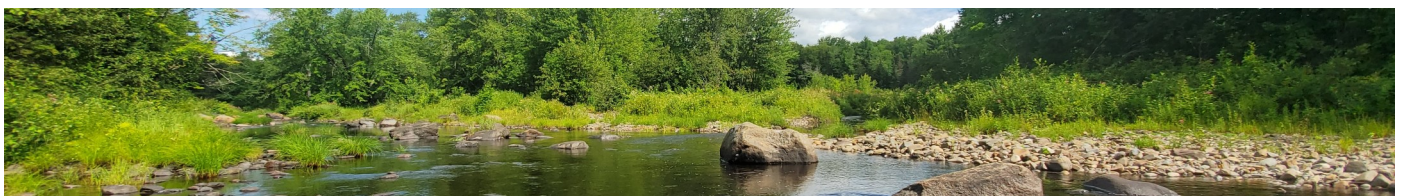
Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. - National Tribal Water & Wastewater Operator Training & Certification Program

The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. National Tribal Water and Wastewater Operator Training and Certification Program is providing live online training courses. 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 not limited to:

- Water Treatment - Level 1: November 30 to December 18, 2020
- Wastewater Collection - Level 1: November 30 to December 16, 2020
- Safe Drinking Water Act 101: January 19 to February 25, 2021

For more information, training schedule, and to register, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>



Upcoming Webinars

EPA Watershed Academy

- November 2, 2020 (11:30 A.M. PST): Vessel Sewage Management Strategies

To register, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/watershedacademy/vessel-sewage-management-strategies-webcast>

EPA Small Systems Monthly Webinar Series

- October 27, 2020: Disinfectants and Disinfection Byproducts
- November 17, 2020: Creating Resilient Water Utilities

To register and access recorded webinars, please visit <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/small-systems-monthly-webinar-series>

EPA Water Research Webinar Series

- October 28, 2020: Health Effects Associated with Harmful Algal Blooms and Algal Toxins
- November 18, 2020: Property Values and Water Quality: Supporting Decisions with the Hedonic Model

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

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

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

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

Daniel Kusnierz
Penobscot Indian Nation
Region 1
dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org

Rene Rickard
Tuscarora Nation
Region 2
rrickard@hetf.org

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

Kathleen Brosemer
Sault Ste. Marie Chippewa
Region 5
kbrosemer@saulttribe.net

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

Stephen Wolfe
Seneca-Cayuga Nation
Region 6
swolfe@sctribe.com

Denise Jensen
Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska
Region 7
denise.jensen@winnebagotribe.com

Colin Larrick
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
Region 8
clarrick@utemountain.org

Lee Anna Martinez-Silversmith
Navajo Nation
Region 9
leeanna.martinez09@yahoo.com

Phillip Cernera
Coeur d'Alene Tribe
Region 10
philc@cdatribe-nsn.gov

Eric Morrison
Salamatof Tribe
Region 10
emorrison@salamatoftribe.org

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

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

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email: itep@nau.edu