



## 2025 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum

The 2025 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum was held on August 18-21, 2025, in Minneapolis, Minnesota. The forum featured informative sessions covering waste and response, contaminated sites, and technology. This year Page Hingst and Dianne Barton, co-leads for the Tribal PFAS Working Group, led a one-day workshop on “The World of Emerging Contaminants” on August 18, 2025.

The workshop started with a showing of the documentary “How One Company Secretly Poisoned the Planet” about the production of Telfon that contains PFOA. Thereafter, Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation, presented on PFAS found at illegal dumpsites.

Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, presented on the Toxic Substances Control Act and how it relates to Tribal Nations. She highlighted a current tribal consultation opportunity initiated by the Office of Chemical Safety and

Pollution Prevention on the management of unreasonable risks identified in TSCA Risk Evaluations for Diisodecyl Phthalate (DIDP) and Diisononyl Phthalate (DINP). The deadline to submit comments is December 8, 2025, and additional information is available at the National Tribal Toxics Council’s website at <https://tribaltoxics.org/>.



**Workshop presenters** (L to R): Mark Ferrey, Dianne Barton, Page Hingst, and Negin Blair

The first half of the workshop concluded with information on fire hazards from lithium batteries and proper fire response. Video footage was shown of fires igniting from lithium

batteries at landfills and transfer stations.

The second half of the workshop started with an overview of 6-PPD and 6-PPD Quinone. An in-depth study was presented on emerging contaminants in the Great Lakes region followed by a presentation from Negin Blair Negin Blair, Washington State University, titled “6PPD-Quinone: Lessons for Evaluating Emerging



### CONTACT INFO:

Elaine H. Wilson  
NTWC Manager  
[Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu](mailto:Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu)

Elaina Doral  
NTWC Program Coordinator  
[Elaina.Doral@nau.edu](mailto:Elaina.Doral@nau.edu)

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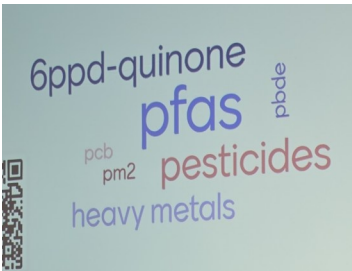


Contaminants in Tribal Lands” that covered her research on the effects of 6-PPD Quinone and Coho salmon.

The workshop also included an introduction to microplastics and nanomaterials as contaminants and how these contaminants are affecting Tribal Nations.

Eighty-nine participants attended the workshop, both in-person and virtually. Workshop attendees listed PFAS, 6-PPD Quinone, pesticides, heavy metals, polychlorinated biphenyls, particulate matter, and polybrominated diphenyl ethers as contaminants they are currently dealing with on their lands.

For more information on the Tribal PFAS Working Group, please visit: <https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/Issues/PFAS>



## UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

### National NPS Biennial Workshop, October 27-29, 2025

The National NPS Biennial Workshop will be held on October 27-29, 2025, in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. This event offers an opportunity for CWA Section 319 state, territorial, and Tribal grantees to convene on national programmatic and knowledge sharing and technical assistance. The national NPS program and planning committee are developing robust Tribal specific sessions, workshops, and networking opportunities. Outreach for Tribal speakers and session participants will be happening throughout the summer. If you are interested to be involved with planning, please reach out to Margot Buckelew ([Buckelew.margot@epa.gov](mailto:Buckelew.margot@epa.gov)). Additionally, if interested to attend, registration is open and you may [Register for the workshop here](#).

### EPA Pacific Northwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training, November 17-20, 2025

The training will address Clean Water Act (CWA) programs including Section 106, Section 319, Section 303(d), water quality standards, and wetlands and will be useful to Tribes who work on these programs or are interested in pursuing Treatment in a similar manner as a State (TAS) status for one or more programs. The training workshop is targeted to Tribes who conduct water quality monitoring, issue water quality certifications, and address water quality issues, nonpoint source pollution, and impaired waters/TMDLs. Tribal staff from across the country are invited, although there will be a focus on examples and applications for Tribes in the Pacific Northwest.

The training workshop is free to attend, and registration is open! For more information, please visit: <https://nawm.org/trainings/pacific-northwest-tribal-clean-water-act-training>

# CONSIDER JOINING OUR WATER COUNCIL



**SCAN HERE**  
for the application

## WHO WE ARE

The National Tribal Water Council is a technical and scientific body established to advocate for the best interests of federally-recognized Indian and Alaska Native Tribes in matters pertaining to water quality.

## WHAT WE DO

- **Policy Response:** Conducts analysis of water policies and initiatives that impact Tribes and responds by preparing comment letters, white papers, or briefs.
- **Information Exchange:** Engage and collaborate with national, regional, tribal organizations, or working groups.
- **Set Priorities:** Publish a biennial "Tribal Water Priorities" document that identifies Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) priorities.

## OPEN POSITIONS: REGION 3 & AT-LARGE REPS

The Council is accepting applications from tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization to fill three (3) vacancies.

- **Region 3:** Tribal water professionals from Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia)
- **At-Large:** Tribal water professionals from Regions 1 to 10 to fill two (2) vacancies for the At-Large positions.

Tribal water professionals with knowledge in the CWA and SDWA are encouraged to apply. Also, an applicant with a background in water infrastructure, drinking water, wastewater, and operations and maintenance, is a plus but not required.

## WHAT WE ASK OF YOU

Member duties include, but not limited to:

- Participating in monthly virtual calls;
- Attending two in-person meetings annually; and
- Creating and participating in crafting response documents to policy and/or rulemaking actions.

To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at [elaine.wilson@nau.edu](mailto:elaine.wilson@nau.edu).

<https://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/ntwc/>



# EVENTS & WEBINARS

## Tribal Exchange Network Group – Monthly Tribal Data Drop-in Sessions

Held the third Thursday of every month from 10:00-11:30 AM (Pacific)

<https://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/trainings-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 online, in-person, and blended trainings. To register or to view the 2025 training schedule, please visit: <https://itcaonline.com/programs/environmental-quality-programs/tws-tmap/tws-training-events/>

Upcoming courses include, but are not limited to, the following:

- October 14-24, 2025: Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) Federal Regulations (Live online)

## Virtual Technology Fair: Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Substances, September 24, 2025 (1:00–2:30 PM EDT)

The NIEHS Superfund Research Program (SRP) presents a "Virtual Technology Fair" featuring Small Business Innovation Research (SBIR) grant recipients developing innovative solutions for per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS). Speakers will give a "pitch", showcasing the work underway and its value-added to disrupt the market. We encourage participation by and questions from potential end-users, customers, and other stakeholders to accelerate technology transfer of these promising approaches. To register: <https://www.clu-in.org/conf/tio/register-2022/new.cfm?date=1489>

## EPA Drinking Water Training Webinar

- September 10, 2025: Introduction to the Updated Return to Compliance (RTC) Table Webinar

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/dwreginfo/drinking-water-training>

## EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

- September 17, 2025: Artificial Intelligence in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery

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

## Environmental Finance Center Network Training & Events

- September 25, 2025: Wastewater Collection System Maintenance and Condition Assessment
- October 7, 2025: Water Filtration and Removal Processes

To register: <https://efcnetwork.org/training-events/#events>

## CLU-IN Training & Events

- October 7, 2025: ITRC – Overview of the Tire-Derived Chemicals 6PPD & 6PPD-quinone
- October 9, 2025: ITRC – PFAS Chemistry

To register: <https://clu-in.org/training/>



Water Technical Assistance

## Webinar: Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Water Technical Assistance for Tribes

**September 23, 2025  
2:00–3:00 PM ET**

Every community deserves access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water, wastewater, and stormwater services. EPA's Water Technical Assistance (WaterTA) provides free hands-on support for communities to assess their water needs, identify potential solutions, and apply for federal funding to address their water and wastewater challenges.

Join us to learn about the variety of WaterTA opportunities available to Tribes and to hear from representatives from Tribal communities on their WaterTA experiences, including:

- Lummi Tribe, WA
- Menominee Indian Tribe, WI
- Skokomish Indian Tribe, WA
- Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, SD

For more information on WaterTA, please visit [www.epa.gov/WaterTA](https://www.epa.gov/WaterTA).

### REGISTER AT:

[https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN\\_6lJuL-HeSpeawvFgQ8Y6iw](https://www.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_6lJuL-HeSpeawvFgQ8Y6iw)



# NTWC MEMBERS

For more information on our members, visit [Meet the Council](#).

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**Ken Norton**

*Hoopa Valley Tribe  
Region 9 (NTWC Chair)  
[kenpnorton@gmail.com](mailto:kenpnorton@gmail.com)*

**Chauncey Means**

*Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes  
Region 8 (NTWC Vice Chair)  
[chauncey.means@cskt.org](mailto:chauncey.means@cskt.org)*

**Daniel Kusnierz**

*Penobscot Indian Nation  
Region 1  
[dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org](mailto:dan.kusnierz@penobscotnation.org)*

**Brian Patterson**

*Oneida Nation  
Region 2  
[bpatterson@oneida-nation.org](mailto:bpatterson@oneida-nation.org)*

**Rainee Tetreault**

*Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians  
Region 4  
[raintetr@ebci-nsn.gov](mailto:raintetr@ebci-nsn.gov)*

**Shaun Livermore**

*Poarch Band of Creek Indians  
Region 4 - At-Large  
[slivermore@pci-nsn.gov](mailto:slivermore@pci-nsn.gov)*

**Nancy Schuldt**

*Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior  
Chippewa, Region 5  
[nancyschuldt@fdlband.org](mailto:nancyschuldt@fdlband.org)*

**Deborah Dotson**

*Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma  
Region 6  
[ddotson@estoo.net](mailto:ddotson@estoo.net)*

**Kayla Vondracek**

*Ponca Tribe of Nebraska  
Region 7  
[kvondracek@poncatribene.gov](mailto:kvondracek@poncatribene.gov)*

**Yolanda Barney**

*Navajo Nation  
Region 9  
[ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov](mailto:ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov)*

**Eric Morrison**

*Salamatof Tribe  
Region 10 - Alaska  
[emorrison@salamatoftribe.org](mailto:emorrison@salamatoftribe.org)*

**Ann Wyatt**

*Klawock Cooperative Association/Tribe  
Region 10 – Alaska  
[annwyatt@klawocktribe.org](mailto:annwyatt@klawocktribe.org)*

**Scott Hauser**

*Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation  
Region 10 - At-Large  
[scott.hauser@usrtf.org](mailto:scott.hauser@usrtf.org)*

**Mary Verner**

*Snoqualmie Tribe  
Region 10  
[mary.verner@snoqualmietribe.us](mailto:mary.verner@snoqualmietribe.us)*

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email: [itep@nau.edu](mailto:itep@nau.edu)

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