



February 2026

Volume 8, Issue 2

Introducing NTWC's new At-Large Representative Joshua Jojola



The National Tribal Water Council recently welcomed Joshua Jojola as the new At-Large Representative. Joshua serves as the Water Quality Program Manager for the Department of Natural Resources at the Pueblo of Santa Ana in New Mexico.

Joshua oversees the tribe's water quality program for the EPA 106 and 319 grants. With over seven years of experience in tribal water quality, Joshua brings expertise in monitoring, regulatory compliance, and sustainable resource management. He collaborates with tribal, state, and federal partners to protect and enhance water resources, integrating traditional knowledge with modern practices to ensure safe, resilient, and culturally informed water programs for the community.

Pueblo of Santa Ana Water Resources Division: <https://santaana-nsn.gov/dnrwaterresources/>

NTWC's Membership Recruitment

The National Tribal Water Council is seeking applicants from water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization to fill three (3) vacancies.

⇒ **Region 3 Representative**

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia).

⇒ **Region 5 Representative**

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin).



CONTACT INFO:

Elaine H. Wilson
NTWC Manager
Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu

Elaina Doral
NTWC Program Coordinator
Elaina.Doral@nau.edu

NEWSLETTER

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

⇒ **At-Large Representative**

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in the United States (Regions 1 through 10).

Tribal water professionals with knowledge in the Clean Water Act (CWA) and Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) are encouraged to apply. Also, an applicant with a background in water infrastructure, drinking water, wastewater, and operations and maintenance, is strongly encouraged.

A copy of the recruitment packet is available by clicking [HERE](#). Interested candidates must submit the following: application form, letter of interest, and professional resume. To express your interest or obtain more information, please contact Elaine Wilson at Elaine.Wilson@nau.edu.

GRANT OPPORTUNITY

EPA Seeks Applicants for Environmental Education Grants

Deadline: March 3, 2026

The EPA is seeking applicants for its Environmental Education Grant Program, announcing up to \$3.2 million in funding to support local, community-based projects that promote environmental awareness and stewardship. The EPA expects to award up to 16 grants nationwide, with individual awards ranging from \$200,000 to \$250,000. The grants are designed to help communities develop hands-on educational projects that encourage Americans to protect their water, health, and natural surroundings.

The program focuses on giving people the knowledge and skills needed to make informed environmental decisions, from safeguarding local waterways to promoting responsible practices at home. Funded projects emphasize real-world learning, community engagement, and practical solutions tailored to local environmental challenges.

The EPA's Environmental Education and Stewardship Division held a webinar on February 5 to provide an overview of the funding opportunity, offer guidance on writing competitive applications, and answer frequently asked questions. The webinar slides are posted and the recording is coming soon. For additional information, please visit the EPA's environmental education grants webpage: <https://www.epa.gov/education/grants>.

The Notice of Funding Opportunity is available on [Grants.gov](#) and the EPA's Environmental Education Grant webpage. Applications are due March 3.



Have a story, idea, or update to share?
Email us at elaina.doral@nau.edu.





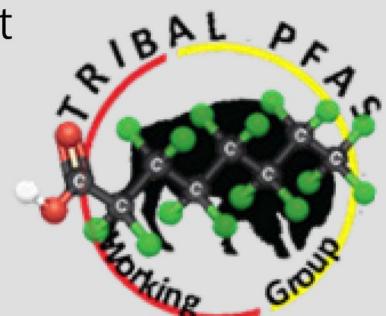
Join the Conversation:



How has PFAS Affected Your Tribe?

The Tribal PFAS Working Group holds monthly calls and would like to invite tribal representatives and researchers to hear testimonials and presentations on how PFAS and other emerging contaminants have impacted tribal lands and resources.

If you are interested in sharing your story at one of our monthly calls, we'd love to hear from you. Please reach out to Elaine Wilson, NTWC Project Manager, at elaine.wilson@nau.edu to join our call.



For more information:

<https://itep.nau.edu/ntwc/pfas-working-group/>

PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITY

EPA's Proposed Rule to Revise the Existing Clean Water Act Section 401 Water Quality Certification Regulations

Deadline: February 17, 2026

On January 13, 2026, the EPA announced a proposed rule to update and clarify several substantive and procedural requirements for water quality certification under Clean Water Act (CWA or the Act) section 401. CWA section 401 is a direct grant of authority to States (and Tribes that have been approved for “treatment as a State” status) to review for compliance with appropriate federal, State, and Tribal water quality requirements any discharge into waters of the United States that may result from a proposed activity that requires a federal license or permit. This proposed rule is intended to clarify several aspects of the certification process consistent with the statutory framework.

EPA is accepting public comments on the proposed rule until February 17, 2026. Comments on the notice should be identified by [Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OW-2025-2929](#) and may be submitted online. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/cwa-401/cwa-section-401-regulatory-requirements>

EVENTS & WEBINARS

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society 2026 Annual National Conference

The 2026 Native American Fish and Wildlife Society Annual National Conference, hosted by the Oneida Indian Nation of New York, will be held from May 4 to 7, 2026 at the Turning Stone Resort Casino in Verona, NY. The deadline for abstracts, student travel scholarships, and travel funding assistance is March 6, 2026. For more information: <https://www.nafws.org/product/2026-annual-national-conference/>

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 training courses:

- Water Distribution Level 1: March 30-April 3, 2026 (online); April 6-10, 2026 (Flagstaff, AZ)
- Wastewater Treatment Level 1: May 11-15, 2026 (online); May 18-22, 2026 (Camp Verde, AZ)

Events & Webinars (*continued*)

Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) Trainings

RCAC partners with underserved rural and Indigenous communities to achieve their vision and well-being through technical assistance, training, financial resources, and advocacy. To learn more about RCAC trainings, please visit: <https://www.events.rcac.org/rcac/Calendar.asp>

Upcoming training opportunities:

- February 24, 2026: Tribal Wastewater Systems – Staff Succession & Recruitment for Wastewater Pond Operators & Managers (online); Register [HERE](#)

Environmental Finance Center Network

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

- February 19, 2026: Stormwater Management Essentials for Small Systems and Communities
- February 24, 2026: Finding a Unicorn! Small Wastewater System Funding Series – Federal Award Management
- March 10, 2026: Tribal Training (In-person: San Carlos, AZ) WWTP O&M Plan Development and Implementation

Contaminated Site Clean-up Information Webinars

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

- February 26, 2026: PFAS & Biosolids – Sources, Occurrence, Transport, and Treatment
- March 5, 2026: PFAS Introductory Training

2026 Tribal Community Resilience Webinar Series

To register: <https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/MMmC31wDSSevL6pVaQQhuw#/registration>

- March 5, 2026: Fire

Eurofins Environmental Testing 2026 PFAS Webinar Series

To register: <https://www.eurofinsus.com/environment-testing/resources/webinars/>

- February 17, 2026: PFAS State of the Union - 2025 Year in Review and 2026 Outlook
- February 24, 2026: Beyond COVID – The Evolution of Wastewater Surveillance as a Public Health Tool
- March 3, 2026: PFAS Navigating Analytical Method Options (Part 3)

USGS 2026 Friday's Findings Schedule

To register: <https://www.usgs.gov/news/webinar-series-fridays-findings>

- February 20, 2026: Tackling Invasive Mussels with Science and Strategy

EPA HABs, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series

To register: https://zoom.us/webinar/register/2917698036790/WN_I8gZ5qFsSdaKKMeGcVTaPw#/registration

- February 25, 2026: Advancing Nutrient Solutions for Estuary Management

EPA Technical Assistance Training Webinar Series

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/compliance/technical-assistance-webinar-series-strengthening-cwa-npdes-permit-compliance-protect>

- February 26, 2026: Practical Sampling and Flow Measurement Tips for Wastewater Operators
- May 21, 2026: Going through a Wastewater Plant Upgrade

EPA Water Utility Resilience Webinar

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/water-sector-threat-briefing>

- February 26, 2026: Water Sector Threat Briefing



Membership Recruitment for Region 3, Region 5, & At-Large Representatives

Applications Accepted until Filled



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. The Council is currently accepting applications from tribal water professionals to fill three (3) openings.

Tribal water professionals with knowledge in the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act are encouraged to apply. Also, an applicant with a background in water infrastructure, drinking water, wastewater, and operations and maintenance, is strongly encouraged.

Region 3 Representative

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in Region 3 (Delaware, District of Columbia, Maryland, Pennsylvania, Virginia, & West Virginia).

Region 5 Representative

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in Region 5 (Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, and Wisconsin).

At-Large Representative

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in the United States (Regions 1 through 10).

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.

Interested applicants must submit the following: application form, letter of interest, and professional resumé. Please refer to the Council's membership application information packet for additional details.

To express your interest, please contact Elaine Wilson at elaine.wilson@nau.edu.
More information may be found on the NTWC website <https://itep.nau.edu/ntwc/>.

NTWC MEMBERS

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

Ken Norton
Hoopa Valley Tribe
Region 9 (NTWC Chair)
knorton@hoopa-nsn.gov

Chauncey Means
Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes
Region 8 (NTWC Vice Chair)
chauncey.means@cskt.org

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

Brian Patterson
Oneida Nation
Region 2
bpatterson@oneida-nation.org

Rainee Tetreault
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Region 4
raintetr@ebci-nsn.gov

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

Deborah Dotson
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Region 6
ddotson@estoo.net

Joshua Jojola
Pueblo of Santa Ana
Region 6 - At-Large
joshua.jojola@santaana-nsn.gov

Kayla Vondracek
Ponca Tribe of Nebraska
Region 7
kvondracek@poncatribe-ne.gov

Yolanda Barney
Navajo Nation
Region 9
ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov

Eric Morrison
Salamatof Tribe
Region 10 - Alaska
emorrison@salamatoftribe.org

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

Scott Hauser
Upper Snake River Tribes Foundation
Region 10 - At-Large
scott.hauser@usrtf.org

Mary Verner
Snoqualmie Tribe
Region 10
mary.verner@snoqualmietribe.us

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email: itep@nau.edu