



June 2026
Volume 8, Issue 6

Recognizing and Remembering Eric Morrison's 15 Years of Service to the NTWC

By Shaun Livermore, Poach Band of Creek Indians



Eric Morrison, NTWC Alaska Representative, retired in May from his employment with the Salamatof Tribe in central Alaska. Throughout Eric's 15 years of membership on the National Tribal Water Council (NTWC), he has served the NTWC with the quiet steadiness of someone who has spent a lifetime listening to the land, to his people, and to the stories that shape both. His advocacy for Alaska Native resources is not abstract or distant; it is deeply rooted in lived experiences. When he speaks about environmental threats, melting permafrost, declining salmon runs, the slow erosion of ancestral lands, he doesn't just cite data, he tells stories - of families, of traditions at risk, of moments that reveal what's truly at stake. In doing so, he bridges the gap between policy and humanity, making even the most complex issues feel personal.



What sets Eric apart is his calm, thoughtful approach. He doesn't rush to be the loudest voice in the room, but when he speaks, people lean in. He has a way of tracing problems back to their roots, then gently but clearly mapping out the ripple effects of every decision and how one action can echo across ecosystems, cultures, and generations. Yet even in the weight of these conversations, his sense of humor finds its way in, offering connection and relief without ever diminishing the seriousness of the work. Over a long career, he has not only championed Alaska Native issues with unwavering purpose, but also lifted others along the way: encouraging new voices, mentoring emerging leaders, and ensuring that the future of advocacy is as strong and grounded as the legacy he continues to build.



CONTACT INFO:

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

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

NEWSLETTER

To subscribe or unsubscribe to this newsletter, please click [here](#) where you can manage your NTWC Listserv and other ITEP Listserv subscriptions.



VISIT US AT:
<https://itep.nau.edu/ntwc/>

Eric Morrison's 15 Years as NTWC Alaska Rep *(continued)*

During the NTWC & EPA Office of Water 2026 Spring In-Person Meeting, Chair Ken Norton presented Eric with a Certificate of Service (*right photo*). Chairman Norton gifted Eric a beaded necklace and thanked him for hosting the fall meeting in Sitka, Alaska (*left and middle photos*). He noted that the NTWC members were fortunate to visit Eric's homeland and see the strength of his people.



"I will always be thankful for the opportunity to visit Sitka, and hear Eric talk about growing up there as he pointed out areas from his "taxi." His dedication to his homeland and pride in his culture is evident, advocating Alaska's water where he grew up fishing."

Debbie Dotson, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, NTWC Region 6 Representative

UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS

Tribal Lands & Environment Forum 2026

The Tribal Lands & Environment Forum website is now active. The forum will be held August 17-20, 2026, at the OKANA Resort in Oklahoma City, OK. Participants may register as an attendee, sign up to be a sponsor or exhibitor, or submit a session or training proposal. For more information, please visit: <https://sites.google.com/view/tlef2026>

EPA Updated Fact Sheet: The Economic Benefits of Protecting Healthy Watersheds

EPA published an update to the 2012 fact sheet, [The Economic Benefits of Protecting Healthy Watersheds](#) (EPA-841-F-25-002, April 2026). The updated fact sheet compiles state-by-state evidence demonstrating the measurable economic returns of watershed protection across six benefit categories: drinking water treatment cost savings; natural hazard mitigation; recreation and tourism; subsistence hunting, fishing and foraging; quality of life and health; and property values.



Join Our Council



Seeking Applicants for:

- 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 & Wisconsin).

- At-Large Representative

Open to tribal water professionals employed by a federally recognized Tribe or tribally authorized organization in the U.S. (Region 1 through 10).

NEW

- Alaska Representative

Open to tribal water professionals employed by an Alaska Native Tribe or tribally authorized organization in the State of Alaska.

Why Join Us

Contribute your skills, passion, and voice to advocate for Tribes on water quality issues and concerns.

Interested applicants must submit an application form, letter of interest, & professional resume.

The application packet is available on the NTWC website
<https://itep.nau.edu/ntwc/>.

TRIBAL CONSULTATION & PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

EPA CWA 312(n) Uniform National Discharge Standards Phase II Batch 3 Rulemaking

Deadline: July 14, 2026

The EPA, in coordination with the Department of War, is initiating consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes on a proposed rulemaking to establish national standards for discharges incidental to the normal operation of vessels of the Armed Forces (e.g., U.S. Navy, Coast Guard, Marine Corps, Air Force) that operate nationwide in coastal and inland waters. The standards to be developed in this proposed rulemaking would be the third and final batch of Phase II performance standards for marine pollution control devices under the Uniform National Discharge Standards (UNDS) program.

The EPA and DoW are developing performance standards for three discharges: clean ballast, compensated ballast, and dirty ballast. These performance standards are intended to reduce environmental impacts associated with vessel discharges, stimulate the development of improved pollution control devices and environmentally sound military practices, and establish nationwide standards. This proposed rulemaking will not affect vessels operated by Tribes because the rule only regulates discharges from vessels of the Armed Forces of the United States. However, Tribes may be interested in this action because vessels of the Armed Forces of the United States, including Coast Guard vessels, may operate in or near Tribal waters.

For more information about these discharges, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/vessels-marinas-and-ports/uniform-national-discharge-standards-unds-rulemaking-process>.

For information about consulting on this action, please visit: <https://tcots.epa.gov/ords/tcotspub/f?p=106:5::2462:::>

EPA Unmanaged Combustion Residual Leachate Rule

Public comment period ends: June 17, 2026

On May 13, 2026, the EPA signed a proposed rule to revise the existing effluent guidelines and standards (ELGs) for coal-fired power plants in the [Steam Electric Power Generating](#) category for unmanaged combustion residual leachate. The proposed rule, if finalized, would revise the ELGs for unmanaged combustion residual leachate, or water leaking from landfills or surface impoundments that contain coal combustion residuals. The proposed rule offers a range of regulatory options based on different known technologies and identifies the EPA's preferred option.

All supporting materials for the proposed rule can be found on the EPA's docket at [regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov). The Docket Number is EPA-HQ-OW-2009-0819. For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/eg/steam-electric-power-generating-effluent-guidelines-unmanaged-combustion-residual-leachate>

Press release: <https://www.epa.gov/newsreleases/epa-reinforces-commitment-supporting-reliable-affordable-coal-fired-electricity>

EPA Proposed PFOA and PFOS Compliance Extension Rule

Deadline: July 20, 2026

The proposed PFOA and PFOS Compliance Extension Rule upholds the federal drinking water Maximum Contaminant Levels (MCLs) for perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and perfluorooctane sulfonic acid (PFOS) while strengthening practical implementation by providing an option for drinking water systems to request two additional years - to 2031 - to comply with the enforceable limits. Following the proposed rule published in the Federal Register, the EPA will accept written comments on the proposed rule in the public docket for 60 days at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2025-1742. Please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/proposed-pfoa-and-pfos-compliance-extension-rule>

Tribal Consultation & Public Comment Opportunities *(continued)*

The EPA will hold a virtual public hearing on July 7, 2026, where the public is invited to provide the EPA with verbal comments on the proposed rules. During the hearing, the agency will present information on the proposed rule and exemption schedule and then receive comments from the public. Registration to attend and/or provide verbal comment during the hearing is required and the last day to pre-register to provide public comment is July 1, 2026.

Information and registration for the public hearing is available [here](#). The EPA will post an agenda and list of pre-registered public commenters to this [website](#) no later than July 6, 2026. For questions related to the public hearing, please contact PFASNPDWR@epa.gov.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/20/2026-10086/extending-the-compliance-deadline-for-the-pfoa-and-pfos-maximum-contaminant-levels>

EPA Proposed Rescission of Regulatory Determinations and Removal of Related Provisions for Four PFAS Substances

Deadline: July 20, 2026

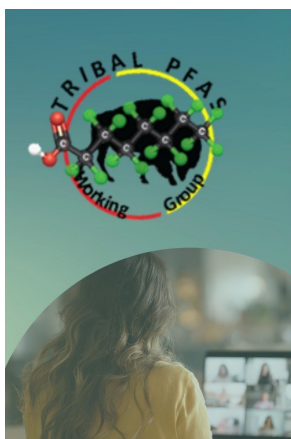
The proposed rule to Rescind Regulatory Determinations and Regulations for PFHxS, PFNA, HFPO-DA, and Hazard Index Mixtures corrects the Biden Administration's failure to follow the clear requirements of the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) in promulgating regulations for perfluorohexane sulfonic acid (PFHxS), perfluorononanoic acid (PFNA), hexafluoropropylene oxide dimer acid and its ammonium salt (HFPO-DA) (commonly known as GenX chemicals), and Hazard Index mixtures of these three PFAS plus perfluorobutane sulfonic acid (PFBS). Following the proposed rule published in the Federal Register, the EPA will accept written comments on the proposed rule in the public docket for 60 days at www.regulations.gov under Docket ID: EPA-HQ-OW-2025-0654.

<https://www.epa.gov/sdwa/proposed-pfas-rescission-rule>

The EPA will hold a virtual public hearing on July 7, 2026, where the public is invited to provide the EPA with verbal comments on the proposed rules. During the hearing, the agency will present information on the proposed rule and exemption schedule and then receive comments from the public. Registration to attend and/or provide verbal comment during the hearing is required and the last day to pre-register to provide public comment is July 1, 2026.

Information and registration for the public hearing is available [here](#). The EPA will post an agenda and list of pre-registered public commenters to this [website](#) no later than July 6, 2026. For questions related to the public hearing, please contact PFASNPDWR@epa.gov.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2026/05/20/2026-10085/rescission-of-regulatory-determinations-and-removal-of-related-provisions-for-four-pfas-substances>



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/>



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>

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>

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: July 6-10, 2026 (online); July 13-17, 2026 (Flagstaff, AZ)
- Wastewater Treatment Level 1: August 17-21, 2026 (online); August 24-28, 2026 (Camp Verde, AZ)

Native American Fish and Wildlife Society: BIA Fish, Wildlife, and Recreation Funding Webinar Series

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

- June 8, 2026: Invasive Species Program
- June 9, 2026: Fish Hatchery Maintenance Program
- June 11, 2026: Tribal Youth Initiative
- June 12, 2026: Endangered Species Program

EPA Water Utility Resilience Events

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/waterresilience/register-epa-water-utility-resilience-events>

- June 10, 2026: Cybersecurity 103
- June 17, 2026: Cybersecurity Refresher

Environmental Finance Center Network

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

- June 9, 2026: Septic System Challenges Across Scales – Collaborative Approaches to Outreach and Management
- June 23, 2026: The Clean Water Act Puzzle
- June 23, 2026: Water Research Seminar – PFAS Treatment for Rural Water Treatment Systems

Clean-up Information (CLU-IN) Training & Events

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

- June 9, 2026: PFAS Chemistry Explained

EPA Emergency Response Research Webinar Series

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/emergency-response-research/webinar-series>

- June 10, 2026: Fire Suppression Contaminated with PFAS

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

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

- June 17, 2026: Practical Tools to Advance Water Reuse

Harmful Algal Blooms, Hypoxia, and Nutrients Research Webinar Series

To register: <https://www.epa.gov/water-research/harmful-algal-blooms-hypoxia-and-nutrients-research-webinar-series>

- June 24, 2026: Benthic Toxin-Producing Cyanobacteria in Rivers and Streams of the U.S.

Events & Webinars *(continued)*

2026 Tribal Community Resilience Webinar Series

To register: <https://arizona.zoom.us/meeting/register/MMmC31wDSseVL6pVaQQhuw#/registration>

- July 2, 2026: Fish and Wildlife

Minnesota Aquatic Invasive Species Research Center – Webinar Series

To register: <https://maisrc.umn.edu/ais-detectors/webinars>

- July 8, 2026: Genomic Surveillance of Zebra Mussel Populations using Genotyping by Sequencing

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@cstkt.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@poncatribene.gov

Yolanda Barney

*Navajo Nation
Region 9*
ybarney@navajo-nsn.gov

Ann Wyatt

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

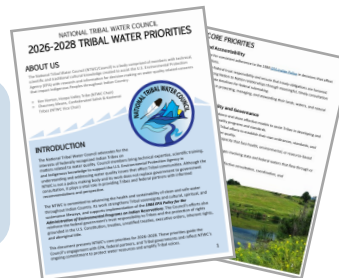
Scott Hauser

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

Mary Verner

*Snoqualmie Tribe
Region 10*
mary.verner@snoqualmietribe.us

Click [HERE](#) to access the
NTWC's Core Priorities for
2026-2028



To manage your ITEP/NTWC listserv subscriptions, go to <https://itep.nau.edu/newsletter-form/>

©2026 Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals at Northern Arizona University

email: itep@nau.edu