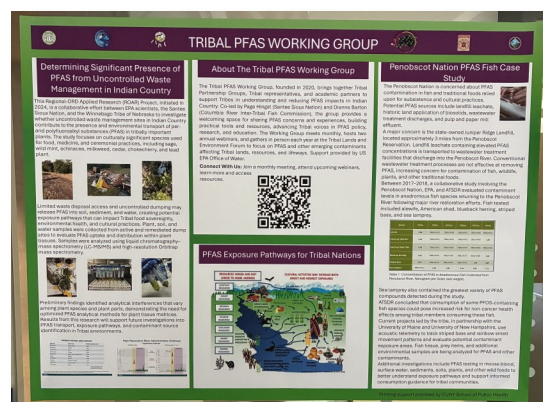




Amplifying Our Voices: Highlights of the Tribal PFAS Working Group's Outreach Activities

For the past couple of months, members of the Tribal PFAS Working Group have provided presentations on emerging contaminants, such as PFAS, and its impacts to tribal communities.

Elaine Wilson, NTWC Program Manager, attended the National PFAS Conference on June 8-10, 2026, in Tucson, Arizona. This national conference is held every two years to support information sharing and facilitate engagement. Elaine participated in a session titled "Toxics and Indigenous Perspectives" that focused on challenges faced by Tribal Nations. Elaine's presentation gave an overview of the Tribal PFAS Working Group – who they are, what they do, their objectives, and soliciting tribal stories of PFAS impacts on tribal lands across Indian Country. The working group collectively developed an informational poster that showcased two tribal case studies: (1) Presence of PFAS from Uncontrolled Waste Management in Indian Country; and (2) Penobscot Indian Nation PFAS Fish Case Study.



The working group hosts two webinars – summer and winter – per year as part of its objectives. In July, the working group hosted a webinar with featured guest speaker Dr. Ian Pepper, University of Arizona. Dr. Pepper presented on the National Collaborative PFAS Study that evaluated the mobility of PFAS in biosolids and assessed potential crop uptake of PFAS from these soils. There are two phases of the study and Dr. Pepper provided an overview of the results for Phase I. The working group's winter webinar will be held in December.

Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska, presented during the Environmental Law Institute's "PFAS Briefing: PFAS and Tribal Lands" webinar on July 23, 2026. The webinar focused on how PFAS contamination impacts tribal communities and the complications that arise to remediate tribal lands.



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Tribal PFAS Working Group's Outreach Activities *(continued)*

The Tribal PFAS Working Group and the National Tribal Toxics Council will be co-sponsoring a one-day workshop titled “Beyond the Known: Understanding Emerging Contaminants” at ITEP’s 2026 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum on August 17, 2026. Conference attendees may attend the workshop in-person or virtually. The workshop will cover topics such as PFAS case studies, PFAS contamination on tribal foods, cultural practices, and lifeways, trifluoroacetic acid (TFA), heavy metals, pharmaceuticals, risk communication, and toxic inventory program. The Tribal PFAS Working Group continues to learn more about PFAS and emerging contaminants and its impacts to Tribes. The working group consists of members from the National Tribal Water Council, Tribal Science Council, National Tribal Toxics Council, Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee, National Tribal Air Association, Tribal Pesticide Program Council, interested tribal representatives, and academic partners. The working group’s co-leads are Page Hingst, Santee Sioux Nation of Nebraska and Dianne Barton, Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission.

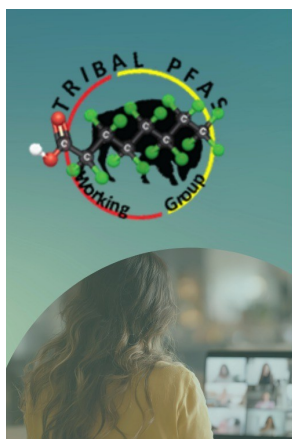
The working group meets monthly – the second Thursday of each month – and often invite PFAS researchers and tribal representatives as guest speakers. Presentations/webinars that are recorded are available at the National Tribal Water Council’s MediaSpace page. The page includes two presentations/webinars held earlier this year: (1) PFAS Production in the Military; and (2) Communicating Pollutants that Threaten Tribal Identities – PFAS Communication in Local Fish & Shellfish.

Please visit the working group’s webpage for additional information: <https://itep.nau.edu/ntwc/pfas-working-group/>.



NTWC’s MediaSpace page:

<https://mediaspace.nau.edu/channel/National+Tribal+Water+Council/116196612>



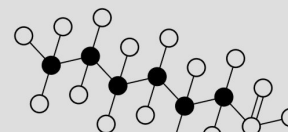
Join the Conversation: How has PFAS Affected Your Tribe?

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/>



TRIBAL CONSULTATION & PUBLIC COMMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6) Proposed Rule

Deadline: September 1, 2026

The Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) requires that once every five years the EPA issue a list of unregulated contaminants to be monitored by public water systems (PWSs). The sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule (UCMR 6) was proposed on July 1, 2026. UCMR 6 proposes sample collection for 30 chemical contaminants between 2028 and 2030 using analytical methods developed by the EPA, including certain PFAS. This monitoring provides a basis for future actions to protect public health.

EPA's data collection effort under this new UCMR will continue to inform the agency's PFAS OUT initiative to help drinking water systems address PFAS. PFAS OUT is a proactive outreach initiative to provide information on resources, including funding and technical assistance, to drinking water systems with PFAS challenges. This outreach will provide practical, interactive, and location-specific resources, including webinars and information on how to access funding and technical assistance to address PFAS. All water systems will be able to access [PFAS OUT](#) resources and can secure technical assistance through EPA's [RealWaterTA](#).

Comments may be submitted online: <https://www.regulations.gov>, Docket ID: **EPA-HQ-OW-2023-0469**. For more information about the current and previous UCMR cycles, please visit EPA's [UCMR website](#).

Proposed 2027 Construction General Permit

Deadline: September 2, 2026

On August 3, the EPA published the [Proposed 2027 Construction General Permit \(CGP\)](#) for stormwater discharges from construction activities. The permit covers construction stormwater discharges in areas where EPA is the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permitting authority in all 10 EPA Regions. The permit will be open for public comment for 30 days with comments due September 2, 2026.

EPA is hosting a webinar on Tuesday, **August 18, 2026**, from 2:00 to 3:30 p.m. (Eastern time) to review the proposed changes to the CGP and to answer questions. [Register to participate in the webinar](#).

Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk from PFOA and PFOS in Biosolids

Comments are due September 4, 2026

On July 1, 2026, the U.S. EPA released the memorandum *Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk from PFOA and PFOS in Biosolids*. This memorandum includes draft guidance that, if finalized, would provide recommendations that may be helpful to operators of wastewater treatment plants (WWTPs) and related facilities, landowners and farmers, state and Tribal water agencies, and the public. It provides voluntary recommendations for potential ways to mitigate risks from PFOA and PFOS when managing sewage sludge and biosolids.

The draft guidance is being released for a 60-day public comment period. Comments are due September 4, 2026. The EPA also may use public comments filed to help inform any future agency actions.

- Document: [Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk from PFOA and PFOS in Biosolids \(pdf\)](#)
- Federal Register Notice: [Draft Guidance for Reducing Risk From Perfluorooctanoic Acid \(PFOA\) and Perfluorooctane Sulfonic Acid \(PFOS\) in Biosolids; Establishment of a Public Docket; Request for Feedback](#)
- [Biosolids website](#)
- Join the EPA on Tuesday, August 18th at 3 PM ET for a virtual listening session. See more information including instructions for registration on our website: <https://www.epa.gov/biosolids/draft-guidance-reducing-risk-perfluorooctanoic-acid-pfoa-and-perfluorooctane-sulfonic>.



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/>.

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 Treatment Level 1: September 28-October 2, 2026 (online); October 5-9, 2026 (Portland, OR)
-

Environmental Finance Center Network

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

- August 27, 2026: Wastewater Systems Solids Handling (Part 2)
- September 15, 2026: Chlorine Disinfection and Calculations for Drinking Water Operators

Eurofins Environmental Testing Webinar

To register: <https://register.gotowebinar.com/register/9208010117724030038>

- August 18, 2026: Investigating the Co-Occurrence of Emerging Ultrashort-Chain and Legacy PFAS in Potable Water

EPA Tools and Resources Webinar Series

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

- August 19, 2026: Participatory Science (Presenters will walk through the planning process steps, discuss outcomes, and highlight lessons learned to engage public involvement in science).

University of Arizona – Water Resources Research Center

To register: <https://wrrc.arizona.edu/news-events/water-webinars?page=8>

- September 8, 2026: Data Centers and Water Use

USGS 2026 Friday's Findings Webinar Series

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

- August 21, 2026: Understanding how rare earth elements and other critical minerals may affect aquatic species

Center for Health, Environment & Justice Webinar

To register: <https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/HFfwu2aIR6ibys8eBlvEGg#/registration>

- September 1, 2026: Data Centers 101: What Communities Need to Know

EPA Water Utility Resilience Webinars

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

- August 19, 2026: Cybersecurity Refresher

University of Minnesota – Aquatic Invasive Species Webinar

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

- September 9, 2026: Restoring our underwater forests – Can native revegetation enhance invasion resistance in lakes?

NTWC MEMBERS

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

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email: itep@nau.edu



World Water Week 2026: Water for People and Progress August 23-26, 2026

World Water Week has been organized every year since 1991 by [Stockholm International Water Institute \(SIWI\)](#). It is the leading conference on global water issues and an enduring meeting place for water action, championing cooperation across sectors and national boundaries.

For more info: <https://worldwaterweek.org/>