



U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
Pacific Southwest / Region 9



*Serving Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, the Pacific Islands and 148 Tribes*

Land Division  
Tribal Section • May 2016

75 Hawthorne Street, San Francisco, CA 94105  
866-EPA-WEST • [www.epa.gov/region9](http://www.epa.gov/region9)

## U.S. EPA Pacific Southwest Tribal Section Newsletter

### News Notes

#### Razor Clams Warning (Humboldt and Del Norte Counties)

The California Department of Public Health is reminding consumers not to eat razor clams from Humboldt and Del Norte counties. The department first issued the warning last year, and recent testing has shown that dangerous levels of the domoic acid toxin are still in these clams.

Domoic acid, also known as Amnesic Shellfish Poisoning, can cause serious illness or death in humans. So far, no cases of human poisoning from domoic acid are known to have occurred in California. These warnings do not apply to commercially sold clams, mussels, scallops, or oysters from approved sources. State law permits only state-certified commercial shellfish harvesters or dealers to sell these products. Shellfish sold by these dealers are subject to frequent mandatory testing to monitor for toxins

For the most current information about shellfish poisoning and health advisories, call the “Shellfish Information Line” at (800) 553-4133. For additional information, visit <http://ow.ly/4n7PII>

**CONTACT:** Orville Thomas, (916) 440-7259 or [orville.thomas@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:orville.thomas@cdph.ca.gov)

#### Spotlight on RTOC

The spring meeting of the Regional Tribal Operations Committee in April had a full agenda, and issues addressed included presentations on EPA and tribal budgets, environmental success stories, and workgroups on outreach, governance and climate assessment, as well as a Treatment as a State for Water Quality Standards certification presented to Gina Wachsmuth, Water Quality Technician, of the Walker River Paiute Tribe by outgoing Regional Administrator, Jared Blumenfeld (pictured at left).



### Government Grants

#### Source Reduction Assistance Program Awards (\$2,200,000)

EPA is soliciting proposals for research, studies, demonstrations, and training proposals that:

- use the work of the West Coast Climate and Materials Management Forum or similar programs to help tribes, state and local governments mitigate the impact of climate change;
- promote pollution prevention and waste reduction in food manufacturing and processing; and
- develop safer alternatives to hazardous chemicals, including those identified as priorities by EPA (EPA workplan chemicals), or by the California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) Safer Consumer Products Candidate Chemical List, or by other authoritative lists.

For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/cuZg3>

**DEADLINE:** Monday, June 6, 2016. Apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/cuZYd>. The Funding Opportunity Number is EPA-HQ-OPPT-2016-003.

**CONTACT:** John Katz, EPA, Region 9 at [katz.john@epa.gov](mailto:katz.john@epa.gov)

### **Indian Community Development Block Grants (\$56,000,000)**

HUD is funding a program to develop viable Indian and Alaska Native communities, including the creation of new housing, suitable living environments, and economic opportunities. The grants available are:

- single-purpose, competitive grants for projects that must principally benefit low- and moderate-income people; and
- imminent threat grants addressing issues that have an immediate negative impact on public health or safety of tribal residents.

For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/cuZj3>

**DEADLINE:** Tuesday, June 14, 2016. Apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/cuZj9>. The Funding Opportunity Number is FR-6000-N-23.

**CONTACT:** Roberta Youmans at [roberta.l.youmans@hud.gov](mailto:roberta.l.youmans@hud.gov)

### **Tribal Energy Development Capacity Grants (\$1.5 million)**

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development is funding the development of tribal capacity to regulate and manage energy resources. These awards complement Helping Expedite and Advance Responsible Tribal Homeownership, which restores tribal authority to develop and implement tribal laws governing leasing tribal surface trust lands. For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/cuPbB>

**DEADLINE:** Friday, July 8, 2016. Apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/cuPbB> and the Funding Opportunity Number is BIA-FA-16-TEDC-0001.

**CONTACT:** Rebecca Naragon, Energy and Mineral Development Program, [ieedgrants@bia.gov](mailto:ieedgrants@bia.gov)

### **Tribal EcoAmbassadors Program (\$400,000)**

EPA is seeking proposals for helping tribal colleges and universities research environmental and climate change issues in campus and tribal communities. EPA is awarding grants of up to \$50,000 each for projects such as preparing course curricula and conducting research. Specific issues that may be addressed include climate change mitigation and adaptation, and air, water, and waste management. For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/cuPKV>; also, tune in to the webinars:

Tuesday, May 10, 2016, 1:00 p.m. Pacific Time

Call in Number: 1.866.299.3188

Call in Code: 202.564.9957

<http://ow.ly/4no80j>

Wednesday, May 11, 2016, 10 a.m. Pacific Time

Call in Number: 1.866.299.3188

Call in Code: 202.564.9957

<http://ow.ly/4no88i>

**DEADLINE:** Friday, June 17, 2016. Apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/cuPk4> and the Funding Opportunity Number is EPA-OITA-AIEO-2016-001.

**CONTACT:** Rosalva Tapia at [tapia.rosalva@epa.gov](mailto:tapia.rosalva@epa.gov)

### **Energy and Mineral Development Grants (\$5 million)**

The Bureau of Indian Affairs is funding projects that promote energy and mineral resource development on Indian lands. Eligible projects include such renewable energy sources as wind, solar, biomass, hydro, and geothermal. Grant applications could focus on assessing the feasibility of brownfields, landfills, or mine sites for renewable energy. EPA assessment tools useful in the context of the grant applications include mapping and screening tools that can identify and assess the renewable energy potential of sites. For example, [RE-Powering America's Electronic Decision Tree](http://go.usa.gov/cuPTJ), <http://go.usa.gov/cuPTJ>, provides a step-by-step walk-through of key considerations for a solar or wind energy project at a site, such as a brownfield or landfill. For more information, visit <http://go.usa.gov/cuQZx>

**DEADLINE:** Friday, July 8, 2016. Apply online at <http://go.usa.gov/cuQZx>. The Funding Opportunity Number is BIA-FA-16-EMDP-0002.

**CONTACT:** Rebecca Naragon, Energy and Mineral Development Program, [ieedgrants@bia.gov](mailto:ieedgrants@bia.gov)

## **Webinars**

### **National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) & Mining 101**

EPA is hosting a webinar on the basics of NEPA and mining. This three-part series includes an examination of case studies, and a focus on mine projects and key areas of NEPA, including acid rock drainage, and water and cultural resources. Participants must register for each session separately. For more information, contact Jean M. Balent, (703) 603-9924 or [balent.jean@epa.gov](mailto:balent.jean@epa.gov)

- Session 1: "Mining Fundamentals" Thursday, May 12, 2016, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time. The course surveys the major steps in mine development, exploration, types of hardrock mining, and mineral processing. Register at <http://ow.ly/4n885R>
- Session 2: "Mining Environmental Concerns and Issues," Tuesday, May 24, 2016, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time. This course explores environmental concerns at mine sites and how issues can be addressed. Specific topics include types of waste products, surface and groundwater concerns, water treatment, and potential air issues. Register at <http://ow.ly/4n88D3>
- Session 3: "The Regulatory Process and How Tribes Can Engage," Wednesday, June 8, 2016, 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Pacific Time. This course outlines the regulatory process of mining with an in-depth look at the NEPA review process and major permits associated with mine operations. Register at <http://ow.ly/4n8388>

## **Trainings and Meetings**

### **Emergency Management Courses**

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is hosting trainings on emergency management from now until September 2016. Topics include "Emergency Management Framework for Tribal Governments," "Mitigation for Tribal Governments," and "Continuity of Operations for Tribal Governments."

**REGISTRATION:** For information on the training schedule and registration, visit <http://go.usa.gov/ctzNe>

## **Mother Lode of Information on Mining**

Save the date for “The Mining Life Cycle: Tribal Engagement and Environmental Responsibility.” Developed by EPA headquarters and regional offices (5, 8, 9, and 10), and tribal representatives in the National Tribal Mining Workgroup, this training will be held in the Phoenix, Arizona, area in early November. Classes will cover exploration and mine planning, closure, operations, effective environmental management, and handling environmental risk.

**WHEN & WHERE:** Wednesday, November 2, 2016, to Thursday, November 3, 2016. Phoenix, Arizona, area.

**CONTACT:** For more information, visit <http://ow.ly/10AQpQ>

## **Odds & Ends**

EPA is soliciting comments from tribes on the first draft of its “Best Practices and Approaches Report: Preventing Sudden, Uncontrolled Fluid Mining Waste Releases Prior to Conducting Response Actions at Mine Sites.” EPA’s Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation developed this report in the aftermath of the Gold King Mine release.

This report compiles best practices and approaches for preventing fluid mine waste releases, specifically Mine Influenced Waters, adit blowouts and surface impoundment failures.

The report has two chapters and multiple appendices. The first chapter provides best practices for investigating underground mine adits, and the second chapter provides best practices for investigating surface impoundments.

To obtain the draft or make comments, contact Shahid Mahmud at [mahmud.shahid@epa.gov](mailto:mahmud.shahid@epa.gov).