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/4n7P1](http://ow.ly/4n7P1).

CONTACT: Orville Thomas, (916) 440-7259 or 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.
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

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.


CONTACT: Roberta Youmans at 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, ieecgrants@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

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, 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

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

- 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/4n883R

- 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.


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.