

The ABCs of TAS

In 1990, amendments to the 1963 Clean Air Act spelled out the right of an Indian tribe to be “treated as a state,” commonly referred to as “TAS,” for air-related programs and authority. In the Tribal Authority Rule (TAR), promulgated in 1998, the process for obtaining TAS status was spelled out. The TAR has been a watershed for tribal environmental progress, adding momentum to a movement that has resulted in more than 100 tribes maintaining air-management programs for their communities. For some tribes, pursuing TAS status seems like the next logical step.

TAS can carry tribal air progress a step further by enabling tribes to manage various aspects of air management under their own authority; i.e., finding them “eligible” to run their own programs. According to Laura McKelvey of EPA’s Community and Tribal Programs, “TAS formalizes that the tribe is going to implement part of the Clean Air Act. The TAS says to EPA, ‘I want to be seen as the responsible party’...for whatever issue they choose.” She adds that

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A Conversation with Darrel Harmon

Darrel Harmon, who was Senior Indian Program Manager in U.S. EPA’s Office of Air and Radiation (OAR) in Washington DC since early 2001, took a new position in June as Director of EPA Region 5’s Indian Environmental Office. His base will be Chicago, from which he’ll provide assistance to tribes in Wisconsin, Minnesota and Michigan (IL, IN, and OH, the EPA Region’s other three states, have no federally recognized tribes).

Before signing on with EPA, Harmon worked in the air program at the Penobscot Nation in Maine; before that he held positions with state and local air agencies. Harmon’s role at EPA involved working directly with its leadership,

advising the Assistant Administrator and senior management on tribal air issues. His role included developing budget priorities for tribal air funding across the U.S., managing policy and regulatory



development, and conducting strategic planning and coordination on many levels inside and out of EPA. During his long tenure there, he became a familiar face to scores of tribal air professionals at programs large and small, many of whom consider him a friend.

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NATIVE VOICES IS GOING DIGITAL!

The next issue of *Native Voices* will be our final paper copy. If we have your email address, you will receive the present issue by email only. If you find a paper copy in your mailbox and wish to continue receiving the newsletter directly, please contact Lydia today at lydia.scheer@nau.edu, and we’ll put you on our e-mailing list. *Native Voices* will continue to keep you up-to-date on tribal air issues, challenges and successes, and we hope you’ll choose to remain a direct (free) subscriber. *Native Voices* will also be available in .pdf form from the ITEP website.

From the Executive Director Ann Marie Chischilly

I had a great time at the National Tribal Forum in Tulsa in May, and feedback from many of the Forum's 145 participants (111 tribal nations were represented) suggest that attendees found the event educational and inspiring. I want



to thank all of you who helped to create another great NTF experience—organizers and participants. My thanks go out to the Cherokee Nation, who provided a first-rate venue for the event in Tulsa and kept things running smoothly.

This year's Forum was dedicated to the memory of Nez Perce tribal member Angel McCormack, whom we lost earlier this year. I was touched by the outpouring of emotion for Angel, whose work with tribes and U.S. EPA did so much for tribal air-management progress. I was also struck by the fact that so many NTF attendees contributed auction items that raised more than \$4000.00 to help Angel's family get through this difficult time. Angel did amazing work for the tribal air community and was a friend to so many. Her loving spirit will always be a part of us.

I also want to thank U.S. EPA Assistant Administrator Gina McCarthy and Deputy Assistant

Administrator Janet McCabe for taking time to attend NTF and listen up-close to the concerns of the tribal air community. It's great to have support from the top for tribal air programs, and one or both officials have demonstrated their support by attending the last three Forums.

In my opening address at NTF, I announced that ITEP would be starting a new program to support Indian nations called the Tribal Clean Energy Resource Center, or "TCERC." The mission of TCERC is to help tribes transition from fossil fuel to renewable and clean energy through the development and research of clean-energy technologies. TCERC began several years ago at the request of tribal leaders who now serve as TCERC's Tribal Advisory Committee. It is composed of tribal leaders and national Indian energy leaders.

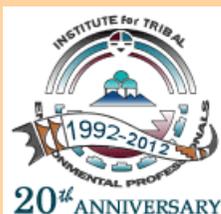
Last Fall, ITEP sought national support for the program from the National Congress of American Indians. Through the gracious support of Hopi Nation Chairman Leroy Shingoitewa, Penobscot Nation Chief Kirk Francis, and Vice-Chief Bill Thompson and Councilman Paul Ninham of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin, Resolution PDX-11-064 was passed unanimously! Soon after, Northern Arizona University (NAU) agreed to partner with ITEP to assist in the launch of TCERC with a two-year funding agreement. We will be announcing the TCERC team in the next *Native Voices*.

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Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals

—Northern Arizona University—



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HARMON—from front page

The following are excerpts from a conversation between Harmon and Dennis Wall, editor of Native Voices.

After eleven years, why did you decide to leave your job with OAR?

The weight of not being with my family the last couple of years [he worked in Washington DC while his family was in the Midwest] has been overwhelming. I feel lucky to have been working for tribes on the national level, and if there was a way I could stay, I would. It's certainly hard to leave. My family is relocating to NE Missouri, just south of Chicago where I'll be working. I want to see my family more often and be home as much as I can. It's a bittersweet feeling for me. I'll really miss my old role, but I'm also fortunate and excited to be starting this new position, doing and learning new things.

What will you be doing at Region 5?

I'll be the Director of the Indian Environmental Office, which is responsible for GAP grants and supporting tribal environmental program development, including advising the Regional Administrator. I'll be working with all environmental media offices in the Region, helping to implement EPA programs in Indian country, and more closely with the tribes in the Region. I'll have a staff at the Indian Regional Office, which should support getting more done. I'm excited to be going to Region 5. Every tribe in the Region has a Tribal Environmental Agreement with the Regional EPA office, and the Region has a very well developed program and a history of good interactions with the tribes.

What are some of the environmental challenges that tribes in Region 5 face?

Some of their issues include mining, Great Lakes water issues, other surface-water issues, air quality protection, and waste/superfund issues. My plan is to help get each tribe up to having the full program that meets their needs, and to ensure that the Regional EPA programs get the support and information they need to build effective programs with the tribes. Overall, we really want to support tribal environmental protection, and support tribal efforts to build and implement their programs.

A big part of your former job involved setting air-funding priorities for tribes on the national level. How did you approach that task?

Consistency was something I really worked for—trying to make sure each of the Regions was operating at the same level. Creating a fair funding structure was the other big part of it.

Some history: In 1996, OAR got the initial allocation to start funding tribes to launch air programs, in preparation for implementation of the Tribal Authority Rule, which went

through in 1998. At that time there were only a few tribal air programs, so for the first several years there was more money than the tribes could spend. My predecessor, David LaRoche, did great work helping to develop the TAR and getting tribes up and running on developing air programs.

Prior to 2001 we were working with tribes to get programs started, and we accumulated a fair amount of carryover funding. It took three or four years while I was first there to run through the carryover money. Around 2005, we depleted the carryover. By then there were 90–100 tribes with air programs. Once the carryover ended, we started to feel some pain. Around 2008, through good fortune and some good work by Region 8, we got a small increase, up to a total of \$13.3 million, to support energy-development issues. That money was and is included in the national allocation for all tribes.

In 2008 we redid the allocation to make sure we were meeting the current level of demand, needs, and priorities. I spent a year working both internally in OAR and with the tribes, getting



Harmon speaks with colleagues at the National Tribal Forum in Albuquerque in 2011.

input and providing information. Since then we've allocated funding based on a three-point scale, trying to balance these considerations: 1) every tribe should have access to funding to learn what their major air issues are; 2) allocations should recognize where tribes have identifiable air quality risks such as non-attainment of air quality standards or major sources in their vicinity; and 3) where tribes are successful, they should be rewarded with support for that success, so they can continue what they're doing.

My funding work was on the national level, with funding going out to EPA Regions, which are more involved in the details and specifics of the tribal programs. We really want the Regions to make those kinds of local decisions, in a transparent manner, so everyone knows how the system works and what it takes to be successful. Setting the funding priorities within a Region is a tough balancing act. For example, if a tribe wants to start a new

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Upcoming AIAQTP Courses

Dataloggers	postponed	-call Lydia at 928-523-6887
Intro. to AQ Mgmt.	Oct. 16-19	Flagstaff, AZ
SIP	Dec. 4-7	Flagstaff, AZ
TAS/TIP	Jan. 8-11	Seattle, WA
AQ Computations	Jan. 14-18	Flagstaff, AZ

Dates and locations can change. For updates, visit: http://www4.nau.edu/itep/air/training_aq.asp

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As we all know, energy development and environmental issues are inextricably linked. Many tribes are involved on some level in developing their energy resources. Assisting tribes in transitioning to clean and/or renewable energy is the main thrust of TCERC. By assembling experts and providing training and support centered on tribal energy development, ITEP would like to assist tribes in answering such questions as:

- Where will our energy policy be in 20, 30, or 50 years?
- How can we maintain the strongest economy for our community while also moving toward clean energy?
- What kind of expertise does a tribe's environmental staff need to assist in energy policy discussions that promote a safer environment and also enhance the tribe's move toward alternative energy?
- What can we do right now to begin the transition? Waste-to-energy programs? Green construction? A modest solar or wind project? Should we set aside carbon-based income to support future renewable development?
- How can a tribe find funding resources for alternative energy projects?
- What kinds of educational resources should we develop for our next generation so we'll have the knowledge and skills right here at home to support a clean-energy future?

Though the TCERC program is just now being launched, we've already held one event under the auspices of TCERC: a gathering of Hopi Nation leadership, directors and staff, with great support from Sandia National Laboratory staff, to explore the tribe's long-term energy strategy. Also, at ITEP's Tribal Lands Forum in August, we'll continue our initial energy-related support with a hydraulic fracking 101 seminar led by experts in the field. Other efforts are in the pipeline, and we'll let you know about them as they take shape.

As we develop TCERC's infrastructure and develop long-term funding support, we hope to expand the program to assist tribes throughout the nation with their energy-development issues and concerns. We will soon have more information to share on this exciting new program. As always, we welcome your input on this and other ITEP initiatives. Thank you for your continuing support. ☀

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U.S. EPA Regional Tribal Air Program Contacts

For contact information on U.S. EPA's regional tribal air staff, visit the web at:

www.epa.gov/air/tribal/coordinators.html

Climate Change and the Dynamics of Belief

Many people who have tried to discuss the reality of climate change with skeptics come away frustrated. Despite masses of evidence assembled by an overwhelming majority of climate scientists—evidence such as record high temperatures, melting glaciers, sustained drought, ever-more-severe storms, and changes in species compositions unprecedented in human history—many still refuse to believe our behavior is changing Earth’s climate.

Some scratch their heads over the intractability of those who refuse to accept the evidence, while others react with anger and frustration, labeling skeptics “nutty” or “right-wing zealots.” If science can send rockets to Pluto and unlock the secrets of human DNA, we reason, how can anyone doubt scientific method when applied to our climate? Is there a vast conspiracy by scientists to scare us all? When did science become the “enemy?”

At the National Tribal Forum in May, Yvette Wiley of the Muscogee Creek Nation’s Office of Environmental Services addressed this conundrum with a session on some of the emotional and political roadblocks that keep society from embracing scientific evidence of climate change.

Among the barriers she notes that prevent people from accepting, and acting on, climate change are fatalism, fear, lack of hope, stages of grief (denial in particular), a well funded denial campaign, inadequate education, and less than optimal marketing of the message.

The Comfort Deficit

“It’s tough to talk about climate change in terms of negatives,” Wiley says. “Like, ‘We don’t have this tree, this animal, this medicinal plant anymore.’” Too much of the climate-change conversation has veered toward the downside, which can turn people off and discourage problem-solving engagement.

A related barrier, she says, involves a sort of “Armageddon perception” that can be paralyzing. When the future fate of society is portrayed as out of our hands and careening toward catastrophe, many will simply tune the topic out, deny its reality, or generate alternative explanations for the evidence (e.g., record-breaking Midwest heat is just a very hot summer; glacier melt or sea rise are

due to a “natural cycle”). The fear response goes far in explaining climate-change denial in the face of rising oceans, increasingly frequent severe storms, year after year of record high temperatures, eroding coastal shorelines, and other evidence that scientists warn us we must heed soon to head off the most severe impacts.

Sticking with the Group

Discussing the theoretical work of anthropologist Mary Douglas, as exemplified in Douglas’s book, “Purity in Danger” and others, Wiley notes that many individuals show a need to identify with the beliefs of their subgroup as a means of enhancing their self-image and comfort level. If the group consensus is that climate change is illusory or exaggerated, those tied to the group will tend to share the same view. This need for belonging is being exploited, she says, by a campaign by certain economic interests (eg., elements of the oil and gas industry) to obscure the data and sow doubt about climate change and/or the responsibility of humans for changes in the climate.



Yvette Wiley

The Missing Ingredient: Hope

“One thing I often don’t hear among all the charts and graphs and pictures,” Wiley says, “is hope. How do we get there?” She advocates a three-part approach to building hope in the face of climate change: Make it visual, make it local, and make it desirable. Translated into practical action, that means “creating pictures in the mind’s eye of the image you’re trying to sell, and show how action will create desirable changes in the local community.”

For example, rather than urging a reduction in greenhouse-gas emissions as a general response to climate change, describe the cleaner air and greater visibility that would result locally from a woodstove change-out program. Encourage energy-efficiency practices, which will result in lower home-energy bills. Improve

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TAS should not be seen so much as a funding mechanism but as a formal expression that the tribe is eligible to run a program under its own authority. To date, about 49 tribes have obtained TAS status for one or more technical and administrative issues.

TAS Basics

There are four requirements a tribe must meet to be found eligible for TAS status. The applying tribe must

- be federally recognized,
- have a governing body with substantial duties and powers,
- present a statement of its authority to regulate air quality, and
- have the capacity (it is important to note that this demonstration of capacity for eligibility is different from the demonstration for program approval).

The capacity demonstration for eligibility can be a plan to develop the capacity needed to run the program. Program approval requires a much higher hurdle; for approval, the tribe will need to show they have the capacity to implement their program. Two general categories of TAS are available to tribes, *administrative* and *programmatic*.

Examples of administrative TAS commonly sought by tribes—include CAA 505a, addressing a tribe’s ability to review Title V permits as a surrounding jurisdiction; and 107d, which enhances a tribe’s influence on airshed designations. An administrative TAS gives a tribe greater weight in activities such as commenting on the construction or retrofitting of a nearby power plant, or challenging an upwind facility’s retrofitting activities if they might result in or aggravate nonattainment status for the tribe.

A *programmatic* TAS formalizes a tribe’s authority to conduct technically oriented activities such as a Tribal Implementation Plan for ozone or fine particulates. The term “programmatic” implies the tribe has, or will have as a condition for approval, staff trained and able to handle the TAS-related tasks. An ozone-regulatory program, for example, is one activity for which programmatic TAS might be sought (a tribal air program can also conduct various technical activities without TAS). A few larger tribes have obtained broad-based TAS status to address a wide range of air issues, including TIP development.

To TAS or not to TAS

At the 2012 National Tribal Forum, tribal air pros, EPA

staff and others discussed the question of whether a tribe should pursue TAS status. There are several reasons for a tribe to seek TAS status as a way to address its air issues. TAS authority enhances a tribe’s influence in terms of commenting on and, at times, engaging in negotiations over regional air concerns. A tribe wishing to create a Tribal Implementation Plan needs TAS approval first. When transitioning from 103 to 105 funding under the CAA, having a TAS reduces the funding match for the tribe. In some cases, a TIP might enable a tribe to initiate a fee-based permit program, which for many cash-strapped tribes might be the only route to sustaining the effort. Once a tribe has TAS for a particular issue, gaining additional TAS authority becomes easier. And perhaps as important as any of these “practical” reasons, TAS authority is a tangible expression of tribal sovereignty. McKelvey says the bar for applying for TAS status is set purposely low to make it easier for tribes to obtain TAS, which EPA considers a high priority. At times, however, the process can still be challenging and

frustrating. Lack of understanding on the EPA Regional level has been a hindrance, as has turnover both within tribes and at EPA Regions. (McKelvey notes that education and experience within the Regions has increased in some cases, easing the process for tribes in those Regions.)

Other factors can also be problematic. One is the mix of

politics and power on the state or local level, which has impacted some tribes seeking to gain TAS regulatory authority. On the tribal side, the process achieving programmatic TAS status can be stymied if a tribal government or air program decides after TAS is awarded to withdraw support for activities related to the TAS.

Yet another important TAS-related issue is that of land claims. In cases where tribes seek TAS authority over lands still facing ownership challenges, such as a disputed tribal boundary, tribes can face significant risk by formalizing the process. If the case goes to

TAS and Greenhouse Gases

After recent legal decisions that U.S. EPA has the authority to regulate greenhouse gases, some TAS categories could encompass GHG emissions. For example, a 505a TAS for Title V sources, which enhances a tribe’s status to comment on permits, can include a GHG component. As new climate-related regulations come into play over the next several years, the TAS process will likely include more GHG-related provisions.

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Angel McCormack

1970—2012

In May, the tribal air community lost a friend and passionate advocate. Angel McCormack was a member of the Nez Perce Nation who worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for Native people. Our hearts go out to Angel's family.



“Angel began working for the Nez Perce Tribe ERWM Air Quality Program in 2000 and helped make the program what it is today. Angel’s passion for life, her sense of humor and dedication to her Tribe, family, and friends was inspiring. That got us through some challenging times, and will always. We miss her terribly, but she is still with us every day, reminding us what is important: family and friends, laughter, and an uncompromising commitment to tribal sovereignty.”

—Julie Simpson,
Angel's friend
and colleague

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court and is settled in another jurisdiction's favor, the tribe could lose land. “This is something any tribe in this situation needs to think carefully about,” McKelvey says.

The Forest County Potawatomi Tribe in Wisconsin has a small but active air program. After receiving Section 103 grant for a number of years, in 2010 it was time to make the move from project funding under Sec. 103 into program funding under Sec. 105 funding. Without a TAS, says Natalene Cummings, the tribe's Air Resources Program Director, the tribe would have had to contribute a 40% match to their 105 program funding. Getting a TAS reduced the match to 5%. “That was a pretty obvious advantage,” Cummings says.

They also obtained TAS authority for Sec. 505(a)(2), which gives them status as an *affected state* for Title V sources; and Sec. 126, which enables them to formally petition EPA to intervene in interstate pollution issues impacting the tribe. They're presently pursuing additional TAS authorities under Sections 107 and 110.

Cummings says besides the obvious benefit of reducing the 105 match requirement, having TAS status

allows the tribe “to become engaged in discussions with state agencies, the federal government, and in some cases local agencies, in a more formalized manner. Otherwise, you're just a tribe out there making noise. TAS gives your voice more weight.” She says having a supportive EPA region has been helpful in this process. Hers (Region 5), she says, is “pretty good.” She laments the situation in other EPA regions where support is not as forthcoming.

After the TAS

Having TAS status can be a demanding process, says Cummings, especially for tribes that lack a robust air program (in other words, most tribes). For example, she says, reviewing permits require both time—she receives 12–20 notices each quarter—and expertise. “If you're near a big city, there could be some pretty hefty things to get involved in, and it requires having people who have the caliber to understand permitting, regulations, to discuss intelligently with others at that level. States have really smart people who specialize in these issues...and they can run circles around someone without adequate knowledge.”

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program, someone else has to get less funding. We've not been able to get more money into the system in the past few years; funding has been relatively flat, with a few small cuts. We've been lucky just to keep things stable. I want to mention that Beth Craig was really helpful in those budget issues when she was still in our immediate office. I don't see the funding situation changing for a while, but I do encourage tribes to work with NTAA on funding and budget issues. They are uniquely situated to work on addressing those concerns.

What have you learned since coming to EPA about how to work most effectively within the agency?

EPA is a big bureaucracy with a lot of momentum. I see people getting frustrated when they try to change the Agency, to make it work for them. You have to learn to work within the system—it's not likely to change. That means, in my case anyway, going in with the goal of advocating for the tribes, but also appreciating that I needed to balance that goal with the demands of EPA.

That takes communication, learning from your peers, and getting to know others who do similar work. There are a bunch of those people: Headquarters coordinators, Regional coordinators. I think it's important to keep in close contact, develop good relationships, and work closely with them, because they know how EPA works and can advise tribes on how to be effective. One recommendation would be to plan for incremental progress. We often want to succeed all at once, but given the constraints of the system, I think it may be best to set short-term goals to achieve a long-term strategy, and try to make incremental progress over time.

At OAR you served under EPA leadership spanning three administrations. How would you describe the differences in leadership during that time?

They were different people with different priorities. Few have had much prior contact with tribal people or programs, but they've all been interested. They've all been good, supportive,

talented people, and it hasn't been difficult to get them to support tribal programs.

My job was to make sure they learned about the tribal program—what we're doing and why—and then to work on getting their support for the program and making sure things were working well. These people are unbelievably busy; it isn't unusual to see them working twelve-hour days. You have to understand how what tribes are doing fits in with what they're doing, and how you can involve them, get them out to reservations to meet people. Getting an Assistant Administrator out of the office even for two or three days is a huge commitment, given all they do. They work very, very hard. I think four-year terms are typical—that's probably as much as a normal person can do.

How would you assess the progress tribes have made in air management during your time at OAR?

I'm happy about all the progress tribes have made—more programs, more complicated operations and goals, getting involved in local, regional and national workgroups and providing their input. They're now to where they have the expertise and numbers to interact effectively. The NTAA has done a really good job; they're up to speed now and getting things done. ITEP does a great job—I've been involved with ITEP in several different ways, as a course attendee, as an instructor, and in my work at OAR. In dealing with tribes, the most common thing I hear is that they wish ITEP had the resources to do more. There's so much more to be done, and I hope tribal air programs continue to make progress.

I'm just so impressed with the dedication and hard work, the skill of the people in tribal air programs. I've been in that role myself, and I know how demanding it can be. People in other programs, in state and other positions, often don't understand the challenge of working where it's "half a person," so to speak, or one person, doing everything, with the expertise and breadth of knowledge required. I'm acutely aware of how difficult that job can be, and that may be why I did everything I could to try to make OAR's Tribal Program work better to support them.

Other thoughts on your present transition?

It's hard to leave a program I've been with so long, but I'm also excited by the new opportunities. It was hard for me to say at the NTF, and I would like everyone to know what an honor it was to be welcomed into their communities and programs. I greatly admire the individuals out there working so hard to



Harmon (right) with Bill Thompson, Vice-Chief of the Penobscot Nation, and Gina McCarthy, Asst. Administrator for EPA's Office of Air and Radiation.

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improve air quality for their tribes and was continually impressed with their dedication and accomplishments. It's been a genuine privilege to work with tribal people all over the country, to get to know both tribal and EPA staff. I count a large number of them as friends, and I certainly hope we can keep in touch.

It's also amazing to look at the accomplishments over the years I was in that position. I think credit goes directly to those dedicated individuals working for tribes across the country. The knowledge and expertise continues to grow, and tribal input into local, regional, and national activities continues to become more important and influential.

I would also like to remind every tribal representative of how important it is that they participate in events like policy and regulatory development, the NTAA, the TAMS Steering Committee, local and regional workgroups, and commenting on activities related to air quality, to ensure tribal needs and obligations are considered. As we saw with the NSR rules, their input really does make a difference.

And I just want to say best wishes and godspeed. I'm really going to miss all the wonderful people who make this such a great program. Please keep in touch.

My new contact information is
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It's important, she says, for tribal staff to make a good showing at discussions with other jurisdictions. "Otherwise, they might call your bluff, figure, 'Ah, they have TAS, but we don't need to worry, they're not going to do much.'" For a limited air staff, picking one's TAS battles can be a sensible strategic policy.



Natalene Cummings

Cummings has also learned that having TAS authority doesn't necessarily translate to a level playing field with other jurisdictions. Notices for permit reviews come to the air program's attention only after the start of the 30- or 60-day comment period, when it's difficult to have much impact on the matter. At a recent training her group was told by permitting staff from two neighboring states, "By the comment period we're already pretty much done. Unless something is totally messed up, chances are we're not going to change the permit." One solution she offers: Do research to find out when significant facility permits are due for review, and "mark your calendar a year early, then start the process of review and commenting at that point."

In her limited experiences with reviewing permits, she's drawn on the state permit engineers for information. "They've been very good, very helpful." She says the bottom line for tribal air staff who might not have the time or expertise to thoroughly vet permits is to "basically look for compliance issues over the previous period."

The Bottom Line

Considering whether to pursue TAS status can be a weighty matter, offering clear benefits for some tribes while also placing high demands on staff effort and time. Ondrea Barber, former director of the environmental program for the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community and now Director of the National Tribal Air Association, advises that any tribe pursuing TAS—even a tribe with a large, well staffed air program—should be sure they're doing so for the right reasons. "You don't want to go for TAS because it looks good on your resume, or because you believe it's the next thing to do," she says. "Think carefully about what you're trying to accomplish, and make sure you have long-term support from the tribe." 🌞



Ondrea Barber

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waste management practices so that the community's visual environment is enhanced and residents are exposed to a lower level of methane and fewer varmints. Keeping your mitigation/adaptation plan within a reasonable time-frame—Wiley suggests a five-year target, rather than trying to set a target of, say, 2030—will also help keep community members more engaged in change.

She acknowledges that some people will simply refuse to go along with climate-related action. Rather than focus on the most intractable skeptics, she says, work to engage the “head in the sand” segment of the population. Add those people to the many who already accept the science and you can build a formidable response team able to make real change.

“We just need to be prepared,” says Wiley. “So much of this we can't change. But indigenous people have adapted to environmental change for thousands of years. We need to strategize, address issues that really impact the community, and see them in terms of priorities.”

Contact Yvette Wiley at
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For more information, visit these websites:

www.culturalcognition.net

www.climateaccess.org

www.futerra.co.uk

2012 Masayesva Award Winner

Congratulations to Brandy Toft, winner of this year's Virgil Masayesva Environmental Excellence Award. Brandy has been the Air Quality Specialist for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe since 2001. She is widely recognized as a dynamic leader in the tribal air community. At the Band, Brandy has established a successful, multifaceted air program as well as managing numerous voluntary programs focused on diesel retrofitting, burn barrels, solar-power projects, and more. She has been a leader in tribal air policy development for the Band, in Region 5, and on the national level. She serves as Vice-Chair for the NTAA Executive Committee and on several work-groups and committees, each sharing the goal of furthering air quality protection in Indian country. Thank you for all your great work, Brandy! 🌞



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