



ITEC NEWS

"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

Volume 22 Issue # 1
March 2017

20th Annual Tribal Environmental Summit

ITEC MEMBER TRIBES

- Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
- Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
- Alabama-Quassarte Tribe
- Apache Tribe
- Caddo Nation
- Cherokee Nation
- Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes
- Citizen Potawatomi Nation
- Comanche Nation
- Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
- Delaware Nation
- Delaware Tribe
- Eastern Shawnee Tribe
- Fort Sill Apache
- Iowa Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Kaw Nation
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe
- Miami Tribe
- Modoc Tribe
- Muscogee (Creek) Nation
- Osage Nation
- Otoe-Missouria Tribe
- Ottawa Tribe
- Pawnee Nation
- Peoria Tribe
- Ponca Tribe
- Pueblo of Laguna
- Pueblo of Pojoaque
- Pueblo of Santa Clara
- Pueblo of Taos
- Pueblo of Tesuque
- Quapaw Tribe
- Sac & Fox Nation
- Seminole Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe
- Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
- Wyandotte Nation
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Zuni Tribe



The 20th Annual Tribal Environmental Summit was held on April 5-7, 2017 at the Wyndham Dallas Suites Hotel in Dallas, TX. The General Assembly opened with the presentation of colors being posted by the Choctaw Nation Color Guard. Opening songs were performed by the Cheyenne Arapaho Youth Drum Group.

James McDonald, EPA Region 6 Assistant Regional Administrator, provided the welcoming address. Governor Michael Chavarría with the Pueblo of Santa Clara provided the RTOC update. Sara Hill with Cherokee Nation provided

the NTOC update and Felicia Wright with EPA American Indian Environmental Office provided the AIEO update.

EPA presented the EPA Environmental Excellence Awards, which recognize individuals who have conducted outstanding service in environmental areas. This year's recipients included: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Seminole Nation, Pueblo of Sandia, and Cherokee Nation. There were approximately 240 attendees which included representatives from the Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 Tribes, various tribal organizations, environmental consultants and environmental organizations. Equipment manufacturers also displayed their booths at this year's Summit.





2017



Declining honey bee population could spell trouble for some crops

The honey bee contributes to a third of the country's food supply but the population is declining. Last year eight percent of the bees disappeared according to the American Beekeepers Federation. The situation was more severe between 2015 and 2016 when there was a 44 percent decrease in colonies.



Dr. Dennis vanEngelsdorp, the President of the Bee Informed Partnership, says if this trend continues it could limit the food American's eat. "If we didn't have honey bees, we certainly would lose a lot of our diet," vanEngelsdorp said. He told Fox that would include blueberries, strawberries and vegetables.

The honey bee is the only insect that produces food eaten by humans. The species can pollinate over 75 percent of flowering plants and crops, making it one of the top pollinators in the U.S. That means the bee can travel up to 6 miles a day and pollinate between 50 to 100 flowers per trip. The pollination process occurs when the pollen sac from one flower sticks to a honey bee's legs and is transferred to another plant. The pollen within the sac spills out when the bee lands on the plant, causing it to be fertilized.

Tim Dover, a South Carolina beekeeper, says there are multiple factors that could impact the pollination cycle. "We have different issues from mites that have come in the recent history, to people using pesticides, to environmental stressors that have caused havoc with the bee population," he told Fox News. "We're trying our best to kind of stave that off and have as many people as possible keeping honeybees." He added that limiting the use of pesticides and rebuilding of the bees' natural habitat are two ways to help keep bees buzzing. "We need to be cognizant of what we are applying to our crops and do it in a way where it's safe. Not only for the honey bee, but for humans," Dover said.



Farmers and beekeepers around the country are doing their part by learning how to care for bees. Some farmers have even started raising their own bee colonies. "What we have found is many gardeners, master gardeners in the country are getting into beekeeping because of the lack of pollinators that they have for their garden," Dover said. "And when they get those beehives, they see the production level of their gardens go up dramatically."

www.foxnews.com



IBRP Wants Your Sites

The ITEC Brownfields Response Program (IBRP) is here to help you. In order to do a better job at that, ITEC needs your help gathering site information. Staff is currently making a master list of all the possible Brownfields sites within the ITEC member tribe's service areas. If your tribe has a site that may be a potential Brownfields site, ITEC wants to know about it. Tribes are the ideal information source for the inventory since they are the most familiar with their own communities. Even if you are not sure what qualifies as a Brownfields site, send ITEC the site information and we can help determine if it is one. This is an ongoing list; so feel free to send site information to us now as well as in the future. For more details, please contact Sheila Sevenstar-Horn at ssevenstar@cherokee.org 918-453-5108.



IN THE DIRECTORS CORNER:

By— Jeremy Fincher

Sac & Fox Nation Environmental Programs



Where is the Sac & Fox Nation Community located?

The Sac and Fox Nation is located in Central Oklahoma including portions of Lincoln, Payne, and Pottawatomie Counties. The Cimarron River is the Northern jurisdictional boundary and the North Canadian River is the Southern jurisdictional boundary.

How many community members are served by the Environmental department?

The Sac and Fox Nation has over 4,000 enrolled tribal members with approximately 1,600 tribal members residing within Sac and Fox Nation jurisdiction.

How long have you been the Environmental Director?

Actually, not as long as I was an Environmental Specialist. I first started as the Environmental Specialist for Water Quality in September 2010. I was then promoted to Environmental Director in October, 2014. In all, I have worked in the Sac and Fox Nation's Office of Environmental Services for 6 ½ years.

What are the primary environmental concerns that affect your tribal community?

Of course we have concerns about our air, water, soil, wildlife, solid waste, and human health, but unfortunately, some of our primary concerns are now very new to our area and are continuing to develop and evolve. We are trying to address concerns regarding human induced seismicity and other effects of fracking and waste water disposal. In our community, human induced earth quakes have damaged property, inflicted personal injury, displaced tribal elders from their homes, and forced multiple businesses to close. We have seen the effects these earthquakes have had and continue to have on our area communities, but there are also concerns about emerging effects that may have not yet materialized or not yet confirmed from the possible increase in radon being released from the soil to potential contamination of our ground water and surface waters due to hydrocarbon production operations, damaged pipelines, and/or damaged well casings.



As an Environmental Tribal Director tell us what you enjoy most about your work?

The people. The most fulfilling part of my life is when I am able to create change that is a positive influence in a tribal member's life. I also enjoy meeting, visiting, and collaborating with tribal members, co-workers, and all my environmental colleagues. I am blessed and thankful to be around and work with people that are so passionate about helping people and their environment.

What are some of your future plans for your tribe's environmental programs to address tribal environmental needs or concerns?

We will continue to strive to be an active and attentive member of our community and remain involved in discussions regarding potential changes in rules, regulations, and policy, as well as, support and educate the community regarding threats to environmental and human health such as earthquakes caused by disposal of fracking waste water. We also plan to expand our Climate Resilience Program, increase outreach of our IAQ program assessments to include area schools, conduct underwater habitat characterizations, host several educational events, and seek out more diverse funding sources and opportunities. We hope to see the U.S. EPA continue its critical role in supporting these efforts and others that address tribal environmental needs and concerns.

What have been your biggest challenges?

One of the most challenging times of my career was when I transitioned from Specialist to Director. During that time, there were several months where I was the only employee in the department. It was definitely a sink or swim opportunity. There were many instances where I had to reach out and seek guidance, and everyone was always willing to share advice and, I feel, genuinely wanted for me to succeed. I would like to thank everyone for their support over the years. Your kindness means the world to me.



Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs Underground Storage Tank Program

The underground storage tank program at Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs operates under the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC). It is through the ITEC that the program can offer a variety of services to tribes that are members of ITEC. Currently the UST program services 21 tribes and 38 facilities across New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas.

The UST program offers compliance assistance and training to these 21 tribes and 38 facilities. This includes:

- A visit to the tribe's UST facility annually to perform a compliance assistance inspection.
- A detailed report of the compliance issues that were observed and steps to take to remediate these issues.
- Answers to UST related questions or provide contractor information to the tribe.
- On-site owner and operator training for the people who operate the UST facility.

The UST program will also assist your Tribe with the planning and installation of a new station or investigate stations that the Tribe may be interested in purchasing. Along with that ITEC will monitor tank installs and removals to ensure they are done properly and by regulation.

If there are any questions regarding the UST Program please contact:

David Hayes: 918-453-5149 or 918-316-7531

david-hayes@cherokee.org



RTOC MEETING



Regional Tribal Operations Committee meetings were held April 4-5, 2017 at the Wyndham Dallas Suites Hotel, Dallas, TX. Approximately 41 Tribes and several EPA representatives attended. Topics of discussion included: Division updates, EPA Headquarters American Indian Environmental Office update, Budget Reporting Tool Matrix, Freedom of Information Act Request for Oklahoma Tribes ETEPs/Possible Future FOIA Requests, Transition Document, EPA TAS Lean Project, and Treaty Rights and Tribal Consultation.



TRAINING



The ITEC Open Dump Assessment training was held at the Comanche Nation Complex on February 28, 2017. There were 14 participants from the Apache Tribe, Kiowa Tribe, Iowa Tribe, Absentee Shawnee Tribe, Muscogee Creek Nation, Cheyenne & Arapaho Tribes, and Comanche Nation. The agenda for this training included: dump assessments, developing assessment worksheet, factors of concern, conducting a site visit, GPS/GIS, site safety, collection procedures, field screening vs. laboratory analysis, XRF technology, assessment exercise, and assessment results.

UPCOMING EVENTS

DATE	EVENT	CONTACT INFORMATION
June 27-29, 2017	One Water Summit, New Orleans, LA	http://www.cvent.com/events/one-water-summit-2017
July 25-26, 2017	Arkansas Water Resources Conference, Fayetteville, AR	http://arkansas-water-center.uark.edu/annual-conferences.php
July 25-27, 2017	22nd Annual ITEC Conference, Catoosa, OK	http://itecmembers.org



JOIN US IN NEW ORLEANS, JUNE 27-29, 2017!

The nation's brightest minds and most committed leaders will come together at the One Water Summit 2017 to discuss our most pressing water challenges and most promising solutions.

<http://www.cvent.com/events/one-water-summit-2017>

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*The Cherokee Nation Environmental Program (CNEP) publishes **ITEC News** each quarter. The mission statement is to protect the health of Native Americans, their natural resources, and their environment as it relates to air, land and water. To accomplish this mission, ITEC provides technical support, environmental services, and assistance in developing Tribal environmental programs to the member Tribes.*

The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the CNEP/ITEC. Free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues is strongly encouraged. We also encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of Tribal people.

Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs

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The ITEC NEWS gladly accepts and encourages your Tribal environmental information for upcoming issues and events. If you wish to contribute any articles in the next issue or for questions about this newsletter, please call 1-800-259-5376 to contact Karen Dye (Karen-dye@cherokee.org).



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