



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 Tribe
- Iowa Tribe
- Jicarilla Apache Nation
- Kaw Nation
- Kialegee Tribal Town
- Kickapoo Tribe
- Kiowa Tribe
- Miami Tribe
- Modoc Tribe
- Muscogee 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 Nation
- Sac & Fox Nation
- Seneca-Cayuga Nation
- Shawnee Tribe
- Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
- Tonkawa Tribe
- United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees
- Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
- Wyandotte Nation
- Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
- Zuni Tribe

EPA Regions 6 & 8 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

Tribes from EPA Regions 6 and 8 met for the Tribal Caucus November 14, 2023, in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There was not a set agenda and open discussions were encouraged to learn from each other’s region. Topics of discussion included: SAFETEA, GAP funding allocation variations, Region 8’s creation of a consortium, upcoming ETEP changes, and Environmental justice project examples.



EPA Regions 6 & 8 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting commenced in the afternoon of November 14, 2023, brought together tribal representatives, EPA officials, and stakeholders to discuss various environmental programs and initiatives. EPA Region 6 & 8 leaders provided opening remarks, outlining priorities and initiatives. The Q&A session addressed concerns about EPA consultation, the Justice 40 initiative, and collaboration on PFAS programs. The meeting also covered updates from the Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP), National Tribal Caucus (NTC), TPG Report Outs, and more. Thriving Communities Technical Assistance Centers (TCTACs) updates revealed proposed revisions and ongoing efforts, with a focus on NEPA analysis needs. Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 106 Allocation

Processes were discussed, with attention to challenges and alternative funding sources through TCTACs.



The meeting provided a platform for valuable discussions, updates, and collaboration between tribal representatives and EPA officials. The focus on ongoing programs, challenges, and proposed solutions highlighted the commitment to environmental stewardship and cooperation among stakeholders.

The meeting ended on November 16, 2023, with optional field trips including:

- Sandia Lakes Bosque Restoration, Pueblo of Sandia
- Jackpile Mine, Pueblo of Laguna and Sky City Cultural Center, Pueblo of Acoma
- Bosque del Apache National Wildlife Refuge



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Fact Sheet: Revised EPA Consultation Policy and Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights Guidance

What: The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has revised the *EPA Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes* (EPA Consultation Policy) and the companion *Guidance for Discussing Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights* (Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights Guidance). It is EPA’s policy to consult on a government-to-government basis with federally recognized Tribal governments when EPA actions or decisions may affect Tribes. The EPA Consultation Policy was developed in 2011 to implement the *EPA Policy for the Administration of Environmental Programs on Indian Reservations* and Executive Order 13175 *Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments*. The EPA Consultation Policy establishes standards for the consultation process. The Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights Guidance complements the policy by helping EPA staff navigate discussions with Tribes when an agency action or decision may affect such rights.

Why: The EPA Consultation Policy has been revised in response to the 2021 *Memorandum on Tribal Consultation and Strengthening Nation-to-Nation Relationships* requiring each agency to prepare and periodically update a detailed plan of action to implement the policies and directives of Executive Order 13175. The revisions incorporate standards developed by the White House and interagency workgroups to promote uniformity in the way the federal government conducts consultation with federally recognized Tribal governments.

New additions to the EPA Consultation Policy include:

- Definitions for “consultation” and “coordination”
- Guiding Principles addressing the consideration of Indigenous Knowledge and information regarding sacred sites
- Specificity on consultation timing, notification, coordination, participants, and follow-up
- A section titled “Consultation Process Review” providing a means to resolve Tribal concerns of the sufficiency, timing and agency compliance with consultation policy requirements
- Sections addressing “Related Public Engagement Laws, Regulations, and Policies” and “Agency Disclosure of Information”

New additions to the Tribal Treaty or Similar Rights Guidance include:

- Expanded scope beyond specific geographic areas to apply to national EPA actions or decisions
- Expanded rights considered beyond treaty rights to be “Tribal treaty or similar rights,” meaning rights reserved or held by Tribes, either expressly or implicitly, through federal laws, such as treaties, statutes, and executive orders

For more information:

To learn more about the EPA Consultation Policy, visit <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation-tribes>, or contact us at <https://www.epa.gov/tribal/forms/contact-us-about-environmental-protection-indian-country>.



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Cherokee Nation STEMFEST

On January 25, 2024 Cherokee Nation held STEMfest 2024 at the Chota Conference Center in Tahlequah, Ok. This one-day festival featured science, engineering, technology and mathematics (STEM) stations and activities to entice and entertain students. There were middle and high school aged students from schools representing at the event. Cherokee Nation Environmental staff attended with a hazardous waste/urban runoff model and a sorting game with recyclables and non recyclables.



Tyler Moore demonstrates the hazardous waste/urban runoff model to a group of students.



Chris Cochran assists the students with the recycling game.



Have a story to share or upcoming training?

ITEC News is looking for Tribal environmental information and upcoming training to share in future issues. If you would like to contribute any articles or have suggested topics, please email [Ashley Wagnon](mailto:Ashley.Wagnon@itec.org) or [Shaun West](mailto:Shaun.West@itec.org).



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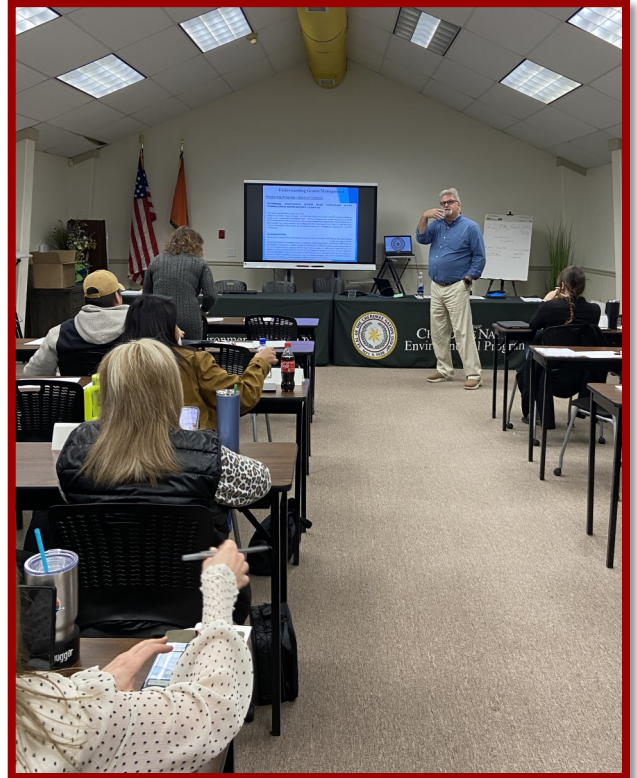
Grants Management and Technical Writing Class

A recent training event titled "Grants Management, Grants Organization and Technical Writing Skills" presented by the Native Learning Center and Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs provided a two-day immersive experience focusing on essential aspects of grant management, organization and technical writing. The training took place at the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs on January 24-25, 2024.

The training aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge and tools to address the pressing challenges posed by writing grants and completing grant application packages.. It was designed for a diverse audience and included both information on grant writing regulations and practical exercises on their application in real life.

Some of the topics included:

- Understanding Grants Management.
- OMB Guidance and Instructions.
- Technical Writing Styles.
- Technical Writing Logistics.
- Technical Writing Development.



There were 23 students from 6 ITEC member Tribes that attended the two-day training.





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Upcoming Trainings

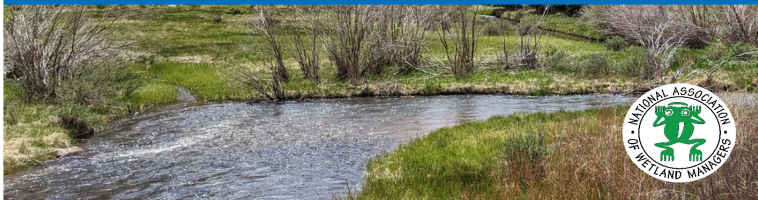
Introduction to Phase I Environmental Assessments

February 15, 2024 (9am-12:00pm)
Tahlequah, Ok.

Open Dump Assessments

March 6, 2024 (9:00am –12:00pm)
Tahlequah, Ok.

SAVE THE DATE



Southwest Tribal Clean Water Act Training

Dates: March 4-7, 2024
Location: Albuquerque, NM
Venue: Isleta Resort & Casino

2024 WINTER VIRTUAL CONFERENCE ON

LEAD, HEALTHY HOUSING & HOME SAFETY

FEBRUARY 26-28, 2024



SAVE THE DATE NTFAQ 2024

HARRAH'S CHEROKEE CASINO RESORT
CHEROKEE, NC

MAY 6-9

CALL FOR PRESENTATIONS & TRAINING ABSTRACTS

**EXTENDED DEADLINE
JANUARY 10, 2024**

[SUBMIT HERE](#)

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT

NTFAQ@nau.edu | nau.edu/NTFAQ2024 | #NTFAQ24



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Check out ITEC's YouTube Channel:

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/
UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ)

ITEC on the web

Check out the ITEC webpage for information on upcoming events, training and newsletters.

Please visit us at: www.itecmembers.org

ITEC NEWS

“The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council”

The Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (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
Inter-Tribal Environmental Council**

P.O. Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

Phone: 918-453-5009

Fax: 918-453-2904