TWAR Steering Committee Update – November 2020

The Tribal Waste and Response Steering Committee met virtually on November 13, 2020 to discuss activities in 2021. It was decided that work on the 2021 Priorities Document will be virtual, including meetings with the EPA Office of Land and Emergency Management branches, Superfund, Federal Facilities, Emergency Management, Brownfields, and more. This work will begin in December 2020 and continue through March 2021, when we hope to release the 2021 Priorities Document.

TWAR held the 2020 Tribal Lands and Environment Forum virtually in August. All session recordings are available at the following link: http://www7.nau.edu/itep/main/Conferences/confr_tlef20_pres

As of right now, the Steering Committee is not anticipating hosting an in-person conference in 2021. This also includes the Tribal Superfund Working Group site visits and meetings. The next call for the Tribal Superfund Working Group is scheduled for December 15th.

TWAR also meet with the new director of the EPA Office of Mountains, Deserts, and Plains, to hear how the office anticipates working with tribes in Regions 6-10. While their focus will be on the Navajo Nation's abandoned uranium mines, they will also work with other tribes that deal with hard rock mining superfund sites.

The 2020 Priorities Document now has an online feedback form, and we anticipate this will be available for the 2021 document as well. Please visit https://nau.co1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_8rjhWnloBQadlYh and let us know what you think.

If you have any questions, please contact Tracy Horst (Choctaw Nation) or Summer King (Quapaw Nation).

Thanks!


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