

Region 5 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

July 14, 2021

8:00 – 11:00 am Central Time

and

1:00 – 3:00 pm Central Time

Welcome and Introductions

Cheryl Newton, Acting Region 5 Regional Administrator
Allison Smart; RTOC Tribal Co-Chair; Little River Band

RTOC Administrative Business

Alan Walts; TMPO Director

- Approval of RTOC meeting summary from March 18, 2021
- Review RTOC Action Item Tracking Matrix
- Path forward for Tribal-EPA mining discussions

Identifying Partnership Opportunities for Climate Change

RTC representatives

Jane Nishida, Principal Deputy Assistance Administrator, OITA

JoAnn Chase, Director, American Indian Environmental Office

Climate change is a priority for tribes in Region 5 and a major focus for the Biden Administration. This session is intended to provide an opportunity for the RTOC to share information as a foundation for future discussions.

- A general summary by the Regional Tribal Caucus (RTC) on its climate change priority and climate change related work that tribal governments in Region 5 have underway or completed
- Report from OITA/White House Council on Native American Affairs on national initiatives
- Recognizing that climate change will likely be a recurring issue, discuss where the RTOC should focus its efforts

Highlighting Tribal Environmental Protection and Restoration Projects

A 20-minute video will be shown that portrays the extensive trust resources of Red Lake Reservation and describes how the Red Lake Nation Water Resources Program is working to preserve them.

Baseline Water Quality Standards (WQS) and Reserved Rights Rulemakings

Office of Water staff will first provide an overview of two proposed rulemakings and then can discuss and/or answer any questions.

- Establishing baseline WQS for Indian country Mary Lou Soscia; James Ray
- Protecting tribal reserved rights during WQS process Jennifer Brundage

EPA Direct Implementation (DI) Activities in Indian Country

Jim Snitgen, Oneida Tribe
Paul Winters; Tribal Liaison

The RTC identified DI as one of its nine priority areas, and recently the EPA Office of International and Tribal Affairs indicated that ensuring EPA is meeting its DI responsibilities in Indian country will be a significant activity over the next few years.

- RTC introduces its direct implementation priority
- Presentation on EPA's DI responsibilities in Indian country to develop a shared understanding of DI and the scope of EPA's activities. In follow-up to this meeting, focused discussions on EPA DI responsibilities under the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act will be scheduled with the RTC to discuss options for tribal involvement and enhancing related tribal program capacities.

National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC)

Mark Parrish; Council Member, Pokagon Band
April McCormick; Secretary-Treasurer, Grand Portage Band

Standing agenda item to enhance coordination between the RTOC and the NTOC by providing a forum to receive a report on current NTOC activities from the Region 5 representatives, prepare for upcoming meetings/initiatives, and identify topics of interest to raise at the national level.

Tribal Advisory Group (TAG) Reports

Written updates from the tribal representatives are included in the meeting packet. This session will provide an opportunity for TAG representatives to engage with the tribal staff attending the RTOC.

Wrap-up and Adjourn