

**Tribal Monitoring Guidance Workgroup Conference Call**  
**8/22/05**

**Attendees:** (Note that names and affiliations from the conference call are incomplete and may contain errors; please identify corrections via e-mail to [tikvart.joe@epa.gov](mailto:tikvart.joe@epa.gov))

Ondrea Barber (Salt River), Angelia Carey (Pechanga), Annabelle Allison (ITEP), Charlie Lippert (Mille Lacs), Julie Simpson (Nez Perce Tribe), Emilio Branganza (TAMS), Eric Nicolar (Penobscot), Gary Richardson (El Paso), Glen Gehring (TAMS), Joy Wiecks and Nick Axtell (Fond du Lac), Tamoke Smiley (Walker River Paiute), Leroy Williams (Gila River), Lisa Reiner (Quinault Nation), Mehrdad Khatibi (ITEP), Mike Dalton (Shoshone Bannock), Randy Ashley (Salish and Kootenai Tribes), Sam Kitto (Santee Sioux Tribe), Stan Belone (Salt River Pima Maricopa), Stephen Hartsfield (NTAA), Tamera Dawes (ITCA), Aunjanee Gautreau and Tim Carter (R5), Bill Nally (R6), Doug McDaniel (R9), Keith Rose (R10), Michael Copeland (R8), Monica Morales (R8), Norm Beloin (R1), David Lutz (OAQPS), Joe Tikvart (OAQPS/SEE), Julie McClintock (OAQPS), Phil Lorang (OAQPS), Tami Laplante (OAQPS), George Dilbeck (ORIA)

**Discussion:**

Julie McClintock began today's call by reviewing the status of the new guidance document on tribal ambient monitoring. An outline with preliminary assignments for leads/participants in writing each section was included in the minutes for the previous conference call. During the discussion, leads were verified or changed and participants were added; subsequent to the conference call, additional participants were identified. A request was also made that contact information (i.e., telephone number and e-mail address) be included for everyone contributing to the document. Attached to these minutes is an updated outline of the guidance document with an expanded list of leads/participants, including contact information. For those identified as participants, please verify the accuracy of the contact information and identify corrections that may be necessary and respond to [tikvart.joe@epa.gov](mailto:tikvart.joe@epa.gov). Please note that additional participants are being sought, particularly for Sections XI and XII and for the new section on Implementation of Monitoring.

Next, Steve Hartsfield (NTAA) reported on a tribal-only call that took place on 8/09/05 concerning creation of the guidance document on tribal ambient monitoring. Subsequent to today's conference call, Steve completed notes on the 8/09/05 call and widely distributed them. Points that he noted in a transmittal e-mail that were also made in today's conference call are worthy of being restated here verbatim. Steve said:

- “1. It was suggested to have leads for each section (tribal and EPA) to be designated and have appropriate contact info available for these individuals.
2. To allow time in the process in which tribes can actively engage and reach consensus.
3. Commitment from tribal participants is evident by signing up for leads roles in the development of sections. While some persons were identified, not all sections were covered.

We did have two individuals commit to participating in sections. One did not care where they were placed, and I am uncertain if the other individual had a specific section in mind or did not care where they were placed.

4. Also person's names and tribal affiliation is incomplete for some and wrong, possibly, for others."

Other points that Steve made during today's conference call were: (1) EPA's willingness to be flexible is appreciated; (2) there is a need to properly reflect how tribal government works and to provide appropriate visibility for the tribes in development of the guidance; (3) there are some questions that the tribes must answer for themselves; (4) both EPA and tribal participants need to be committed throughout the process of developing guidance; (5) other types of documents should be considered as examples in developing the guidance; (6) members of academia (Bill Auberle (NAU) in particular was mentioned), those experienced with NCore, and others with experience on wider issues should be consulted in preparing the guidance; (7) the process of developing guidance should consider the long haul (not just short-term needs), should include realistic expectations and consensus-building, and should allow sufficient time for review by tribes; and (8) a timeline with milestones for preparation of the guidance document is needed.

The conversation then turned to a more philosophical discussion about the design, purpose, and motivation of the document. The document serves several purposes, and they need to be stated more clearly. There is a need to reflect long-term tribal policy views that already exist. One goal is to reflect a more structured OMB-like process outlining longer term program goals and justify increased resources/funding might be considered. More questions were asked. Is the document open-ended or is there a mandate to address more detailed projects relative to networks and pollutants. Will the document address nationally stated goals for specific pollutants? Do we want tribal input on specifics of a national strategy? Also, there is concern that there may be differences in criteria used by regional offices and required by geographical differences, resulting in flexibility versus uniformity issues. How can a need for national and regional consistency be satisfied, without becoming too prescriptive and still allow for reasonable flexibility?

Phil Lorang clarified that the document is not to make decisions and is not to comment on specific monitoring or pollutant needs. Rather it should draw from existing policy and informed judgment. The document could include "lessons learned" developed by regional offices and tribes. It is to provide information and conclusions on findings. Finally, the document is to show that the tribal monitoring program is managed well; this is intended to result in improved resources, another goal of the document.

### **Next Steps:**

Updates to the outline and to participants in preparing the guidance will be provided by 8/26/05. The goal is to have draft guidance materials available for review by the time of the NTAA meeting that is scheduled for October 3 - 6, 2005. Each group of individuals working on a section are encouraged to have their own conference calls, rather than relying on calls for the entire group. A conference call with a progress report will be scheduled on September 19 for

those participating in writing the guidance. The next conference call for the full group is planned for **Monday, September 26 at 1:00pm EDT; conference line will be 919 541-4557**. This call will focus on progress reports and feedback on the distributed material.

It was noted that each section does not yet have a tribal lead and that Annabelle Allison (ITEP) will work with Steve Hartsfield (NTAA) to seek more robust participation. Ryan Callison (ITEC) will provide coordination in Steve Hartsfield's absence.