

Launch of Tribal Consultation Process on the Development of EPA's Climate Change Adaptation Plan

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is initiating consultation with federally recognized Indian Tribes on the development of the Agency's Climate Change Adaptation Plan. This Plan will guide the Agency's efforts to integrate climate change adaptation planning into its programs, policies, rules, and operations to ensure they are effective under future climatic conditions. This includes environmental protection programs mandated under federal statutes and delegated by EPA to Tribes and States.

Last week, EPA sent formal invitation letters to tribal leaders inviting them and their designated representative(s) to participate in a formal consultation process. This process is another important step in an ongoing partnership to which EPA is committed to work with the Tribes to protect tribal health and the environment in a changing climate. It builds on valuable insights already obtained from tribes through informal consultations about the Plan in 2011.

To begin the formal consultation process, EPA will hold three webinars/teleconferences. EPA will provide an overview of efforts to develop the agency-wide Plan, and then use most of the time to listen to and better understand tribal perspectives on climate change adaptation planning, priority tribal adaptation needs, and the types of support that would help build adaptive capacity within the tribes. The webinars will take place on:

1. Thursday, February 23, 2012: 2:00-3:30pm EST / 11:00am-12:30pm PST (for western Tribes)
2. Thursday, March 1, 2012: 10:00-11:30 EST (for eastern Tribes)
3. Thursday, March 8, 2012: 2:00-3:30pm EST / 11:00am-12:30pm PST (for any Tribes unable to make the earlier calls)

Additional information will be posted on EPA's Tribal Portal website prior to the webinars:

www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation

Please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Jerry Filbin (Filbin.Gerald@epa.gov; 202-566-2182), the official EPA contact for this consultation and coordination process, if you have any questions.

Sue

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