



Air Quality Work in Indian Country

Briefing on NRC's Tribal Policy Statement,
September 19, 2016

National Tribal Air Association

*Presented by Scott Hansen
Region 4 Representative
Catawba Indian Nation*



NTAA's Mission



‘To advance air quality management, policies and programs, consistent with the needs, interests and unique legal status of American Indian Tribes and Alaskan Natives’

www.ntaatribalair.org



NTAA Principles



- ▶ Sovereignty/ Self-Determination of Tribes
- ▶ Tribes have the right to know and protect the quality of their air
- ▶ Tribes are leaders, strong partners, and co-regulators



NTAA Principles



- ▶ Tribes have the legal authority to regulate under the Tribal Authority Rule (TAR)
- ▶ As sovereign nations, Tribes should be consulted on how best to address their community's exposure to air pollution from off-reservation sources, and actively engaged in the process of eliminating harmful off-Reservation pollution.



NTAA Administration



- ▶ Founded in 2002
- ▶ 112 Member Tribes
- ▶ Executive Committee
 - Reps from each of 10 EPA regions and Alaska
 - By-laws approved by member Tribes
- ▶ NTAA administered by ITEP via cooperative EPA grant



NTAA Executive Committee Outside the West Wing of the White House, August 2016



NTAA's Recent Policy Work



- ▶ U.S. DOJ's Volkswagen 2.0 Emissions Settlement
- ▶ U.S. EPA's Clean Power Plan
- ▶ U.S. EPA's Minor New Source Review General Permits for Indian Country: 2nd Bundle
- ▶ U.S. EPA's Radon Emissions from Uranium Mills
- ▶ U.S. EPA's National Program Manager's Guidance
- ▶ U.S. EPA's Ground-Level Ozone
- ▶ U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Tribal Policy



NTAA Comments – U.S. NRC Tribal Policy Statement



- Proposed minor changes to Principles 1, 2, & 4.
- Expressed support for Principle 3, but found little to no NRC outreach to Tribes and urged NRC to increase these outreach efforts.



NTAA Comments – U.S. NRC Tribal Policy Statement



- Expressed concern for the lack of implementation of Principle 4, and recommended development of a Tribal consultation plan.
- Expressed support for Principle 5, but requests that it also require NRC to coordinate consultation efforts with other states.



NTAA Comments – U.S. NRC Linear No-Threshold Model



- Recommended the LNT model continue to serve as the NRC's standard until it is definitively shown to be an ineffective model.
- Highlighted the need for additional information that shows the Hormesis model to be superior to the LNT and other models before considering replacement of the LNT model.





For More Information
Visit NTAA's website

www.ntaatribalair.org

Or contact NTAA Project Director

Andy Bessler at

andy.bessler@nau.edu

or call 928-523-0526





Thank you for your attention!

Scott Hansen

Environmental Specialist

Catawba Indian Nation

(803) 366-4792

scott.hansen@catawbaindian.net

