



"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

ITEC NEWS

Volume 27 Issue 4

2025

ITEC Member Tribes

Absentee-Shawnee Tribe
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe
Alabama-Quassarte Tribe
Apache Tribe
Caddo Nation
Cherokee Nation
Cheyenne/Arapaho Tribes
Citizen Potawatomi Nation
Comanche Nation
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana
Delaware Nation
Delaware Tribe
Eastern Shawnee Tribe
Fort Sill Apache Tribe
Iowa Tribe
Jicarilla Apache Nation
Kaw Nation
Kialegee Tribal Town
Kickapoo Tribe
Kiowa Tribe
Miami Tribe
Modoc Tribe
Muscogee Nation
Osage Nation
Otoe-Missouria Tribe
Ottawa Tribe
Pawnee Nation
Peoria Tribe
Ponca Tribe
Pueblo of Laguna
Pueblo of Pojoaque
Pueblo of Santa Clara
Pueblo of Taos
Pueblo of Tesuque
Quapaw Nation
Sac & Fox Nation
Seneca-Cayuga Nation
Shawnee Tribe
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Tonkawa Tribe
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokees
Wichita & Affiliated Tribes
Wyandotte Nation
Ysleta del Sur Pueblo
Zuni Tribe

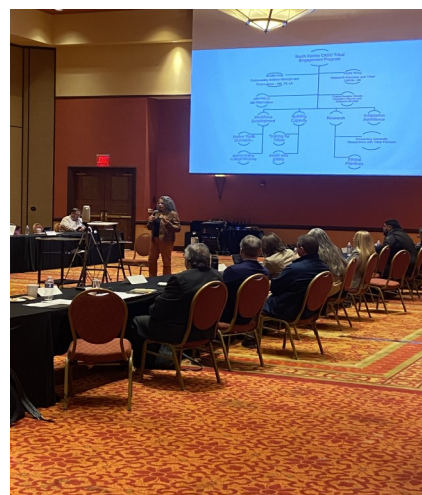
EPA Region 6 Tribal Operations Committee Meeting

Tribes from EPA Region 6 met for the Tribal Caucus November 19th, 2024, in Norman, Oklahoma. Topics of discussion included: Water Quality, Administration Transition, TCTAC Effectiveness and UST's. RTOC Elections and Partnership Group reports made up the rest of the meeting.



EPA Region 6 RTOC Meeting commenced on November 20, 2024. The meeting brought together tribal representatives, EPA officials, and stakeholders to discuss various environmental programs and initiatives. Dr. Nance, EPA Regional Administrator, provided opening remarks, outlining priorities and initiatives. The Tribal Co-Chair, Tabitha Langston from the Ottawa Tribe thanked Dr. Nance for support of the Tribes during her tenure in office. Chief Hill from the Muscogee Nation discussed issues with Wind Farming on the Nation's Reservation. The meeting also covered updates from AIEO, OTBA and a Water Quality Branch Update. There was a presentation from the Chickasaw Nation Department of Environmental Services and the South Central Climate Adaptation Center. The meeting ended with EPA Division updates from staff.

The meeting provided a platform for valuable discussions, updates, and collaboration between tribal representatives and EPA officials. The focus on ongoing programs, challenges, and proposed solutions highlighted the commitment to environmental stewardship and co-operation among stakeholders.





"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

ITEC NEWS

U.S. EPA Waste and Materials Management Training Series for Tribes

Free, In-Person Training Workshop

Hosted by the Muscogee Creek Nation (MCN) of Oklahoma

March 4-5, 2025

Okmulgee, OK

Register: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HouseholdHazardousWaste2025>

Looking for solutions on how to manage household hazardous waste from your community and develop a plan to safely and responsibly manage HHW? Join this day and a 1/2 in-person workshop to learn how to identify, sort, and store HHW, and gain ideas for approaches to managing HHW that may work well in your community. This training workshop is organized by EPA Region 6, in partnership with EPA Region 9, the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) and the support of Booz Allen Hamilton.

See first-hand approaches and learn how to safely and responsibly manage accumulated household hazardous waste. The morning of the second day, we'll be in the field touring the MCN's recycling center.

This workshop is intended for employees of federally-recognized Tribes and Tribal Consortia. Participants from outside of Region 6 are welcome to attend, though there are not travel stipends available.



If you have questions regarding the workshop, please contact:

Roger Hancock
(hancock.rogier@epa.gov),

214-665-6688.





"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

ITEC NEWS

Tar Creek Apprenticeship Program (TCAP)

The Tar Creek Apprenticeship Program (TCAP) is a program that was developed through the collaboration of seven tribes – Cherokee Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians, Seneca-Cayuga Nation and Wyandotte Nation.

Students participated in both classroom and hands-on training with classes led by experts in the fields of natural resources, tribal culture, restoration, ecology and environmental stewardship. The program also provided instruction on cultural lifeways and the connections to natural resources. This program is a project funded by the Tar Creek Trustee Council with a goal of providing youth with instruction on how to restore habitats and the uses of natural resources at the Tar Creek Superfund Site.





"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

ITEC NEWS

PHASE I TRAINING

A recent training event titled "Phase I Environmental Assessments" was presented by Sheila Sevenstar-Horn of ITEC staff. The training took place at the Cherokee Nation Office of Environmental Programs on January 22, 2025.

The training aimed to equip participants with practical knowledge and tools to perform Phase I Environmental Assessments.

Some of the topics included:

- ASTM All Appropriate Inquiries.
- Components of a Phase I .
- Records Review.
- Why We Perform Phase I Reviews.

There were 10 students from 6 ITEC member Tribes that attended the two-day training.





ITEC NEWS

Assessment of Mercury Concentrations in Water and Fish Tissue Analysis in Kaw Lake, Oklahoma

Dejene Alemayehu^{1*}, Pratyaydipta Rudra², Skyler Mathews¹, Emily Douglas¹, Cody Regnier¹

¹Kaw Nation Environmental Department, Kaw City, USA.

²Department of Statistics, Oklahoma State University, Stillwater, USA.

This research project publication was provided by Emily Douglas, Environmental Director of the Kaw nation.

The Kaw Nation has been collecting water, sediment, and fish samples from Kaw Lake and upper Arkansas River from 2007 to present to examine the concentrations of Mercury and other heavy metals to protect the health of the tribal members. Kaw Lake is in the North-Central part of Oklahoma. Kaw Lake is a permanent water body constructed in 1976 by the Army of Corps of Engineers. The Lake is consistently fed by the Arkansas River and other tributaries as runoff coming all the way from Colorado through Kansas to Kaw Lake of Oklahoma. The Lake has a surface area of 26.64 square miles (69 km²) and shoreline of 168 miles (270 km) with a total drainage area of 56,345 square miles (145,393 km²) and an average water depth of 8 meters. The water and fish samples were collected from 7 sites of Kaw Lake, once in a month and the fish samples once in a year during summertime, early July to end of July. The fish samples focused on 5 sport, predator, and bottom dwelling species of large consumable size, greater than 200 mm length and 560 grams weight. The five fish sampled were Catfish, White bass, Largemouth and Smallmouth bass, Black and White crappie. The fish and water samples were sent to Accurate Environmental Labs for detailed analysis. Predator species were analyzed as fillet and the bottom dwellings as a whole fish using EPA Method 7471A-M. Mercury from Water and Fish Tissue Samples were analyzed by Atomic Fluorescence Spectrometry. The laboratory analysis indicated that all the Mercury concentration in the fish samples except in Blue Catfish and Spotted Bass fall below the Maximum Contaminant Level (MCL) of 0.5 mg/kg.

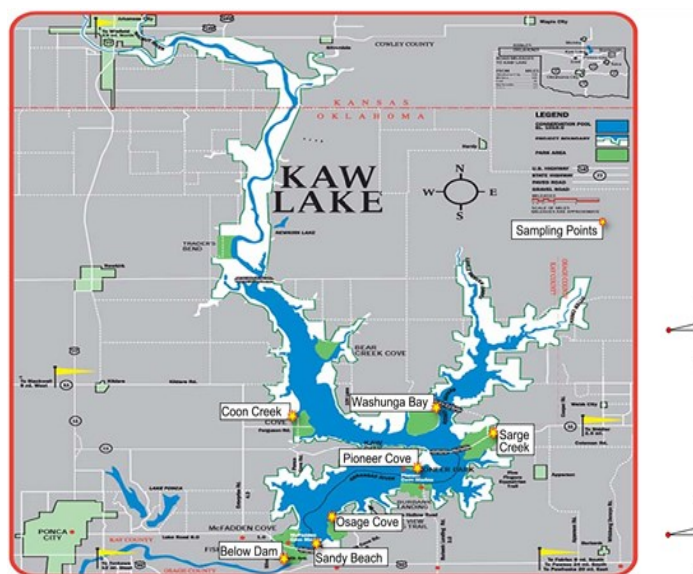


Figure 1. Locations of water, sediment and fish sampling sites of kaw lake (Map: ACOE).



"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

ITEC NEWS

Upcoming Trainings

Intro to Drones

February 27, 2025

(9am –12pm)

Tahlequah, OK.

Intro to PFAS

March 12, 2025

(9am-4pm)

Tahlequah, OK.



SAVE THE DATE
AUGUST 18-21, 2025
TRIBAL LANDS & ENVIRONMENT FORUM



MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA

In-Person attendance: \$175.00
Virtual attendance: \$25.00

For more information please contact:
Todd Barnell
Project Director
Todd.Barnell@nau.edu





"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

ITEC NEWS

Check out ITEC's YouTube Channel:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC42GM_3wppOEPkgFEUj_CgQ

ITEC on the web

Check out the ITEC webpage for information on upcoming events, training and newsletters.

Please visit us at: www.itecmembers.org

ITEC NEWS

"The Official Newsletter of the Inter-Tribal Environmental Council"

The Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs (CNEP) publishes ITEC News each quarter. The mission statement is to protect the health of Native Americans, their natural resources, and their environment as it relates to air, land and water. To accomplish this mission, ITEC provides technical support, environmental services, and assistance in developing Tribal environmental programs to the member Tribes.

The viewpoints contained in this newsletter are not necessarily those of the USEPA or the CNEP/ITEC. Free and open discussion of all environmentally related issues is strongly encouraged. We also encourage submission of letters, comments, and articles from readers so as to promote a greater awareness among our people about environmental issues and to foster the free exchange of information, technology, and culturally relevant values of Tribal people.

**Cherokee Nation Environmental Programs
Inter-Tribal Environmental Council**

P.O. Box 948

Tahlequah, OK 74465

Phone: 918-453-5009

Fax: 918-453-2904