

# Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)



**John Mead**  
Program Coordinator Senior  
Toxics Release Inventory Assistance Program  
Tribal Waste and Response Assistance Program  
American Indian Air Quality Training Program

**2012 National Training Conference on the Toxics Release Inventory and  
Environmental Conditions In Communities**

**April 11, 2012**

# 2012 NATIONAL TRAINING CONFERENCE ON THE TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY

---

☐ ITEP Background and History

☐ TRI/ITEP Project

☐ Tribal Feedback

☐ Next Steps

# ITEP'S VISION & MISSION

## Vision:

*“To be the premier environmental training and educational organization serving tribes”*

## Mission:

*“To serve tribes with exceptional quality and culturally relevant training and educational programs to build environmental capacity and strengthen tribal sovereignty”*



# ITEP'S HISTORY



- Established 20 years ago through a MOU between NAU & EPA
  - Began with staff of 3
- Currently employ 27 full and PT employees
  - 44% over 10 years service
  - 88% over 5 years service
- Served 400+ tribes nationally
- Outstanding National Reputation with tribes
- 25 - 30 training/educational courses per year
- 20 years of developing tribal environmental capacity



# ITEP \* TRI \* AND TRIBES

---

## ▣ ITEP to assist TRI Program staff increase tribal involvement by:

- ▣ Assessment of current awareness and use of TRI data and TRI tools,
- ▣ Assessment of TRI tutorials and training material relative to tribal relevance, and
- ▣ Working with TRI Program staff to develop tribally relevant training and outreach

# TRIBAL USE OF TRI DATA & DATA TOOLS

Reason Number **1**  
for tribal environmental  
program staff not using  
TRI data and TRI tools =  
layer upon layer of job  
responsibilities!



# TRIBAL USE OF TRI DATA & DATA TOOLS

---

## Perceptions

- ▣ Learning curve vs time & funding constraints
- ▣ Web site not particularly user friendly
- ▣ Limited usefulness
  - ▣ Best when paired with other DB inventories
  - ▣ Experiencing dead ends with searches
  - ▣ “OK, I found the pollution source using TRI, now what?”

# TRIBAL USE OF TRI DATA & DATA TOOLS

---

- ▣ TRI Tools and tribal relevancy: current concerns
  - ▣ Display reservation boundaries
  - ▣ Tribal specific examples in tutorials
  - ▣ Start to finish tribal specific TRI tool examples
  - ▣ Need for tribally relevant training
  - ▣ Need for in-person regional training



# WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TRI PROGRAM STAFF TO HEAR?

---

- ▣ Tribal environmental program staff are constrained by certain protocols and traditions.
- ▣ Disconnect may be between available data or analysis and tribal expectations/objectives.
- ▣ Data analysis may be more effective if results reflect the breadth and diversity of tribal concerns, including socioeconomic and cultural as well as scientific, rather than simply technical results.

# WHAT WOULD YOU LIKE TRI PROGRAM STAFF TO HEAR? Continued

---

- ▣ Tribes are at different levels and have different focuses and concerns - there is not one “tribal stance” or “typical” tribe.
- ▣ The ability to demonstrate some direct benefit to tribes from participating may be an incentive to participate.
- ▣ Develop a culturally compatible way to discuss TRI rather than trying to work with models which were not designed to account for tribal culture or lifestyle.

# WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

---

- ▣ EPA continue TRI outreach and training at every opportunity,
- ▣ ITEP to integrate TRI data and Tools awareness into training, professional assistance, and conferences,
- ▣ Jointly focus on developing innovative training tools and delivery styles, and
- ▣ Report back same time same place next year!

# QUESTIONS??

---

ITEP Contacts:

**Ann Marie Chischilly, Executive Director**

**928-523-9555**

**Ann-Marie.Chischilly@nau.edu**

**John Mead**

**928-523-2005**

**John.Mead@nau.edu**