

Brownfields Tribal Response Program (TRP) Accomplishment/Success Story
Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) Tribal Response Program
Cooperative Agreement No. RP-00J26508-0

Project Period: October 1, 2018 to September 30, 2019

Quarter: 1

10/1/18 – 12/31/18

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Prepared by:

Bailey Richards

4500 Diplomacy Drive, Ste. 454

Anchorage, AK 99508

907-729-4008 / bkrichards@anthc.org

Element(s) Addressed:

1. *Timely survey and inventory of brownfields sites in state or tribal land.*
2. *Oversight and enforcement authorities or other mechanisms and resources.*
3. ***Mechanisms and resources to provide meaningful opportunities for public participation.***
4. *Mechanisms for approval of a cleanup plan and verification and certification that cleanup is complete.*

On November 27-30, 2018, the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC) hosted the 24th annual Alaska Tribal Conference on Environmental Management (ATCEM). Over five hundred participants from across Alaska and EPA Region 10 attended ATCEM, including representatives from tribes, nonprofits, and state and federal organizations.

For the fourth consecutive year, the ANTHC Tribal Response Program (TRP) coordinated a brownfield-specific track at ATCEM. This year the track was renamed “Contamination Support” to encompass a broader audience, though all of the sessions remained brownfields-oriented. For several months prior to the conference, the ANTHC TRP held track planning meetings with TRP coordinators from Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council, Qawalangin Tribe of Unalaska, Chickaloon Village, and the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation (ADEC). The planning team worked diligently to ensure that presentations covered common questions and areas of interest expressed by TRP coordinators, and that the track highlighted community and TRP success stories.

The Contamination Support track contained twenty-two presentations, spanning topics such as oil spill planning, hazardous building materials, bioremediation using fungi, and youth engagement. Attendance was robust during all Contamination Support track sessions, and the vast majority of the twenty-four TRPs in Alaska were present at ATCEM. This is a highly successful turnout, as most TRPs are located in rural areas off the road system and must fly to Anchorage for the conference. Several representatives from EPA Region 10 also attended the conference, presented on EPA brownfield resources, and answered questions from participants.

While an ANTHC-hosted four-hour workshop on developing quality 128(a) Tribal Response Program work plans was scheduled for November 30th, the earthquake that affected Anchorage necessitated cancelation of the workshop. In response to the high level of interest in the workshop, the following week the ANTHC TRP co-hosted a two-hour work plan development webinar with EPA, DEC, and Tribal Technical Assistance to Brownfields (TTAB) team members; all TRP coordinators in Region 10 were

invited to participate. The webinar covered characteristics of robust TRPs, elements of a quality funding request/work plan, general expectations of TRPs, and an overview of the four elements, including special emphasis on meeting Elements 2 and 4 in Alaska. A recording of the webinar is available on Kansas State University TAB's web page under "Resources" and will be posted on the ANTHC Contamination Support website.

ATCEM Photos:



The Gakona TRP presents on the successes and challenges of their brownfield projects in the Contamination Support track



Alaska 4-H involves Contamination Support track attendees in an example youth engagement activity



Ms. Britt introduces the Klawock TRP Coordinator, who provided the final keynote address at ATCEM