



***Spirit Lake Tribe***  
***Environmental Protection Administration***

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To: June Gourd; Tribal Administrator  
Fr: Joshua Tweeton; SLT EPA Director  
Re: January 2021 Monthly Report  
Date: January 27<sup>th</sup>, 2021

In March 2020 we received a Brownfields Cleanup grant for \$310,000 to clean up the Ross Acres burnout houses, (4) Rolling Hills units, Whitetail site, Bradley Thompson, Cora Whiteman, Johnson House, Building 75, and the Employment and Training Building. As of today we have completed the cleanups for the Employment and Training building and Building 75. The contactor for these cleanups is IECIS Group and subcontracted by Elvis Thumb. These sites were abated and demoed due to their condition. This grant is a 3-year project period and plan to complete the rest this upcoming year. We were not able to conduct any cleanups this past summer due to the pandemic and the asbestos certified contractor living in Minnesota. Currently we are working to finish Paula Yankton home site cleaned up. Once completed we will start Ross Acre burnouts if weather permits. We are also in the process of receiving permission from Shelton Yankton to abate and cleanup his home as it was vandalized and dismantled this past fall and has become a safety hazard. Lastly we are in the process of securing temporary housing funding to complete abatement and remediation of 3 Rolling Hills units (#7, #25, and #27). We have sent a request to EPA headquarters.

We have continued to cleanup open dumps that we have come across or per request of community members. This past summer we hired Dakota Cleanup to conduct open dump cleanups in various areas of the Reservation including the Ski jump road, shelter belt and ditch across from old housing, Zebachs dead end on BIA Rd 25, a beach and various areas of ditch on BIA 27, and areas by Paul's C-store and Elderly Center in Fort Totten. These cleanups have brought in revenue for Refuse Control with Dakota Cleanup needing 10 roll offs to conduct these cleanups. We have collected names from each of these cleanups and are giving citations as well as continuing to monitor the areas to ensure they do not become open dumps again.

In November we were asked by Four Winds School to conduct water samples from a variety of their faucets throughout the school due to some discolor. We received the test results the first week of January that showed they were high in Manganese. I have forwarded the results to school board members and the Four Winds staff.

In March 2020, I applied for EPA grants for FY21- Clean Air Act 103 and Clean Water Act 319. Our main funding grant (PPG) is in a 2-year project period so we did not need to apply for it last year but will need to for FY22. We received \$935,838 for FY20-21. CAA103- We received \$50,000. (\$11,000 more than the previous FY) We will receive an outdoor air monitor to begin to receive baseline data. We will also purchase hydrogen sulfide and ammonia drone sensors to collect baseline data pertinent to CAFOs. CWA319- is a new grant that we have not received. We received \$30,000 (max amount awarded). I will be working on protecting water sources with this grant. Examples include fencing around ponds, lakes, and/or streams to keep cattle and other pollutants from entering directly. Also plan to update a non-point source management plan. I will be applying for all those grants again this year for FY22 as the grant proposals are due in February.

I serve on the Regional Tribal Operations Committee and National Tribal Science Council and have continued to participate in the monthly calls and quarterly meetings. The National Tribal Science Council (TSC), established in 1999, is a forum for interaction between Tribal and Agency representatives to work collaboratively on environmental science issues. The Council is comprised of EPA representatives from across the Agency, a tribal representative from each of the EPA regions with federally recognized tribes, and a representative of the Alaska Native Villages. The TSC is committed to the development of sound scientific approaches to meet the needs of Tribes. We continue to have monthly calls and quarterly meeting via Zoom. Due to COVID-19 our quarterly meetings have become virtual meetings. The last meeting was held December 1-4, 2020. Our last monthly call was on January 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The RTOC committee serves as a forum for federally recognized tribes in Region 8 to work with US EPA leadership on policy and resource matters related to tribal capacity building, environmental programs development and implementation in Indian Country. The last monthly call took place on January 21<sup>st</sup> at 10 AM. The next monthly call will take place February 18<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM. Also due to COVID-19 pandemic we have our quarterly meetings virtual with the last quarterly meeting held on December 8-10, 2020.

The Water Quality Coordinator and Water Quality Technician acquire samples from four surface water locations. Wood Lake, Battle Lake, Free Peoples Lake, and Twin Lake. Two sites on the Sheyenne River. Four groundwater wells adjacent to Wood Lake and Battle Lake. Samples from each location are field tested for temperature, pH, dissolved oxygen, and conductivity. E. coli Fecal is tested at the Spirit Lake Tribal EPA office otherwise all other field samples taken from each site are sent to a Water Quality Laboratory to test for hardness, metals, anions, total dissolved solids, and alkalinity.

CC: EPA file