



Spirit Lake Tribal EPA 2011 Year in Review newsletter

Newsletter Date

Volume 1, Issue 1

Tribal EPA Mission Statement

Special points of interest:

- Remember to turn off or unplug any unused appliances when gone for the day
- Check your propane tank gauges frequently
- Keep your walk-way free from ice to prevent accidents
- Keep your thermostats set at 68 degrees to conserve fuel
- Close all windows and storm windows to keep heat inside

The Spirit Lake Dakota Nation traditionally and historically have respect for Mother Earth and all life. Understanding pollution knows no political boundaries. We must mutually develop partnerships and agreements, to protect all human health, waters, air and aquatic ecosystems within our nations boundaries. To Scientifically collect data on our waters and natural resources, exchange and share information to better serve our people, thereby collectively protecting our envi-

ronment, for the present and future generations to use and enjoy.

Together; plan, develop, promote, design, promote, protect and administer sound environmental programs and regulations while safeguarding our inherent sovereign authority.

The ultimate intent of the Tribal EPA Office is to build comprehensive environmental programs for our Spirit Lake Dakota Nation.

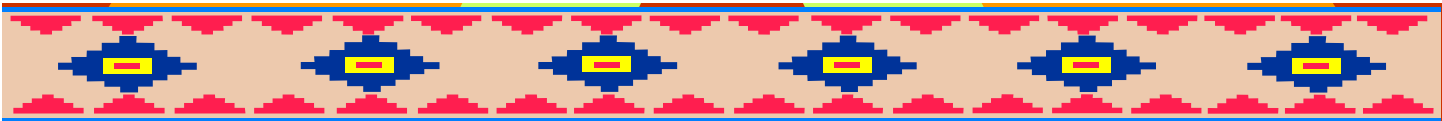


Spirit Lake Brownsfields Tribal Response Program FY11-Sean Gourd, Coordinator

This past year the Brownsfields Program has completed the 4 Elements & Public Record requirements of the Tribal Response Program. Using public input, the TRP Coordinator has identified a few new sites that will be submitted to our EPA Project Officer for Site Eligibility approval soon. Hopefully we will be able to

complete a Phase 1 Assessment on each site with a possible cleanup for at least one site. Updates regarding the Inventory for Brownsfields sites have been completed. We will be using the EPA recommended Brownsfields Inventory Tool as our main database for future sites. We are finally

nearing the end of completing the Solid Waste/ Environmental Code for our tribe. We are just awaiting final comments from our Tribal Health program and then the document should be ready for Tribal Resolution. The Codes have been developed using input from local



Spirit Lake Brownsfields Program Cont.



Tribal Programs, Tribal Attorney, Tribal Consultants, and from different Tribes that have a similar document from Region 8. The Codes will be very beneficial to our Tribe. The Old Crow Hill Church has been our only site that we have worked on this past year. The Final Phase 1 Assessment for the Church is on file at the SLT EPA Office. We have provided assistance to the St. Michaels Head Start on dealing with a propane smell/leak. We also have accompanied IHS when they were here identifying

solid waste sites throughout the reservation. Oversight of the Asbestos and Lead Abatement project at the Tribal Police Department will be done when activities start. Upon a couple community requests, TRP Coordinator removed empty fuel tanks from 4

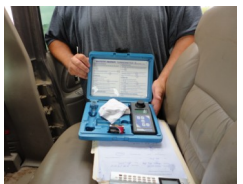
homes and brought tanks to Tribal transfer station. Also removed fences, posts, and feeders for our SLT EPA Leafy Spurge Project, which involved sheep pastures. If the public has any new sites that you would like the EPA Office to investigate or assess, please call the Spirit Lake Tribal EPA Office at 701.766.1286 during regular business hours.



Taking water samples



Installing rain gauges



Water sample test equipment



Rain gauge testing equipment

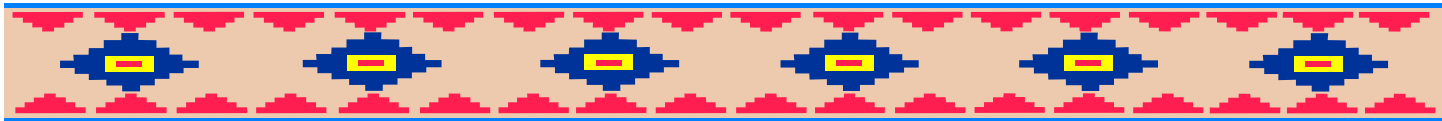
106 Clean Water Act Program-Oliver Gourd Jr.

The CWA 106 program was awarded a grant, for the tenth continuous year, for fiscal year 2010-2011. With these funds we were able to monitor our waters throughout our reservation, as we do every year, as well as to employ tribal members and also give back to the Spirit Lake Tribe in form of an Indirect Cost Rate. Plant classification was also done this past year for the first time. Looking at plants up and around wetlands will tell us the health of our wetlands. The Spirit Lake Tribal EPA Office has up to 90 of our own ground water wells throughout the whole reservation and we sampled 12 of those wells this past field season. Twelve sites, which have been estab-

lished for the past five years, were also sampled on our small creeks and small streams that we have running throughout our reservation. We also take water samples on the Sheyenne River. We sample at two locations on the Sheyenne, one on the west end and the other on the east end of our reservation. The data we get from our sampling is then analysis and stored in a national database as well as our own tribal database. Along with the field work that the staff does during the summer field season, there is various work related office duties that we attend to. Data entry was a major one done this past year. The CWA 106 staff, finally, has all data that has been gath-

ered over the past nine years, loaded up into the National Water database known as Ambient Water Quality Monitoring System (AWQMS); this was a major accomplishment for the water quality division. The CWA 106 staff is always open and welcomes any concerns by tribal members or any other concerned citizens regarding any of our waters within our reservation boundaries. Please feel free to contact our office with any concerns.





Spirit Lake Tribal EPA LEAD Program-Bonita Morin

HUD HEALTHY HOMES 2010/2011: The HUD grant expired on December 31, 2011. The Tribal EPA staff continue the progress of applying for grants that will enable the tribe to mitigate health and safety hazards in low-income units in the community. The overall accomplishments include the following: 33 tribal members and contractors certified in RRP, 3 tribal staff completed Lead Inspector/Risk Assessor training with 1 certified through the state of North Dakota and certification pending with Region 8,

Health Assessment with 6 tribal staff completing the week-long hands-on training, GHHI Boot Camp with 15 participants completing the 1.5 day sessions, Launching Healthy Homes Essentials training, a variety of education materials/

products were distributed throughout the community through social networks, emails, snail mail, PSS's, newspaper articles, senior programs, public locations, webpage posts, schools, faith-based organizations, door-to-door, and social events.



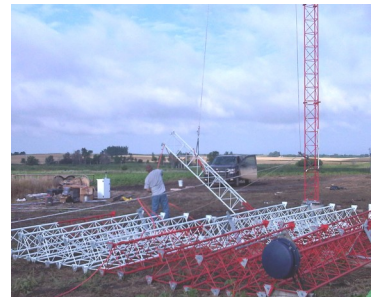
“Carbon Monoxide is an odorless, colorless, and extremely poisonous gas that is created when we burn fuel!”

Met tower gets installed!! One step closer to our wind farm!!

In June 2011 Spirit Lake tribe took a big step forward with the wind energy project by installing a 100 meter meteorological tower. This tower is essential in defining the type of turbines we should use. It will help us to design the wind farm with macro siting of the turbine towers as

well as substantiate our 40 year 'Wind Resource Analysis' that was completed in 2010. To date, the tower is giving us readings that are 4% better than we had expected. This is great news as those numbers will only help us to sell the power when we are ready to acquire a Power Pur-

chase Agreement (PPA) which will bring us one step closer to financial stability.



2 bdrm straw bale home



Kitchen in straw bale home

Tribal Council visits straw bale home concept on the Northern Cheyenne Reservation

In the fall of 2011, the tribal council visited the Lame Deer Reservation in Montana. The purpose of the visit was to see the straw bale concept of home building. The Red Feather Group, a non-profit organization was heading up the building of these energy efficient homes on their reservation. The homeowners make loans to pur-

chase these types of homes. The point of these homes are that they are one option of many that a home-buyer can have. But the way these homes are built, they will save the home owner money on their utilities and heating costs. They

use floor heating to heat the home, on-demand water heater systems, solar water heating for showers or heating the home. The floor plans are very comfortable, they are designed to out live conventional housing. These homes are one option that a home buyer can choose.



4 bdrm straw bale home in montana



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Strategic Energy Plan gets adopted.

Oliver Gourd Jr.-Environmental Coordinator/106 Program Coordinator

Frank Blackcloud-Renewable Resource Mgr.

Sean Gourd-Brownfields Tribal Response Program Coordinator

Janelle Fassett-Administrative Assistant

Bonita Morin-Healthy Homes Program Mgr./LEAD Outreach Coordinator

Aaron Ironheart-106 Water Quality Tech/L.U.S.T. Coordinator

Arthur Carmona-Strategic Energy Planner

The Strategic Energy Plan for the Spirit Lake Tribe resulting from this planning process will provide direction for energy management by and for tribal members during the next 5-10 years. Energy management based on the plan will optimize economic and environmental benefits to tribal entities and members. It will begin a process toward energy independence, and the economic development activity and wealth that can be produced through the efficient use of locally available renewable energy resources harvested

and managed by community entities and members. The plan will be developed through an interactive and iterative process with Tribal members and representatives over a period of about three (3) months.



This Strategic Energy Plan provides *strategic direction* in terms of new construction. It is not attempting or intended to be comprehensive in terms of specific energy management components that can and should be incorporated into new structures. **Rather, the fundamental point this plan offers for new structures is that energy management must be a primary consideration, not an afterthought, when developing building design options.**