

# EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office (FFRRO) and the FFRRO Tribal Program

*There are thousands of current and former federal facilities across the United States. Some of them are contaminated with hazardous wastes and may be located on or near American Indian or Alaska Native lands. To address contamination issues at these facilities, EPA's Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office works closely with other federal agencies to develop creative, cost-effective solutions.*

## FFRRO's Tribal Program

The United States has a unique legal and political relationship with American Indian tribal governments, established through and confirmed by the Constitution of the United States, treaties, statutes, executive orders and judicial decisions. Accordingly, EPA works in partnership with tribal governments, both at the facility and national policy-making levels.

FFRRO's Tribal Program protects the health of American Indians and Alaskan Native Villagers at and near federal facilities. FFRRO's goals are to:

- ▶ Develop partnerships that will enhance participation and the environmental decision-making process at federal facilities through meaningful coordination that respects the unique needs of each tribal community.
- ▶ Provide technical and regulatory oversight at NPL sites to ensure protection of human health, effective program implementation and meaningful public involvement.
- ▶ Identify contaminated sites on or near tribal lands, as well as site property that may be transferred to tribes.

## Tribal Community Involvement Opportunities

In addition to EPA's government-to-government relationship with federally recognized tribes, advisory boards and community groups are key elements of outreach to tribal communities. FFRRO works with DoD and the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) and their stakeholders by providing technical and regulatory input at advisory board meetings and by developing national policies for advisory boards.

There are several types of advisory boards:

- ▶ *Restoration Advisory Boards (RABs)* provide a forum through which community members can provide input to DoD's Restoration Program. RABs operate at functional, closing or realigning installations and Formerly Used Defense Sites where there is sufficient and sustained community interest.
- ▶ *Site-Specific Advisory Boards* involve stakeholders more directly in DOE cleanup decisions.
- ▶ *Superfund Community Advisory Groups* facilitate the exchange of cleanup information among stakeholders at Superfund sites.

## Training Opportunities

### Federal Facilities Academy

The Federal Facilities Academy is a voluntary training program developed for EPA remedial project managers (RPMs), project managers from other federal agencies, State government, and Tribal groups who work on federal facility Superfund cleanups. <https://www.trainex.org/FFacademy>

### Coordinating with Tribes Webinar

*Coordinating with Tribes at Federal Facilities* is a two-hour webinar course that provides an overview of Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) policy on consultation and coordination with Indian Tribes at federal facilities.

## Outreach and Technical Assistance

EPA's Technical Assistance Services for Communities (TASC) program provides independent educational and technical assistance to communities affected by hazardous waste sites to help them better understand and become involved in the cleanup process for contaminated sites. TASC's website provides more information: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-services-communities-tasc-program>

Through EPA Technical Assistance Grants (TAGs), communities can access the services of independent technical advisors to help them understand technical information and decisions at eligible Superfund sites. The advisors can help communities interpret technical reports, site conditions and EPA's proposed cleanup proposals and decisions. For more information, visit: <https://www.epa.gov/superfund/technical-assistance-grant-tag-program>.

## Federal Resources

### **EPA Federal Facilities Restoration and Reuse Office**

FFRRO works with other federal entities to help them develop creative, cost-effective solutions to their environmental problems. <https://www.epa.gov/fedfac>

### **EPA American Indian Environmental Office (Office of International and Tribal Affairs)**

This office coordinates the EPA-wide effort to strengthen health and environmental protection in Indian Country. <http://www.epa.gov/indian>

### **Department of Agriculture**

USDA is committed to serving tribal organizations and individual American Indians and Alaska Natives. <http://www.usda.gov/tribalrelations>

### **Department of Defense**

The Native American Management System for Environmental Impacts tracks and maintains information on potential impacts on tribal lands from past DoD activities. <https://www.namei.com>

### **Army Corps of Engineers**

Under the Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP), the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) is cleaning up sites with contamination resulting from the Nation's early atomic energy program. <https://www.usace.army.mil/Missions/Environmental/FUSRAP/>

### **Department of Energy**

The mission of the Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs is to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives. <https://www.energy.gov/em/em-tribal-programs-indian-country>

### **Center for Disease Control and Prevention**

The CDC hosts a Tribal Health website that highlights the rich history of American Indian and Alaska Native (AI/AN) tribal nations, tribal contributions to public health, and organizations working to improve tribal public health and provides resources that are relevant to AI/AN communities. <https://www.cdc.gov/tribal/index.html>

### **Department of the Interior**

The Department of the Interior places a high priority on respecting the government-to-government relationship between the federal government and federally recognized American Indian and Alaska Native tribes. <https://www.doi.gov/international/what-we-do/tribes>

## Munitions Cleanup

FFRRO's commitment to tribal involvement is further illustrated by its collaboration with tribes on several munitions-related projects.

- ▶ EPA Munitions Response Guidelines assist EPA staff, tribes and states overseeing munitions response cleanups. [https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/munitions\\_response\\_guidelines.pdf](https://www.epa.gov/sites/default/files/documents/munitions_response_guidelines.pdf)
- ▶ The Military Munitions/Unexploded Ordnance website provides information on EPA and DoD Munitions Policy and Guidance as well as additional information resources. <https://www.epa.gov/fedfac/military-munitionsunexploded-ordnance>
- ▶ Training courses assist personnel overseeing munitions response site cleanups. Upcoming courses are posted at: <http://www.clu-in.org>

### **Federal Land Transfer to Tribes**

U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) base closures can often lead to land transfers to tribes, held in trust by the U.S. Department of the Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tribes may have opportunities for economic development as well as access to archeological sites and other cultural resources.

### **FFRRO Background**

FFRRO's mission is to facilitate effective cleanup solutions at federal facility sites. By focusing on partnering and public involvement, FFRRO and its partners have made great strides in improving federal facility cleanups.

## CONTACT US!

**For more information about FFRRO's tribal activities, please visit our website at: <http://www.epa.gov/fedfac> or contact FFRRO's Tribal Coordinator**

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