

33rd Annual BIA Tribal Providers Conference  
November 28-30, 2023 | Anchorage, Alaska

**ENVIRONMENTAL**

Location: Tubughnenq 5

**Tuesday, November 28, 2023**

1:15 pm – 2:45 pm	<b>Session I: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Alaska – Bering Sea Interior Commission</b> The BLM issues consequential federal decisions on land and resource management over large areas across Alaska. This session will provide information on forthcoming major federal decisions and on how Tribes can engage in federal environmental reviews. Included are ANCSA D-1 lands and Central Yukon Planning decisions in Alaska, and BLM Conservation rule-making process on the national level.
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Alaska Energy Authority (AEA)</b> The Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) is a public corporation of the State of Alaska governed by a board of directors with the mission to “reduce the cost of energy in Alaska.” As the state’s energy office and lead agency for statewide energy policy and program development, AEA is making a positive difference in Alaska’s communities. Join us to learn more about who we are and what we do. Find out about Rural Power System Upgrades, Bulk Fuel Upgrades, and the Circuit Rider Program. AEA also administers grant funding and loan programs, including the Power Project Fund, the Renewable Energy Fund, the Renewable Energy Village Energy Efficiency Program, and Rural Electric Vehicle Supply Equipment. <i>Audrey Alstrom, PE, Director of Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Programs, Alaska Energy Authority</i>

**Wednesday, November 29, 2023**

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>BIA Office of Emergency Management Introduction</b> Emergency Management overview for senior officials. <i>Paul Gray, Regional Emergency Management Specialist, BIA</i>
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	<b>Bureau of Indian Affairs – National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Section 106, and Cultural Resource Management</b> Overview of NHPA regulations and responsibilities for Section 106 Compliance for Alaska Native Allotments and BIA Projects. <i>Joseph Sparaga, Supervisory Regional Archeologist, Division of Environmental Services and Cultural Resource Management</i>
9:45 a.m. – 10:00 a.m.	<b>Morning Break</b>

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**Wednesday, November 29, 2023, continued...**

10:00 a.m. – 11:00 a.m.	<p><b>Federal Emergency Management Agency - Non-Disaster Grants</b>          Non-Disaster Hazard Mitigation Grants: Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities (BRIC) grants and Direct Technical Assistance (DTA) BRIC support.  <i>Jimi Hightower, Molly Parkan, and John Weber</i>  <i>Community Resilience and Infrastructure Grants Branch (CRAIG)</i></p>
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<p><b>Department of Interior – National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/FAST-41</b>          Overview of NEPA regulations changes and the FAST-41 infrastructure program  <i>Lisa Fox, Regional Environmental Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC)</i></p>
11:45 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.	<p><b>Lunch Break</b></p>
1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.	<p><b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Alaska</b>          EPA Program, Indigenous Knowledge, and the Indian General Assistance Program (GAP)  <i>Catherine Villa, Tribal Coordinator, Project Officer – EPA Tribal, Trust, and Assistance Branch Alaska</i></p>
2:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<p><b>Department of Interior – Tribal Participation Oil Spill Response Planning</b>          Protection of cultural resources during spill response – ways to get involved.  <i>Lisa Fox, Regional Environmental Officer, Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC)</i></p>
2:45 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.	<p><b>Afternoon Break</b></p>
3:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m.	<p><b>Federal Emergency Management Agency - Disaster Grants</b>          Introduction to disaster grants and mitigation success stories. FEMA’s Hazard Mitigation Grants Program provides grant funding that enables development of communities and hazard mitigation plans, to reduce or minimize the impact of disasters. The grant funding is available after a Presidentially declared disaster.  <i>Robert Burton, Technical Section Chief, Hazard Mitigation Grant Program</i>  <i>Holly Bergman, Branch Chief, Hazard Mitigation Grants Program</i>  <i>Garrett Brooks, Alaska State Hazard Mitigation Officer</i></p>

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8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.	<b>National Environmental Policy Act Reviewing Compliance</b> Coordinating the NEPA review process for projects and activities. <i>Harrilene Yazzie, Manager – Division of Environmental &amp; Cultural Resources Management, Alaska Regional Office</i>
9:00 a.m. - 9:45 a.m.	<b>U.S. Environmental Protection Agency in Alaska</b> An overview of the latest “waters of the United States” rulemakings. <i>Patrick Johnson, Assistant Regional Counsel – EPA Region 10 Office of Regional Counsel – Alaska Operations Office</i>
9:45 am – 10:00 am	<b>Morning Break</b>
10:00 am – 11:00 am	<b>Backhaul Alaska – Overview, Listening and Discussion</b> How Backhaul Alaska works and how you can use it to fill your community’s backhaul needs. <i>Anahma Shannon, Environmental Director, Kawerak, Inc. &amp; Solid Waste Alaska Taskforce Executive Board</i> <i>Lepani Nadore, Assistant Coordinator, Backhaul Alaska</i> <i>Tracy Lewis, Backhaul and IGAP Program Specialist, Zender Environmental Health</i>
11:00 a.m. – 11:45 a.m.	<b>RurAL CAP: Elder Mentor Program</b> Elder Mentors are AmeriCorps Senior volunteers age 55+ who serve at a school in their local community as a role model, grandparent and mentor to students in the classroom, all across Alaska. Our volunteers get a small, tax-free stipend for their service, PTO, paid holidays, plus other benefits such as meal and mileage reimbursement. All volunteers undergo training, and we fly our Elder Mentors to Anchorage once a year for our annual gathering. Volunteers choose the school and grade level, and choose what kind of volunteering they are interested in, such as being a lunch buddy, tutoring in a subject, supporting early childhood development, Culture Bearer mentoring, and more. Our dedicated program coordinators set up a partnership with the school, and assign a local site supervisor to support our volunteers. Elder Mentors serve a minimum of twenty hours a month, or about five hours a week. <i>Yasmin Radbod, Recruitment Specialist, Elder Mentor Program</i>
11:45 am – 1:00 pm	<b>Lunch Break</b>

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1:00 p.m. – 2:45 p.m.	<b>DOI/USDA Co-Stewardship Talking Circles Report</b> This presentation will provide discussion on a series of co-stewardship talking circles held in the past year by the Department of Interior and United States Department of Agriculture (DOI/USDA). This report will have a conversation element on the recommendations resulting from the talking circles. <i>Maija Lukin, Alaska Native Tribal Affairs Manager, National Park Service</i> <i>Donna Bach, State Native Liaison, Bureau of Land Management</i> <i>Kevin Hood, Alaska Tribal Relations Program Manager, U.S. Forest Service</i> <i>Ciisquq Crystal Leonetti, Alaska Native Affairs Specialist, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service</i>
2:45 pm – 3:00 pm	<b>Afternoon Break</b>
3:00 pm – 4:00 pm	<b>Categorical Exclusions – NEPA Compliance</b> Working through the CE process in NEPA Tracker. <i>Harrilene Yazzie, Manager – Division of Environmental &amp; Cultural Resources, Alaska Region</i>
4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.	<b>Small Community Emergency Response Plan</b> Planning and Importance of Hazard Mitigation Planning <i>Charlene Saclamana, Emergency Preparedness Coordinator III, Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium</i>