



STATE OF WASHINGTON
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
DIVISION OF ENVIRONMENTAL PUBLIC HEALTH
PO Box 47820 • Olympia, Washington 98504-7820
(360) 236-3000 • 711 Washington Relay Service

July 21, 2021

Dear Tribal Leader:

Subject: Renewal of the funding for the Department of Health Site Assessment Program

In accordance with Chapter 43.376 RCW and the Washington State Centennial Accord of 1989, the Department of Health (DOH) collaborates with Indian tribes and tribal organizations in the development of policies, agreements, and program implementation that directly affects Indian tribes and tribal people. Therefore, please be advised we received funding from the Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry (ATSDR) Partnership to Promote Localized Efforts to Reduce Environmental Exposure (APPLETREE) cooperative agreement to resume the Site Assessment Program.

Purpose

After an unfunded period 2017 – 2020, DOH has been funded by APPLETREE for Fiscal Years 2020 – 2023 to continue the Site Assessment Program. Although our implementation of this program has been delayed by the COVID-19 response, as in the past, we will work together with tribal nations and partners to identify hazardous waste sites and to decrease or prevent exposures to toxic substances and hazardous waste that present potential threat to tribal community's health. We will continue working on public health assessments, health consultations, and exposure investigations with tribal communities to evaluate hazardous waste sites with the greatest potential threat to tribal community's health.

Anticipated Impact on Indians/Indian Health Programs/Urban Indian Health Organizations

We would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share, including whether the renewal of the Site Assessment Program will have disproportionate impact on American Indian/Alaska Native people, Indian Health Program, or Urban Indian Health Organizations.

Copies, Comments, and Questions

Our office can make copies of documents related to the Site Assessment Program, such as public health assessments, health consultations, and exposure investigations including sites affecting tribal communities or tribal petitioned sites, upon your request as they become available. We also would appreciate any input or concerns that tribal representatives wish to share regarding this action. To request a copy, or to provide comments, please contact Lenford O'Garro, Site Assessment Program by telephone at 360-236-3376 or by email at lenford.o'garro@doh.wa.gov.

Please contact Tamara Fife, our agency's Tribal Relations Director, by telephone at 360-870-8903 or by email at: tamara.fife@doh.wa.gov if you would like to request a formal consultation with the agency or if you have tribal-affairs related questions.

Please forward this information to any interested party.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Laura Johnson', is positioned below the word 'Sincerely,'.

Laura Johnson, Office Director for Environmental Public Health Sciences

cc: Lenford O'Garro
Lauren Jenks, MPH
Umair Shah, MD, MPH
Tamara Fife, MPH