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Solid Waste
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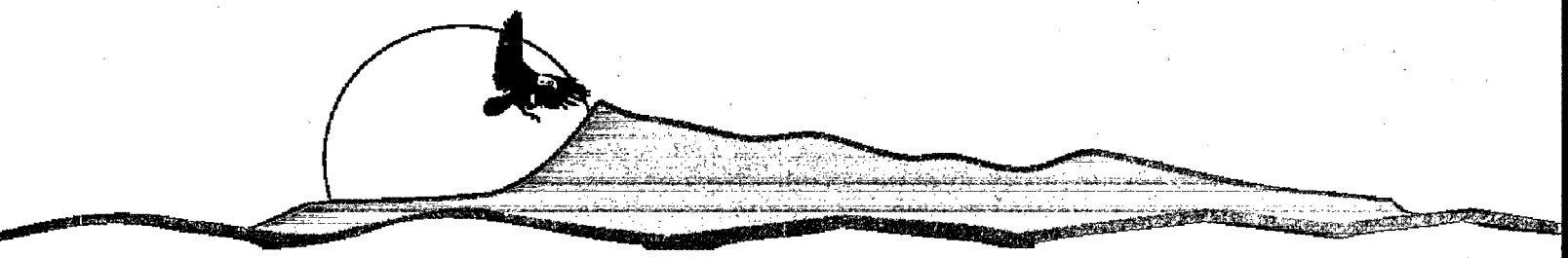
Native American Network



NTEC Holds National Forum

Tim Fields, Jr., Acting Assistant Administrator for the EPA's Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response (OSWER), led the OSWER senior management team to Albuquerque, NM to participate in the National Tribal Environmental Council's (NTEC) National Forum to Discuss Impediments to the Implementation of Waste Programs, February 10-11, 1998. The forum was held in response to a recommendation made by the Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee of the National Environmental Justice Advisory Council (NEJAC) in FY 96. The Waste and Facility Siting Subcommittee recommended that OSWER arrange a discussion between tribes and EPA senior management focused on waste management issues in Indian Country.

"I believe EPA has entered into a new era; a new era in terms of how we will work together to engage in a collaborative, decision-making process, not telling people how we are going to do things, but working together to develop solutions to these problems."

Tim Fields, Jr., 2/10/98

Over 250 participants registered for this meeting, including: Kathy Gorospe, Director of the EPA American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO); senior managers from the six OSWER programs; OSWER Tribal Program staff; representatives from the EPA Regional offices; and representatives from the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Indian Health Service (IHS). Meeting participants were also treated to an unplanned address by Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs, Kevin Gover, who stopped by after lunch on the first day to convey his understanding of the issues and to pledge enhanced BIA participation in waste management, despite the challenges imposed by BIA budget issues.

The timing of the national forum could not have been better, following up on the Tribal Operations Committee (TOC) - Tribal Caucus' FY 99 budget request, which identified waste management as the second highest environmental priority in Indian Country. In response to the Tribal Caucus' priority of waste issues and in anticipation of additional resources for waste programs on tribal lands, OSWER developed a *Draft Strategy for Implementing Waste Programs on Tribal Lands for FY 98-99* to articulate the program's direction. In

Continued on page 7

Welcome

Hau Kola! I hope that this ninth issue of the *Native American Network* finds you in good spirits. Spring 1998 is packed with activity in Indian Country, with meetings, conferences and U.S. Senate field hearings on tribal sovereignty.

At the core of activity is what tribes are doing to exercise their powers as sovereign governments. The theme for the Fourth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management is "Promoting Strength, Unity and Self-Determination to Protect Indian Country." From May 19-21, 1998, government and community representatives will focus on what tribes are doing to protect citizens in Indian Country, sharing experiences from the past 10 years of the EPA-Tribal relationship and developing stronger tribal environmental programs.

It is now possible to convene meetings where tribal officials lead workshops and discussions about what works best for tribal environmental programs. OSWER would like to thank those tribal officials who have graciously participated in training programs and conferences that benefit Indian environmental programs. Your leadership is a key element to the partnerships necessary to promote and strengthen unity in the Indian environmental field.

Providing tribes with information about OSWER programs and related activities is the purpose of the *Native American Network*. It is another forum available to tribal environmental programs to inform the public about their programs. Contact us with your ideas for future articles, or submit your own articles for publication.

Stephen B. Etsitty
National Native American Program Manager, Office of Solid Waste

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Compliance Assistance Centers

Offering Small Business Environmental Information

Small businesses face so many challenges — not the least of which is complying with environmental requirements. Many small businesses want to comply with the law, but don't know where to begin. That, in a nutshell, is the rationale behind EPA's efforts — in cooperation with industry, tribes, states, universities and other groups — to develop Compliance Assistance Centers.

Five of these "virtual" Centers are already underway, covering agriculture, automotive service and repair, metal finishing, printing, and printed wiring boards. Several more Centers are scheduled to open later this year to handle the compliance needs of local governments, the chemical industry, paints and coatings, and transportation.

Each Center offers a range of communications services, including Web sites, e-mail groups, fax-back systems, and old-fashioned telephone assistance lines. What kinds of information are available through the Centers? The Web sites offer easy-to-understand summaries and plain English versions of federal regulations that apply to the industry; the latest regulatory actions; recent guidance documents and other publications; compliance tools (such as platers' calculators for metal finishers); pollution prevention techniques and case studies; and links and lists of useful contacts in state environmental agencies and elsewhere.

Several of the Centers are experimenting with other resources that their member companies would find helpful. These include:

- Vendor listings and directories;
- Environmental management software and benchmarking tools that can be downloaded from the Internet;
- "Expert help desk" features that allow a small business person to type in compliance questions and be guided to information that can help;
- "Virtual shops" that allow a user to click on any facet of an operation and see what regulations apply; and
- Online access to relevant state regulations.

EPA staff are pleased with how well the Centers are catching on within the trades and hope that over time other industries will step forward to create similar resources. Lynn Vendinello, program manager at EPA, notes, "The Centers have the potential to change the way that small businesses relate to the environment. Not only do they help small businesses comply with environmental regulations, they also make it quite painless to locate and understand the necessary information." For more information on the Centers, contact Lynn Vendinello at 202-564-7066, vendinello.lynn @epamail.epa.gov.

Compliance Assistance Centers

Up and Running:

Metal Finishing:
National Metal Finishing Resource Center
www.nmfrc.org
1-800-AT-NMFRC (286-6372)

Automotive Service and Repair:
CCAR-Greenlink®: the Automotive Compliance Information Assistance Center
www.ccar-greenlink.org
1-888-GRN-LINK (476-5465)

Printing:
Printer's National Compliance Assistance Center
www.pneac.org
1-888-US PNEAC (1-888-877-6322)

Agriculture:
National Agriculture Compliance Assistance Center
www.epa.gov/oeca/ag/aghmpg.html
1-888-663-2155 or 913-551-7207

Printed Wiring Boards:
Printed Wiring Board Resource Center
www.pwbrc.org

Coming Soon:

ChemAlliance: The Compliance Assistance Center for the Chemical Industry
Emily Chow, 202-564-7071

Local Government Environmental Assistance Network
John Dombrowski, 202-564-7036

Paints and Coatings Resource Center
Contact through NMFRC (www.nmfrc.org)

Transportation Compliance Assistance Center
www.epa.gov/oeca/tcac/tcac.html (test site)
Virginia Lathrop, 202-564-7057

Municipal Solid Waste

www.epa.gov/tribalmsw

New MSW Publications and Resources Available

In February 1998, the MSW Tribal Team published two new tip sheets to assist tribal governments in implementing their integrated solid waste management programs. These two new documents are also available on the Education and Outreach page of the MSW Management in Indian Country web site: www.epa.gov/tribalmsw/educout.htm.

- *Preparing Successful Grant Proposals* describes procedures that tribes can follow when applying for solid waste management grants. Tips are provided on proposal preparation and proposal writing. The tip sheet provides resources for identifying grantors, a checklist for grant proposal writing, and a case study describing the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's successful Jobs Through Recycling grant proposal.

- *Partnerships in Solid Waste Management* describes working in partnership with other tribes, states, or local governments to address solid waste issues. It discusses why partnerships are beneficial, what obstacles impede partnerships, how to develop a partnership agreement, and how to work in partnership after entering

Continued on page 4

EPA to Hold Satellite Forum to "Weigh In" on Recycling Measurement

A nationwide satellite forum on recycling measurement is coming your way! On June 3, 1998, from 1:00 PM to 3:00 PM (E.T.), EPA will host a live videoconference, entitled *Weighing in on Recycling Measurement: EPA's Standard Method.* The forum will feature a panel of recycling measurement experts from across the country and will provide an overview of EPA's voluntary, standard methodology for calculating recycling rates. Panelists will cover some of the most challenging recycling measurement issues that solid waste managers face.

Because most tribes, states and localities across the country define recycling in different ways, use various approaches for calculating recycling rates, and include different materials in those rates, everyone can benefit from learning about EPA's standard method. The EPA approach saves time and effort; produces useful information for planning and decision-making; provides accurate, up-to-date numbers for market development; and allows for easier data collection from the private sector. Using the methodology, tribes, states and local governments can calculate a recycling rate that can be easily compared with other tribes, states and communities across the country.

Details about EPA's standard methodology can be found in the guidance document, *Measuring Recycling: A Guide for State and Local Governments* (document number EPA530-R-97-011). In addition to information on both the core and flexible elements of the methodology, the document provides "real life" examples, hints and tips, a glossary of more than 100 standard terms, standard volume-to-weight conversion factors, and other useful tools that might be helpful for tribes. For tribes, states and localities already measuring recycling, the guidance document provides an abbreviated form of the methodology known as the "translator," to use in recalculating their recycling rate according to the EPA method.

Take another step in learning about standardizing recycling rates by viewing the satellite forum at no charge at one or more of the 100 downlink locations in the continental United States. For more information about the satellite forum or about hosting your own site, call 703-841-8303 or e-mail: recycle.measure@erg.com. You can also order a free copy of the guidance document by calling the RCRA Hotline at 800-424-9346 (TDD 800-553-7672 for hearing impaired) or writing to U.S. EPA, RCRA Information Center (5305W), 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460.

Nunagpet/Chugachmiut Environmental Protection Consortium (CEPC)

The Nunagpet/Chugachmiut Environmental Protection Consortium is a coalition of seven Alaska native villages and two Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) corporations located in the Cook Inlet and Prince William Sound regions. Representatives from each village and from the Cook Inlet and ANCSA corporations make up the CEPC board, which plans environmental strategies and develops regulations for the region. CEPC recently signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Alaska Department of Environmental Conservation and EPA Region 10 to devise and implement environmental work plans that address numerous environmental concerns, including solid waste management.

CEPC was instrumental in the development of household hazardous waste (HHW) storage facilities near community landfills. Community members are encouraged to drop off HHW materials such as paint cans, batteries, and used oil, which are safely stored until they can be transported to an appropriate disposal facility in Anchorage. In addition, CEPC distributed "green cleaning kits" to the communities of Chenega, Tatitlek, Port Graham, and Nanwalek. The kits contained cleaning products that are better for the health of the community and the environment than commercial cleaning products. Products in the kit included baking soda and liquid castile soap, which can be used for sink, tub, and toilet cleaner; and vinegar, which can be combined with water and used as a window or floor cleaner. Volunteers from the communities distributed the kits to individuals personally, explaining the importance of reducing household wastes.

CEPC supports three environmental health professionals who develop and lead environmental programs and educational workshops for CEPC member communities. The community of Eyak, with educator Kate Williams, has established a clothes recycling program, including a semiannual clothing swap. Eyak is also researching antifreeze recycling.

Initiating recycling programs poses a considerable challenge for all Chugachmiut native villages, because recyclables must be transported to the Anchorage Recycling Center, which ships or flies the recyclables to Seattle for processing. Since native villages spend most recycling revenue on transportation costs, they need a significant commitment from community members to remain viable. The success of CEPC's recycling programs reflects a commitment to environmental protection on the part of these Alaska native villagers.

CEPC's Declaration of Intent covers all aspects of environmental protection for the region and provides a firm foundation for expanding solid waste

Continued on page 8

Publications and Resources Available *continued from page 3*

into such an agreement. The tip sheet provides a list of other partnership resources and a case study describing the partnership of the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians with Swain County, North Carolina.

Also available from EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW) is the *Municipal Solid Waste Factbook*. The Factbook is available on the Internet or as a stand-alone application and contains a wealth of data on municipal solid waste and its management. It offers national and international data on waste prevention, recycling, waste-to-energy combustion, and land disposal. Extensive data on state solid waste management programs also are included. To view the Internet version or download the application, visit www.epa.gov/factbook. To order the application on diskette (EPA530-C-97-001), contact the RCRA Hotline as described below. The application version requires an IBM-compatible computer equipped with a mouse and Microsoft Windows.

All RCRA publications are available at no charge from EPA. You can call the RCRA Hotline at 800-424-9346 or (TDD 800-553-7672 for hearing impaired). When ordering, please mention the order number for each publication you wish to receive. You can also order documents by sending an e-mail request to rcra-docket @epamail.epa.gov or a postal mail request to RCRA Information Center (5305W), U.S. EPA, 401 M Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20460. Finally, many more documents from OSW can be viewed on the Internet at EPA's Office of Solid Waste web site www.epa.gov/osw.

OSWER UPDATE. . . TASWER Launch Underway

Only a few steps remain to complete the startup of the Tribal Association on Solid Waste and Emergency Response (TASWER). This association, chartered in July 1997, opens another avenue for tribal involvement in Federal legislative and regulatory actions. TASWER will enhance tribes' understanding of EPA regulations and help tribal governments be more effective partners in environmental protection. The Association's organization is patterned on the Association of State and Territorial Solid Waste Management Officials (ASTSWMO). Since our report in the September 1997 newsletter, TASWER has continued to build its organization.

TASWER is guided by an eight-member interim Board of Directors, chaired by Cassidy Williams, Chairman of the Walker River Paiute Tribe (NV), and a steering committee. The steering committee includes one representative from nine of the ten EPA Regions. It has adopted a mission statement, approved and initiated items on a six-step action plan, and approved goals for TASWER. Some key goals include:

- Establish a staff of experts to provide technical and legal services;
- Act as an information hub to include a database and clearinghouse, information on funding and program opportunities, a network of tribal programs, and a research center with technically advanced computer equipment;
- Assist tribes in drafting tribal solid waste and emergency response regulations that incorporate tribal definitions and culture;
- Seek cooperation from other Federal agencies on tribal solid waste and emergency response issues; and
- Create partnerships among tribes, states, and local governments.

MISSION STATEMENT

The Tribal Association on Solid Waste and Emergency Response (TASWER) recognizes and advocates the sovereign relationship of all tribal nations with the U.S. Government and is proactively involved in the national decision-making and regulatory process, ensuring tribal participation on an equal level and as decision-makers on all solid waste and emergency response issues.

TASWER will be a membership, nonprofit organization. Certification is pending as a 501(c)(6) organization under the Internal Revenue Code to permit the Association to engage in certain lobbying activities. When the membership is established, the members will elect a full board of 12 directors. Americans for Indian Opportunity, Inc. (AIO) secured initial funding for the Association and recently acquired temporary office space with the law firm of Hobbs, Straus, Dean, and Walker in Washington, D.C.

Following a nationwide search, TASWER anticipates having an executive director in place by spring 1998. The executive director will be charged with assembling a staff including environmental and legal experts, promoting the Association, and building the membership base.

Voting membership is open to all Federally-recognized tribal governments. For more information on TASWER, visit the AIO Web site at http://indiannet.indian.com/taswer.html.

EPA to Hold Meeting on Water Quality Standards: Criteria and Implementation

EPA's Office of Water (OW) will hold a meeting August 24-28, 1998, in Philadelphia, PA at the Philadelphia Marriott Convention Hotel. The objective of the meeting is to provide for an exchange of scientific, technical and policy information on water quality standards, water quality criteria, and implementation, including water quality-based permitting. The meeting will focus on the *Water Quality Criteria and Standards Plan*, a vision and strategy for important new initiatives to improve water quality, better protect human health and maintain and enhance the quality of the nation's water.

The meeting is open to anyone interested in water quality-based pollution control, including representatives from States, Indian tribes, Federal agencies, environmental groups, industrial groups, municipalities, the academic community and others. There is no cost to attend this meeting. Attendees must preregister in order to attend.

Please contact EPA's contractor, The Cadmus Group, for registration and other logistical information. The Cadmus Group can be reached at 703-998-6862 (then press 2190) or by e-mail: **mrm98@cadmusgroup.com**.

Working To Clean Up a Cold War Legacy

DOE and STGWG

The process of cleaning up the entire nuclear weapons complex is an enormous job requiring the Department of Energy (DOE) to seek input from tribal, state, and local stakeholders. The State and Tribal Government Working Group (STGWG), a vital instrument to dialogue on DOE site cleanup, provides the only forum for interaction between all states and tribes affected by DOE cleanup activities.

STGWG was formed in 1989 in response to a letter from 10 state governors who were concerned about cleanup of DOE sites in or near their states. Former Secretary of Energy, Admiral James Watkins, invited these states, the Yakama Indian Nation, and the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes to appoint representatives to STGWG. Admiral Watkins also invited the National Governors' Association (NGA), the National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG), and the National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) to participate in STGWG. Since 1989, STGWG has grown to include representatives from 16 States, eight tribes, NGA, NAAG, and NCSL. Tribes currently represented on STGWG include the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation, the Isleta Pueblo, the Navajo Nation, the Nez Perce Tribe, the Pueblo de San Ildefonso, the Seneca Nation, the Shoshone-Bannock Tribes, and the Yakama Indian Nation.

STGWG meetings, held semiannually, offer a unique opportunity for the states and tribes to present policy analysis and comments directly to DOE representatives. Meetings typically involve STGWG members, high-level representatives from DOE's Environmental Management (DOE/EM) program, and representatives from other DOE program offices and sites.

Recently, STGWG has enjoyed a rebirth of sorts. Beginning in 1996, a lack of funds forced the group to suspend meetings for almost two years. STGWG reconvened, however, in November 1997, with DOE's reaffirmation of its support for STGWG as a necessary vehicle for

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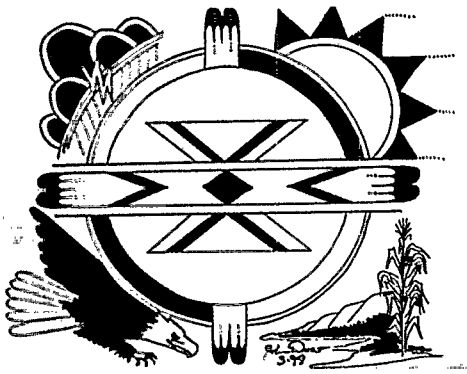

May 19-21, 1998

Hosted by:
Prairie Island Indian Community
Welch, Minnesota
at the Treasure Island Resort and Casino

Fourth National Tribal Conference On Environmental Management

The Prairie Island Indian Community is hosting the Fourth National Tribal Conference on Environmental Management from May 19 to May 21, 1998. The Conference agenda includes the following topics: grant writing, water quality, air quality, casino waste management, emergency response, municipal solid waste management, ecological risk assessment and tribal cultural values, underground storage tanks, environmental justice, pollution prevention, and more. Proceedings will be available after the conference. Contact Stephen B. Etsitty, OSW's National Native American Program Manager at 703-305-3194 or send an e-mail to etsitty.stephen @epamail.epa.gov.

DOE and STGWG *continued from page 6*

state, and especially tribal, involvement in the DOE cleanup process. At the November 1997 meeting, Assistant Secretary for DOE/EM, Alvin Alm, declared his support for STGWG and promised to recommend its continuation to his successor.

STGWG has made valuable contributions to DOE's cleanup process. The group commented on DOE's original five-year plans and provided the impetus for the former 30-year cleanup plan developed under Admiral Watkins' administration. Now STGWG is focusing on DOE's newest plan, *Accelerating Cleanup: Paths to Closure*, which calls for cleanup of over 90 percent of DOE sites by 2006. In 1998, STGWG plans to address five main issues that relate to this plan. These include tribal cultural resources, transportation planning, "Paths to Closure" and budget events, stewardship, and nuclear waste and material disposition. A state, tribe, or organization interested in joining STGWG may contact DOE with a statement of interest explaining how it is affected by the cleanup of a DOE facility.

For more information on STGWG, please contact Catherine Volk, STGWG's Project Coordinator at DOE/EM (202-586-5275; e-mail: catherine.volk@em.doe.gov), or Amelie Welden, STGWG Coordinator at NCSL (303-830-2200; e-mail: amelie.welden@ncsl.org).

NTEC Holds National Forum *continued from page 1*

addition to issues brought by the tribal government and community representatives, the OSWER Draft Strategy for Implementing Waste Programs on Tribal Lands served as a foundation for the discussions during the national forum.

The agenda for the day and a half meeting was ambitious and emphasized the use of small workgroups to focus on every aspect of OSWER's Tribal Program in a constructive manner. "We (NTEC and OSWER) are pleased that for the first time we are bringing together people who have a keen interest from all walks of life on tribal issues impacting waste management programs," Tim Fields stated in his opening remarks. Issues discussed by the working groups included municipal solid waste management, underground storage tanks, Federal facilities, Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act (EPCRA), hazardous waste, and the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA or Superfund). The desired outcomes of the national forum included the identification of impediments to implementation of waste programs, initial development of implementation strategies, and the establishment of a framework for Federal agency commitments to implement waste programs in Indian Country.

After one full day of small workgroup sessions, tribal government and community representatives and OSWER senior managers identified an array of barriers and developed a number of proposals to address the barriers. The following major commitments were made by OSWER's senior management:

- OSWER will involve senior management in more national tribal meetings;
- OSWER will improve the targeting of resources for waste issues on tribal lands to priority issues raised by tribes;
- OSWER will work closely with the new Tribal Association for Solid Waste and Emergency Response (TASWER) to define its appropriate role in addressing waste management barriers;
- OSWER will work with tribes in addressing the legislative barriers in RCRA that are the basis for many of the tribal issues; and
- OSWER will work with the other EPA program offices on tribal program issues that cut across all EPA programs, e.g. air, water, toxics, enforcement.

Each office in OSWER is currently developing action plans that respond to the issues and recommendations produced at the national forum. The action plans will also be incorporated into the OSWER Draft Strategy for Implementing Waste Programs on Tribal Lands document.

The national forum was a good indicator of EPA's ability to work with other Federal agencies and the tribal governments and community members directly to enhance tribal governments' capacity to protect human health and the environment.

To learn more about the national forum and to place yourself on the mailing list to receive copies of the forthcoming meeting report, call NTEC at 505-242-2175.

OSW Announces New Hazardous Waste Publication

Do you know whether or not your business produces hazardous waste? If it does, do you know the regulations you are required to follow? Simple answers to some of the most common questions about the hazardous waste regulations are presented in a new publication, called *RCRA in Focus,* produced by EPA's Office of Solid Waste (OSW). The publication is geared toward hazardous waste generators in specific industries that are regulated by the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA).

Intended as a quick reference tool, it repackages existing hazardous waste requirements for more convenient use and presents pollution prevention options. For the first time, RCRA regulations and pollution prevention options for specific industries will be available in one place.

The premier edition (January 1998) features the printing industry. Future issues of *RCRA in Focus* will feature other industries such as textile manufacturing, dry cleaning, chemical manufacturing, metal manufacturing, and others. Later issues might focus on tribal, EPA regional, or state programs, featuring news in hazardous waste management. OSW anticipates publishing 10 to 12 issues per year.

If you are interested in receiving a copy of the newest hazardous waste publication, contact the RCRA Hotline at 800-424-9346 or TDD 800-553-7672 (for hearing impaired). *RCRA in Focus* (EPA530-K-97-007) is also available on the Internet at www.epa.gov/osw.

Environmental Protection Consortium

continued from page 4

management and recycling efforts. For more information, please contact Christine Celentano, Environmental Health Program Director, at the following address:

Nunagpet/Chugachmiut Environmental Protection Consortium
4201 Tudor Center Drive #210
Anchorage, AK 99508

Phone: 907-562-4155
Fax: 907-563-2891

EPA
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Solid Waste (5303W)
401 M Street, SW
Washington, D.C. 20460

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