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## Important Dates:

- July 2015**  
FY16 NEIEN Draft Grant Solicitation open for comment.
- July 30, 2015**  
Webinar: Introduction to WQX and STORET
- August 13, 2015**  
Webinar: Preparing your data for WQX Submissions
- August 14, 2015**  
Deadline to request travel support from ITEP to attend the EN2015 meeting in PA!
- August 17-20, 2015**  
Tribal Lands and Environment Forum in Minneapolis, MN. Visit [this site](#) for more details
- Sept 29-Oct 1, 2015**  
EN2015 National Meeting; Philadelphia, PA
- Oct 1-2, 2015**  
TGG Semi-annual Meeting; Philadelphia, PA

## For More Information:

[Tribes & the Exchange Network](#)

Our website is a resource for tribes looking for Exchange Network information and technical assistance.

## Seldovia Village Tribe Exhibits Success with Alaska's Only Active Tribal EN Node

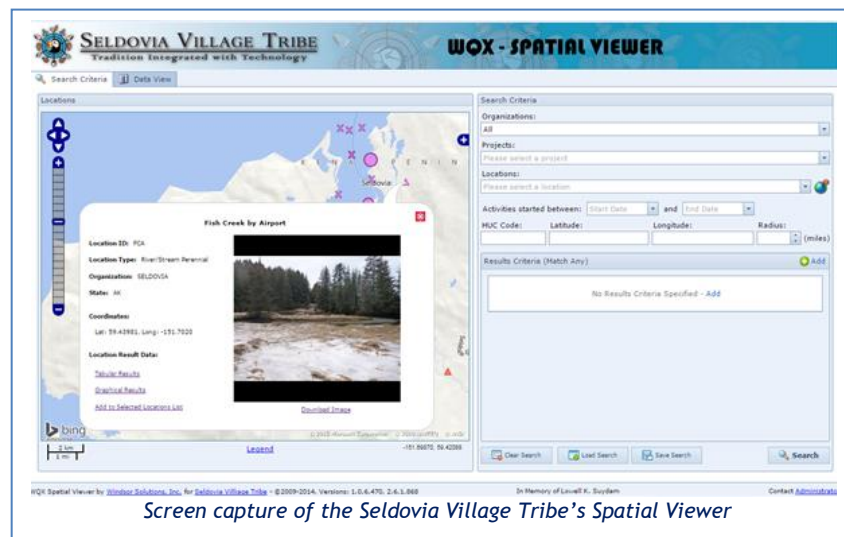
Seldovia Village Tribe (SVT), a federally recognized Tribe located on the Kenai Peninsula of Alaska, has been working on building an on-site node and spatial viewer since 2007 with the goal of sharing local data collected by SVT staff. The Tribe worked with [Windsor Solutions](#) to create a spatial viewer—a web-based application/interface for viewing, searching, and exporting data—their template has been used by 10 other tribes and the state of Nevada. Currently, SVT has the only operational tribal node in Alaska, despite interest by other tribes and villages to implement similar projects.

*“Our biggest success has been the ability to share our data with EPA and other tribes.”*

*- Tracie Merrill, SVT*

Through funds received from multiple Exchange Network (EN) grants over the years, the Tribe was able to get their project off the ground and operational. They currently flow data to EPA's Water Quality Exchange (WQX) for physical, chemical, biological, and habitat data. Their primary focus is to obtain baseline data to address concerns of contamination from nearby landfills, open dumps, and mining activities. The spatial viewer enables SVT to add map layers of interest, such as sea otter surveys and hazardous waste sites, to their data to help assess potential impacts to traditional harvesting activities and community members' health and welfare. The Tribe is currently making strides towards get their air quality monitoring data for particulate matter (PM10 from road dust is a particular concern) flowing to the Air Quality System (AQS) database.

The SVT's EN project is an on-going effort that has so far proved successful and garnered a lot of interest from other entities, despite navigating numerous challenges. Access to stable funding support is a constant struggle, and the uncertainty of transitioning the spatial viewer to a cloud-based system worries SVT staff. The Tribe credits ITEP and EPA technical staff for their



Screen capture of the Seldovia Village Tribe's Spatial Viewer

willingness to help with data management and formatting issues, but also acknowledges that there is a lot of room for improvement when it comes to outreach by EPA and the EN to Alaska tribes/villages. They frequently get inquiries from area tribes and non-profits on how to collaborate and/or implement their own similar projects, but there is not enough being done to bring Alaskans up to speed on

the nuances of EN project requirements and constraints.

Sharing stories like this with tribes and other EN partners is a key element of continued success and sustainability of EN projects. Tracie Merrill, Environmental Assistant for the SVT, affirms this by stating “our biggest success has been the ability to share our data with EPA and other

## [EN2015 Meeting](#)

Details on the EN2015 meeting in Philadelphia, PA including draft agenda, registration form, hotel/meeting info, etc.

## [EPA's EN Grants](#)

Current grant solicitation, grant award history, and key EPA contacts.

Tribes. We have been able to lead the way and share our successes and failures with others as to what has worked and what hasn't." ITEP staff are working to collect and highlight tribes' efforts and publicize them through the [Tribes and the Exchange Network website](#); if you are interested in showcasing your efforts, big or small, please contact Cristina Gonzalez-Maddux ([Cristina.Gonzalez-Maddux@nau.edu](mailto:Cristina.Gonzalez-Maddux@nau.edu)).

Read more about the SVT's Node and Spatial Viewer on our website [HERE!](#)

## WQX Training Opportunities for Tribes

EPA's STORage and RETrieval, (STORET) team is planning several training sessions for tribes on WQX/Node and WQX Web. Two webinars are planned, as well as a presentation at the [Tribal Lands and Environment Forum](#), and one-on-one technical support appointments during the conference. The Tribal Lands and Environment Forum will be held August 17th-20<sup>th</sup> in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Webinars to be provided:

- >> *An Introduction to WQX and STORET* (July 30, 2015 3-5 Eastern)
- >> *Preparing your data for WQX Submissions* (August 13, 2015 3-5 Eastern)

To request one-on-one assistance for the conference, please send an email to [STORET@epa.gov](mailto:STORET@epa.gov). In the subject line, please insert WQX Appointment Request. In the body of the email provide your contact information, an overview of the assistance you need, and any appointment time preferences you may have.

For questions, contact Laura Shumway (US EPA) at [Shumway.Laura\[at\]epa.gov](mailto:Shumway.Laura[at]epa.gov) or by phone at 202.566.2514.

## Tribal Involvement at the EN2015 National Meeting

The Exchange Network National Meeting ("EN2015") will be held September 29-October 1, 2015, in Philadelphia, PA. ***This event is free to attend, and ITEP has a limited amount of funding to help support travel expenses for tribal professionals interested in participating!*** This year's agenda will highlight current initiatives and emerging trends related to the Exchange Network (EN) and E-Enterprise (EE), such as: data collection & reporting, geo-data initiatives, E-Enterprise portal, air and water management, lean principles, and much more.. Several sessions of particular interest to tribes are also being planned, including:

- <> *Preparing a High-Scoring EN Grant Application* (Monday, Sept. 28, 5:30 pm)
- <> *EN/EE-101: Introduction to the EN and E-Enterprise* (Monday, Sept. 28, 6:15 pm)
- <> *Tribal Emergency Response Mobile App* (Tuesday, Sept. 29, 3:30 pm)
- <> *Tribal Caucus Session* (Tuesday, Sept. 29, 6:30 pm)
- <> *Joint Tribal-WQX Project* (Wednesday, Sept. 30, 3:30 pm)
- <> *Lean 101 and EN/EE Lean Toolkit Training* (Thursday, Oct. 1, 9:30 am)
- <> [Many more media-specific sessions planned throughout the event!](#)

*If you are interested in attending the EN2015 and need full or partial travel assistance, please contact Lydia Scheer at ITEP ([Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu](mailto:Lydia.Scheer@nau.edu)) for details and eligibility. The deadline to request travel support is August 14, 2015.*

If you are unable to attend EN2015 in person, all scheduled plenary and concurrent sessions (starting Tuesday, September 29, and not including the Tribal Caucus session) will be broadcast live via webcast. No registration is required to view the webcasts; live links to each session will be available in the [online EN2015 Agenda](#).

More information about the EN2015 can be found online [HERE](#).

## Changing of the Guard: Exchange Network Coordinator Moves On

Kurt Rakouskas has served as the Coordinator for the Exchange Network to help facilitate the activities of the EN since 2010. Prior to moving into that independent role, he was a Project Manager for the Network Operations Board at the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS), where his primary responsibility was managing the EN. Kurt's decade-plus experience working with the Network, and most recently with the new E-Enterprise for the Environment initiative, enabled him to bridge gaps and build relationships among EN stakeholders that truly helped to reinforce the collaborative nature of the Network. His easy-going attitude and approachability made him well-loved and appreciated by colleagues, and he will be missed! While Kurt's plans for the future remain uncharted, he is excited to be able to spend more time with his family while exploring new opportunities.

A new EN Coordinator is currently being identified; applications were reviewed and interviews conducted by members of the EN Leadership Council and ECOS staff. Contract negotiations are underway and hopes are that the new Coordinator will be announced soon.

## EJSCREEN: EPA's Environmental Justice Screening & Mapping Tool

[From EPA's Newsroom](#)—The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) recently released EJSCREEN, an environmental justice screening and mapping tool that uses high resolution maps combined with demographic and environmental data to identify places with potentially elevated environmental burdens and vulnerable populations. EJSCREEN's color-coded maps, bar charts, and reports enable users to better understand areas needing increased environmental protection and climate resilience, among other things such as housing and infrastructure. EJSCREEN was profiled at this year's Tribal-EN Conference in February.

EJSCREEN can help governments, local communities, and other stakeholders highlight areas with greater risk of exposure to pollution based on 8 pollution and environmental indicators, including traffic proximity, particulate matter, and proximity to superfund sites. These indicators are combined with demographic data to identify areas with minority or low-income populations who also face potential pollution issues.

EJSCREEN's capabilities could provide support for educational programs, grant writing, and community awareness efforts so that users can participate meaningfully in decision-making processes that impact their health and environment. EJSCREEN does not direct EPA decisions; it does not provide a basis for identifying areas as EJ communities, and it is not an appropriate standalone tool for making a risk assessment. As a screening tool, its data may have levels of uncertainty, and is therefore incomplete in capturing the total number of pollution problems people face.

This release of EJSCREEN initiates a stakeholder engagement period over the next six months. EPA will collect feedback on the datasets and design of the tool—as well as how it could be further enhanced—and will release a revised version in 2016.

*To access the tool, visit: <http://www2.epa.gov/ejscreen>.*

## Bit and Bytes

*In need of assistance with an EN project?* We can help! Visit our website, download the [EN Mentorship Request Form](#), and submit the completed form to ITEP.

**The Tribal Governance Group (TGG) is looking for individuals interested in becoming TGG members!** If you have experience or expertise in Exchange Network projects and are interested in helping the TGG fulfill its mission, fill out our request form today! If you have questions or are interested in learning more about the TGG, and to access the TGG New Member Request form, please visit our website: <http://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org/about.html>.

The **Pamunkey Indian Tribe of Virginia** becomes the newest tribe granted federal recognition, and the first tribe in Virginia (and EPA Region 3)! The federal government officially recognizes 566 (now 567) tribal nations in the US (including Alaska).

**\*\*\*\*\*Tribal\*\*Consultation\*\*Opportunities\*\*\*\*\***

<<>> **Sign up for TCOTS emails:** Stay up-to-date on current and upcoming EPA consultation opportunities for tribal governments. Sign up for the Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) email list by sending a request to: [Join-epa\\_tcots@lists.epa.gov](mailto:Join-epa_tcots@lists.epa.gov). You can also view current initiatives on the TCOTS website: <http://tcots.epa.gov/>.

<<>> **Grant Policy Initiatives (Subawards, Mapping Place of Performance, Greening Grants, and Conflict of Interest:** EPA is seeking input on several important initiatives impacting grant administration and grant policies. Two conference calls are being planned for the near future: June 24 @ 2pm EDT: Subawards and Place of Performance; July 9 @ 2pm Eastern: Greening Grants and Conflict of Interest (call-in number for both calls is: 1-866-299-3188, Access Code: 202-564-5392. More details, supporting documents and official notification can be found on [HERE](#) the TCOTS website.

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**Contact Us!**

Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP)  
Northern Arizona University  
Box 15004  
Flagstaff, AZ 86011

Ph: 928.523.6887  
[TGG@tribalexchangenetwork.org](mailto:TGG@tribalexchangenetwork.org)

[www.nau.edu/itep](http://www.nau.edu/itep)  
[www.tribalexchangenetwork.org](http://www.tribalexchangenetwork.org)  
[www.exchangenetwork.net](http://www.exchangenetwork.net)

*Have your own ideas and stories to share?*

*Interested in a particular topic you want to hear more about?*

*Other questions or thoughts?*

**Please contact us!**