



## 2004 National Site Assessment Symposium

June 30, 2004  
La Jolla, California



## MISSION

**TASWER** is national organization dedicated to preserving and restoring the health and environment of Indian and Alaska Native communities. Through government to government partnerships, **TASWER** seeks to ensure that environmental policies address and integrate the needs and values of Tribal solid waste, emergency response, and Superfund issues.





TRIBAL ASSOCIATION ON SOLID WASTE & EMERGENCY RESPONSE

The Tribal Association for Solid Waste and Emergency Response is a non-profit organization established in 1997 by Native American tribal leaders to develop national strategies for solid waste management on tribal lands. **TASWER** is a national organization, comprised of more than one hundred tribes, that is dedicated to preserving and restoring the health and environment of Indian and Alaskan Native communities with respect to solid waste, emergency response and Superfund issues.

In the last year, **TASWER** has shifted some of its emphasis away from policy and placed more of it on Tribal training, information dissemination, technical assistance, and hazardous waste sub-grants for Tribes.



## **TASWER** Services

- **Technical Assistance:**

- **TASWER** provides technical assistance to all Tribes, in particular to member Tribes, in the areas of analytical data evaluation, analytical data validation, document preparation such as QAPP, QAMP, SAP, HASP, PA/SI, RI/FS, RCRA Correction Actions, NPDES Permitting, RFP's, Contractor's Selection, Project management, QA/QC requirements, Grants and Proposals for Environmental Programs.

- **Assessment of Suspected Hazardous Contamination:**

- **TASWER** provides financial assistance, under specific circumstances, to member Tribes who suspect hazardous contamination within their community and wish to conduct a site assessment. The subgranting program was announced in July 2003 and the program is in progress. There is no deadline to apply. Grants will be reviewed and funded every three months. Application must have contact information, problem statement, project narrative, work plan narrative, budget narrative, monitoring statement, release of information signature, and disclosure that these funds will not to be used for lobbying purposes.



## **TASWER** Services (cont.)

- **Washington D.C. Office and Advocacy:**

- **TASWER** provides an office suite, conference room, telephone, fax, computer and resource library to member Tribes visiting Washington, D.C. for any purpose. **TASWER** also provides liaison to the federal agencies and Congress for Tribes.

- **Library**

- **TASWER's** Library Materials include Federal environmental statutes, agency regulations and interpretations, grant management resources, technical manuals on solid and hazardous waste and emergency response, and histories of Tribal policies.



## **TASWER** Accomplishments

- **Tribal Liaison to Congress**

- **TASWER** can and does arrange for Tribal delegations to meet their Congressional representatives in Washington, D.C. and district offices

- **Travel Scholarships**

- **TASWER** provides financial assistance, under specific circumstances, to Tribal environmental professionals, to attend national environmental events that are relevant to Tribes.



## **TASWER** Sub-Grants Program

**TASWER** is offering a small grants program to **TASWER** member Tribes and Alaska Native Villages.

These small grants are:

- Non-competitive
- For **TASWER** general members only
- Awarded on a first come, first serve basis
- Must meet the eligibility criteria
- There is no deadline to apply



## **TASWER** *Upcoming Events*

- **TASWER** recently provided (June 15-17, 2004) a training course to the Tribes, "Tribal Construction and Demolition (C&D) Debris Management Course at Fortune Bay Resort, Bois Forte Reservation, Tower, Minnesota.
- Annual Conference, October 2004
- Integrated Solid Waste Management Courses
  - WASTECON/SWANA-September 2004, Phoenix, AZ
  - RCAP/MAP-October 2004, Rapid City, SD
- Alaska Conference, Anchorage, Alaska, February 2005



## **TASWER** Zender Project

Hazardous waste site inventory and tribal risk assessment model

2001-2004: Project is in its final stage and will be completed by July 2004.

Project is two-fold:

- 1) Site Inventory database and a Map
- 2) Tribal Risk Assessment Model

The purpose of this project is to assess the overall situation of hazardous waste sites on Tribal lands, and describe the risks to Tribes that the sites pose.

The project has four main parts:

- 1) Identification by Tribes of which sites pose Tribal risks
- 2) Intangible risks
- 3) Cumulative short-term health risks
- 4) Contaminant exposure risks



## **TASWER** Zender Project

The database and the map:

**TASWER** is creating a new site database that contains only sites of Tribal interest and is geared towards Tribal use. It pulls site information from the federal databases and it adds information that Tribes submit in the **TASWER** site survey.

The database has its advantages



## TASWER Zender Project

The advantages of this Tribal database are:

- It is easy to look up sites by Tribe.
- It has consistent quality control and standardized Tribal names so that sites are not mistakenly entered twice or not entered at all.
- It uses the latest GIS mapping layer for identifying which sites are on Tribal Lands.
- It uses Tribal definitions of a hazardous waste site, but still allows users to see which sites federal agencies currently define as hazardous.
- Through the survey, Tribes have the opportunity to add, change information on, or delete sites based on whether they feel sites are hazardous and whether they want the site listed (i.e. privacy concerns).
- It contains survey information on intangible and qualitative risks for the sites specific to Tribes and Tribal lifestyles. So the database formalizes these risk concerns in a way that can be used to provide supportive statistical documentation in developing responsible federal policies on addressing Tribal hazardous sites nationwide.
- Using GIS software, we have programmed a map with a number of useful features, including a click-on pull-up to site contaminant information when available.



## TASWER Zender Project

The Risk Assessment Model: The model can be very useful within a Tribe to look at how different exposure values can effect their total risk from a particular contaminant, by inputting those different values into the model.

Depending on how accurate the data is, the model can be useful also in predicting a reasonable quantitative estimate of actual risk. Where the model is limited is in the detail. To obtain a scientifically reliable value of risk, what scientists call a think of as a true "risk assessment model" must be used. This type of model is very complex in structure and in use, and it takes many years to develop and many millions of dollars to validate. It is complex because the many parameter values are embedded into the model. The TASWER model will not have these values incorporated. This makes the TASWER model simpler to use, but to use it to get correct values, it needs specific data from the Tribes.

LifeLine risk assessment model has been used as a base model.



## **TASWER** Zender Project

A survey of the hazardous waste sites and their risks to Tribes/Villages was sent out March 2004, and reminders followed by e-mails, telephone calls, and meetings.

The ICR Survey is available on line through **TASWER** website, ([www.taswer.org](http://www.taswer.org)), and the Tribes are encouraged to filled out the survey on line. So far, we are getting good response, and the surveys are still coming in.

This project has been collaborating with the new Tribal Information Management System (TIMS) developed by EPA-AIEO. Much of the quality control work will be transferred directly to TIMS. And the **TASWER** Tribal database information will be integrated into TIMS once the database is complete. Tribes won't need to provide the same site information twice.

The project is on track making tremendous progress for a successful completion by July 2004.



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