

IHS Assistance for Tribal Infrastructure

Portland Area Indian Health Service, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

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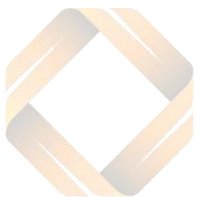
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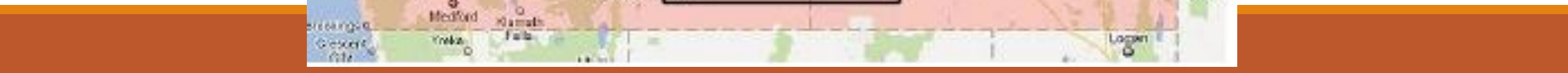
IHS Mission: to raise the physical, mental, social, and spiritual health of American Indians and Alaska Natives to the highest level.

The **IHS Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction** provides technical and financial assistance to American Indian and Alaska Native communities for the cooperative development of safe water, wastewater and solid waste systems



Map Legend:

- District Office (Red Circle)
- Field Office (Red Triangle)



IHS Assistance for Tribal Infrastructure

Public Law 86-121 (July 31, 1959) – established the SFC Program to cooperatively address AI/AN community sanitation needs.

Public Law 100-713 (Nov. 23, 1988) – amended the Indian Health Care Improvements Act, expanded IHS authority to include operation and maintenance support, and required an annual report to Congress on deficiencies.

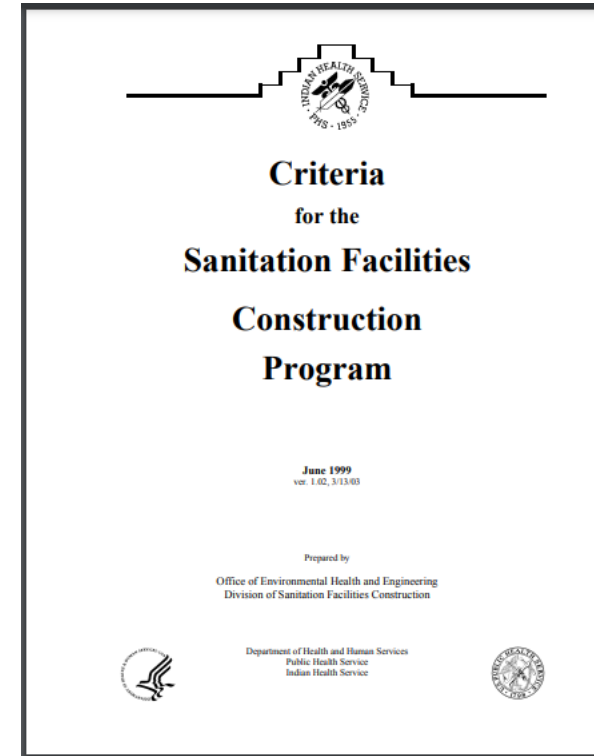
Primary Mission Activities

Identify deficiencies and develop multi-agency sanitation projects

Provide funding for water supply and waste disposal projects

Provide professional engineering design

Provide technical consultation and training to improve operation and maintenance capacity



<https://www.ihs.gov/dsfc/resources/>

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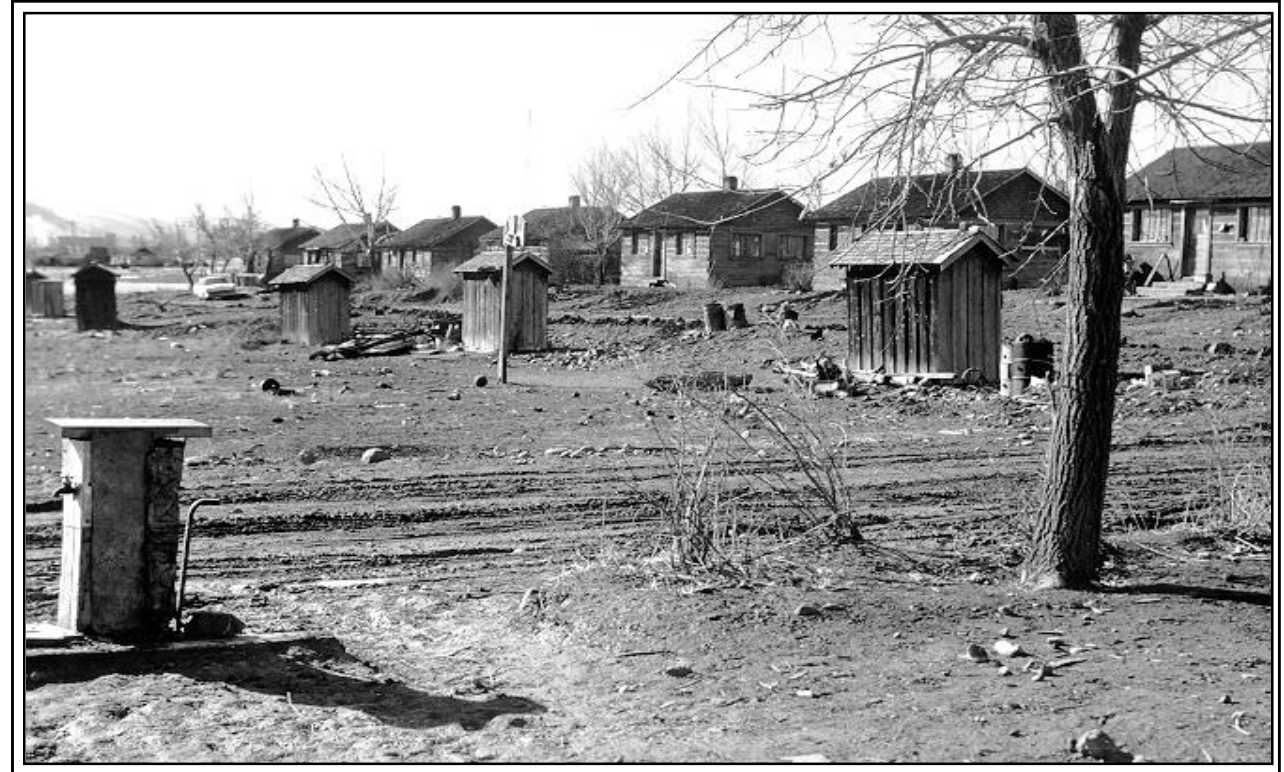
Funding Types

Regular Funds – existing homes, managed through the Sanitation Deficiency System

Homes are defined as permanent, 24-hour, year-round family dwellings.

IHS does not provide funds to serve commercial, industrial, or other non-residential establishments, including health clinics, schools, and office buildings.

Projects are prioritized using a range of factors: deficiency level, health impact, cost, O&M capacity, tribal priority, contributions, previous service.



First SFC project: Elko, Nevada 1958

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Funding Types

Housing Support Funds – new or recently renovated (like-new) homes – eligibility criteria must be met.

Criteria include functional structural/mechanical systems, plumbed kitchen and bathroom, adequate insulation and heating, electricity, roof, etc.

Exception: homes of patients with medical conditions, requires physician's certification.

IHS is prohibited from serving new homes constructed with funding from HUD housing programs.



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Funding Types

Special Project Funds – engineering investigations, O&M projects, special studies, training projects. No specific cost cap, but available funding is limited.

Sanitation facilities can be provided for limited non-residential facilities (ceremonial or community gathering areas, cost cap of \$10,000).

Emergency Project Funds – actual or imminent public health problems related to sanitation facilities. No specific cost cap, but available funding is limited.

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Table 2: Services Available to Communities with Varying Eligibility

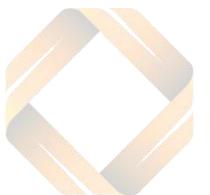
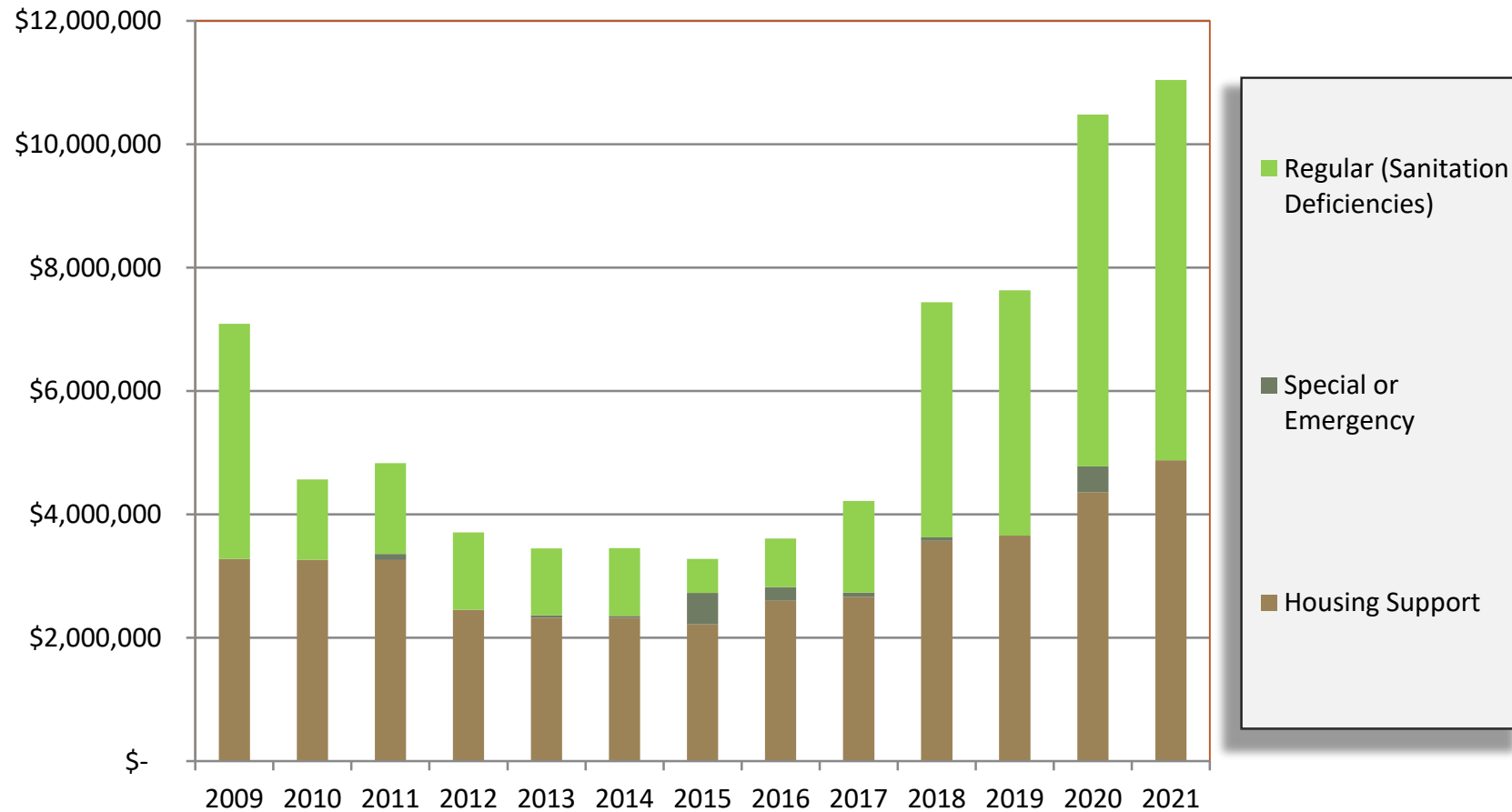
Community Category	% American Indian and/or Alaska Native Population	Overall Community Population	Is the community eligible for Regular project funds per Criteria guidelines?
Non-Indian	<50 %	>10,000 people	Limited ¹
Non-Indian	<50%	< 10,000 people	Yes ²
Indian	>50%	N/A	Yes ²

¹ IHS can provide new service line connections for Indian homes with failed or non-existent on-site facilities. IHS can also provide replacement service line connections for Indian homes with failed service lines. Other than these service connections, no Regular project funds can be provided for improvements to or replacement of existing community sanitation facilities.

² IHS funds may be provided for improvements to, or replacement of, existing sanitation facilities proportionate (on a demand basis) to the number of existing Indian homes served by the facilities.

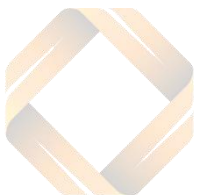
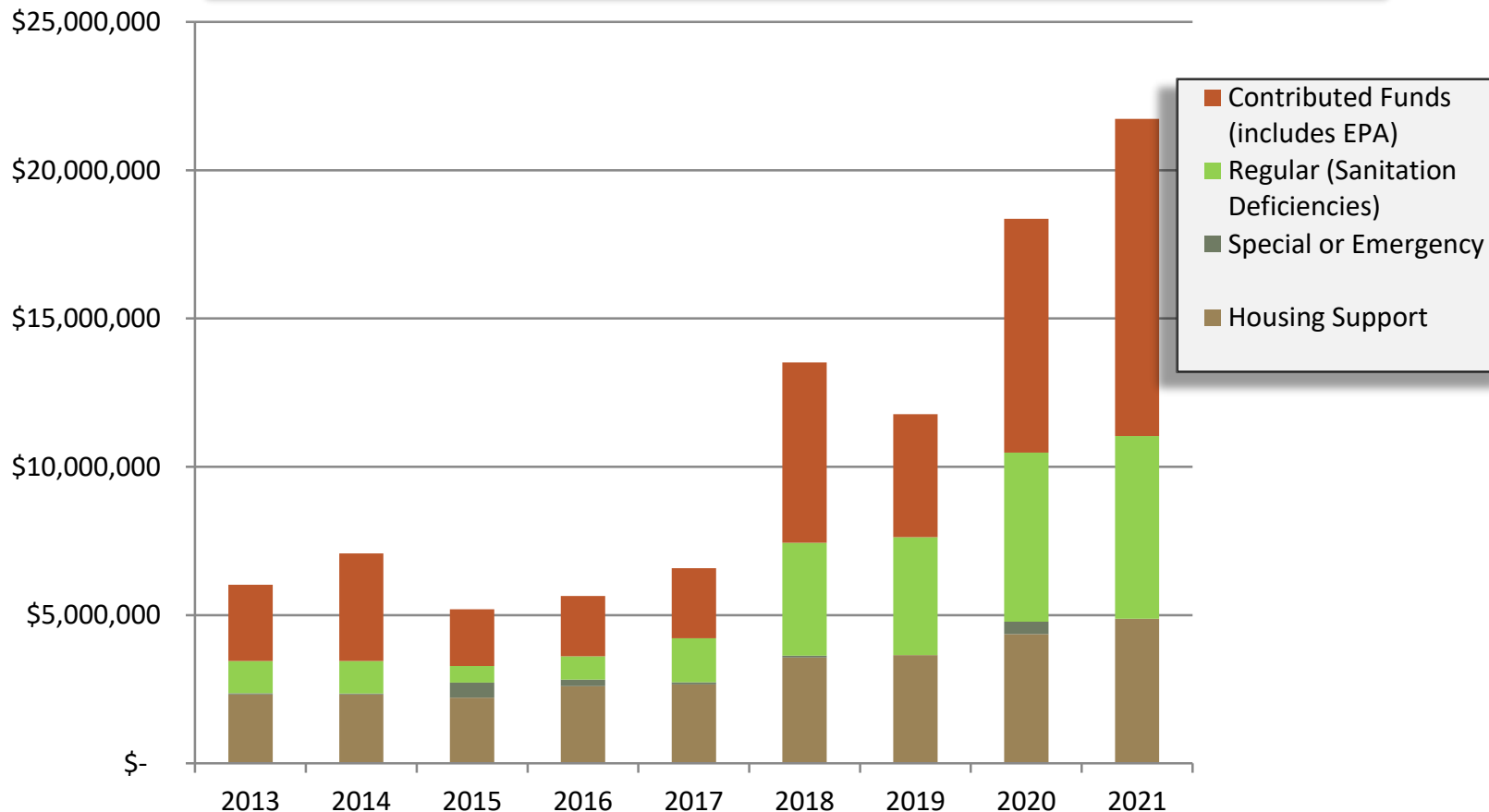
Office of Environ. Health & Engineering

IHS Construction Funding (Portland Area) Sanitation Facilities Construction



Office of Environ. Health & Engineering

Total Project Funding (Portland Area) Sanitation Facilities Construction



Office of Environ. Health & Engineering

Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction

Completed project highlight: IHS Project PO-18-M55, Georgeville Wastewater System Improvements, Yakama Nation

Scope: Improve the wastewater treatment facilities for the community of Georgeville on the Yakama Reservation, where surfacing effluent from the old community drainfield was a significant health concern.

Funding: \$ 159,570 (IHS)
 \$ 884,815 (USDA)
Total: \$1,044,385

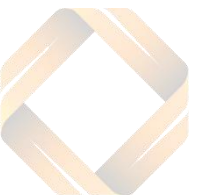


Policy Basis for Providing O&M Support to Tribes

Indian Health Manual, Part 3, Chapter 11, Section J states “the IHS policy is to promote and assist tribes to develop O&M capacity.”

Chapter 2, Section IV, paragraph 5 of the SFC Criteria manual defines O&M training and technical consultation as an SFC program service and Chapter 5 Section II describes O&M financial assistance.

Public law 100-713 clarifies the authority of the IHS to assist Tribal utility organizations with their operation of sanitation facilities. This law stated that the Secretary, acting through the Service (IHS) could provide “ongoing technical assistance and training in the management of utility organizations that operate and maintain sanitation facilities”.



Guiding Principles for Delivering O&M Services

Deliver quality O&M services and evaluate their effectiveness.

Develop and maintain infrastructure system information to identify deficiencies and develop projects.

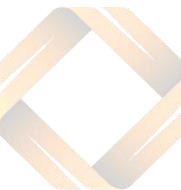
Engage in proactive communication with Tribes to address O&M needs.

Lead the facilitation and coordination of external service providers to address O&M needs.

Provide training and technical assistance to Tribes to maximize the life of facilities and ensure regulatory compliance.

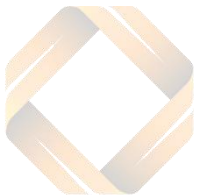
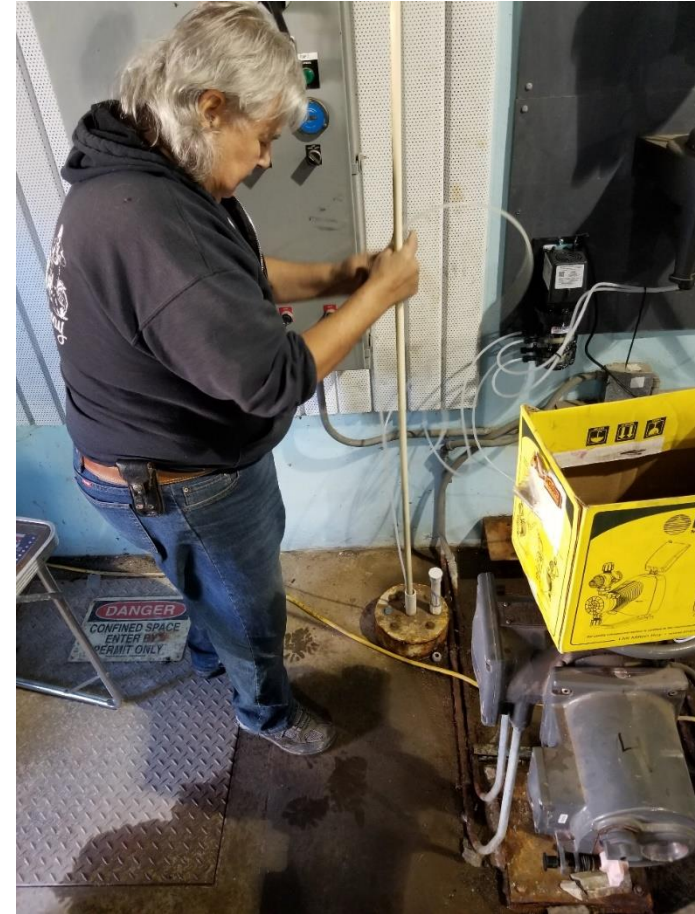
Incorporate O&M considerations objectively at all stages of the project life cycle.

Assist Tribal utility organizations to achieve financial sustainability.



Portland Area Utility Consultants

Portland Area District/Tribal utility consultants enhance operations and maintenance of tribal public water, wastewater, and solid waste systems to ensure safe drinking water, proper waste disposal, and public health for American Indians in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.



O&M Technical Assistance

Sanitation facility surveys

Composite utility drawings

Operator training

Technical assistance/troubleshooting

O&M organizational capacity
development

Data system management

Sanitation facility project support

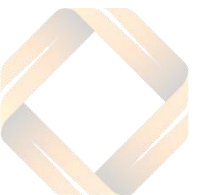
Interagency Agreements



EPA-IHS Interagency Agreements (IA)

The purpose of these interagency agreements is to provide a partnership of the IHS and EPA missions to enhance and strengthen the O&M support provided to the Tribes within the Portland Area/Region 10, which includes 43 federally recognized Tribes in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Although Public Law 100-713 authorizes the IHS to assist with sanitation facilities operations and maintenance (O&M), the Agency receives no funding for O&M financial assistance. As such, the IHS partners with the EPA through these Interagency Agreements.



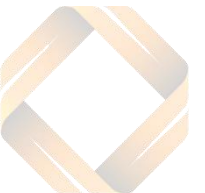
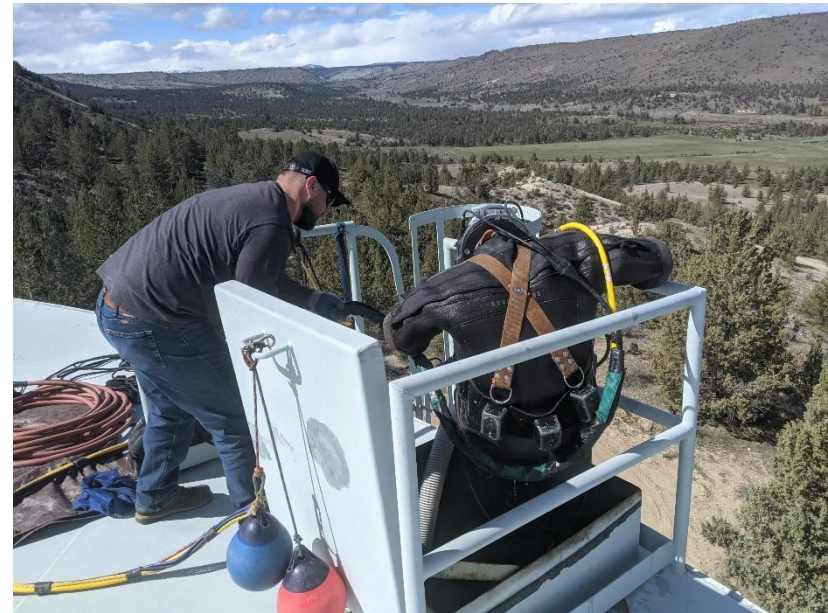
EPA-IHS Interagency Agreements (IA) cont...

Public Water System Supervision (PWSS) IA

- Goal is to ensure that the water systems are capable and maintaining compliance with the national primary drinking water regulations
- TUC tasks are outlined in the IA
- Special projects: Water storage tanks inspection and cleaning

Underground Injection Control (UIC) IA

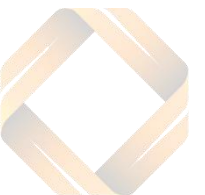
- The goal is to protect underground sources of drinking water
- TUC tasks are outlined in the IA
- Special projects: Decommission abandoned community water wells



EPA-IHS Interagency Agreements (IA) cont...

Clean Water Act (CWA) Technical Assistance IA

- The main goal is to address situations where tribal wastewater facilities and utility organizations are not compliant with wastewater regulations and prevent future occurrence of non-compliance.
- Funded through the Clean Water Indian Set Aside (CWISA) program
- Also provides funding to contract technical service providers, if needed
- Funds used for O&M technical assistance, training, and educational programs related to wastewater infrastructure and tribal utilities

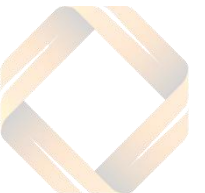


Additional O&M Program Activities

Assisted EPA Region 10 in completing Drinking Water Infrastructure Needs Survey and Assessments (DWINSAs) for multiple tribal water systems located in Washington, Oregon, and Idaho.

Managing CARES Act funded projects that provide O&M support to the tribal utilities during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Providing outreach and assistance to Tribes interested in performing COVID-19 wastewater surveillance.



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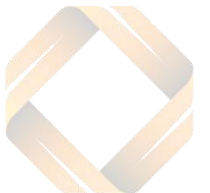
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Thank you!



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