

“EPA consults government-to-government with federally recognized tribes when our actions or decisions may affect tribal interests.”

EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes, adopted May 4, 2011

To decide which tribes are affected, EPA may:

- Conduct a sector analysis (water, natural gas, etc.)
- Identify and interact with affected tribal nations
- Interact with EPA’s tribal partnership groups or other tribal organizations

What is Consultation?

- A process of meaningful communication and coordination between EPA and tribes **PRIOR** to EPA actions and decisions.
- A flexible, multi-stage process that can be tailored to needs of individual tribal nations.
- Interactions that can be supported by a combination of in-person meetings, teleconferences, and informational sessions.

EPA consultation with tribes ensures proposed actions/decisions consider tribal interests such as environmental impacts on tribal lands or treaty rights.

EPA uses a 4-phase consultation process with tribal nations:



EPA sets a **broad** consultation standard and requires that all comments be considered. Regional and Headquarters Offices may have additional tribal consultation procedures.

Get Involved

- **Use** the Tribal Consultation Opportunities Tracking System (TCOTS) to view upcoming or ongoing consultations
- **Submit comments** on a tribal consultation
- **Request** consultation