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CHEROKEE NATION®



ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION COMMISSION
and
ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS

Tom Elkins, Administrator

Cherokee Nation Environmental Policy

Provides that the Cherokee Nation should:

- ✓ *Create and maintain conditions under which human beings and nature exist in productive harmony*
- ✓ *Act as trustees of the environment for future generations*
- ✓ *Preserve historic, cultural and natural aspects of Cherokee Nation heritage*
- ✓ *Utilize means of development, construction and resource use that are environmentally friendly and reflective of tribal culture and history*
- ✓ *Enhance renewable resources through recycling and conservation*

63 CNCA § 50 et seq.

Environmental Protection Commission

A three person board with authorities established by the Environmental Quality Code, 63 CNCA § § 50 et seq.:

- ✓ *Review, draft and recommend legislation*
- ✓ *Adopt rules*
- ✓ *Issue permits for facilities and activities in Indian country*
- ✓ *Enforce environmental codes*
- ✓ *Oversee NEPA activities*
- ✓ *Complaints program*
- ✓ *Pursue Treatment as State (TAS), with approval of the Principal Chief*

Current Programs

Office of the Administrator

- *Monthly Commission meetings*
- *Draft permits, rules and legislation*
- *Inspections and recommendations for enforcement*
- *Coordinate compliance assistance for CN entities*
- *Oversee complaint response*
- *Environmental litigation*
- *Water rights*
- *Develop community and tribal Water Plans*

Current Programs

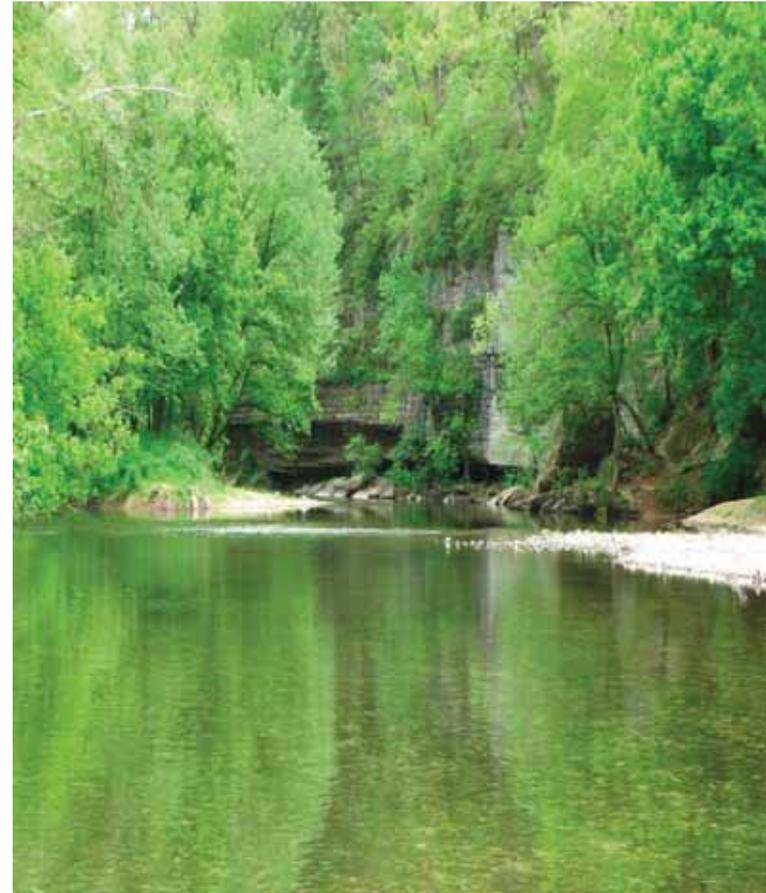
- ***NEPA***
 - ✓ *Roads*
 - ✓ *Realty – land*
 - ✓ *IHS – septics, waterlines*
 - ✓ *NAHASDA – housing*
- ***Lead Base Paint Certification /Accreditation***
- ***Underground Storage Tanks***
- ***Information Exchange***
- ***Tribal Solid Waste***
- ***Home to School Asthma Program***
- ***Pesticides***
- ***GAP (Indian General Assistance Program)***



Current Programs

Water Quality

- ✓ *Monitor streams important to communities and sustainable economic development such as tourism*
- ✓ *Spring, Flint, Caney, Fourteen Mile, Little Lee, Sallisaw, Saline, Spavinaw Creeks*
- ✓ *Hudson, Tenkiller, Ft Gibson, Green Leaf, Copan, Oologah Lakes*
- ✓ *Assess fish, crayfish and other aquatic life with traditional & subsistence uses*



Current Programs

Clean Air Program

- ✓ *Community monitoring stations*
 - *Cherokee Heights*
 - *Tahlequah*
 - *Roland*
 - *Newkirk*
- ✓ *National network ambient air data*
- ✓ *Work with CN Health and others on projects to correlate health and environmental data*
- ✓ *Mobile monitoring station can be used by tribes to determine ozone and PM levels*



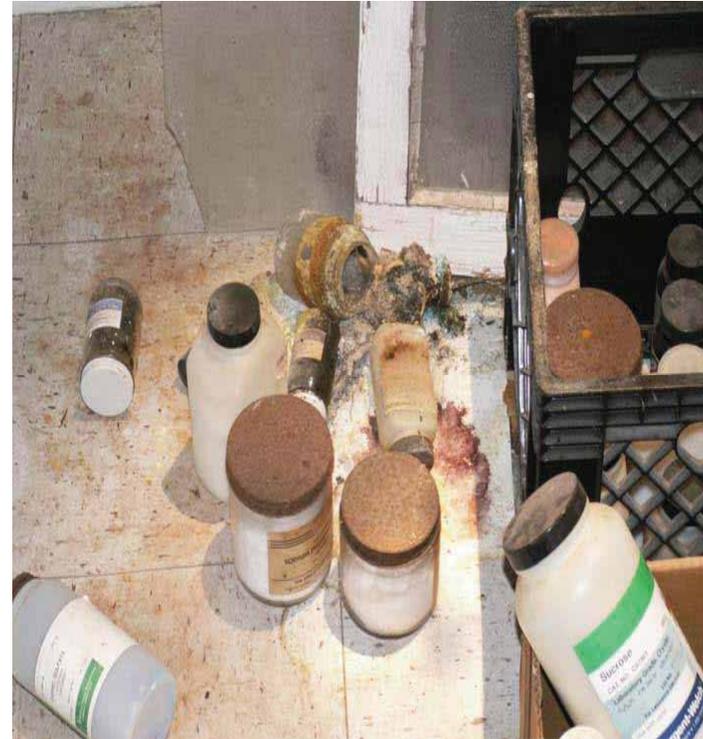
Current Programs

Superfund

- ✓ *Since 1980s, helped build CN Environmental Programs*
- ✓ *Inter Tribal Environmental Council created*
- ✓ *Work with other tribes and within CN*

Brownfields

- ✓ *Shift toward “smart growth”*
- ✓ *Redevelop properties that have already been used and have some contamination*



Highlights

- **Drafted environmental codes for: water quality, solid waste, air quality, UIC, Underground Storage Tanks, enforcement, wildlife, Lead Certification/Accreditation**
- **Developed and implemented EPC permitting and enforcement programs**
- **Participating in Tar Creek Trustee Council, National Zink, Oklahoma Refinery, Tar Creek, Tulsa Fuels, Hudson Refinery, Wilcox Fuels**

Highlights

- **National Air Quality Program award from EPA 2007**
- **Inter-Tribal Environmental Council (ITEC) expanded to now include 43 member tribes in Oklahoma, New Mexico, Texas**
- **Developing pilot water plans for Cherokee communities**
- **Developing a culturally significant plants and animals database**