

August 4, 2026



News wire

Volume 7

July 2026

18th Edition

Indigenous Environmental Network * 1992 - 2026 * All Rights Reserved

Dear Relatives,

As we bid farewell to another month and enter the last month of summer across the northern hemisphere, we also enter the third year of extreme wildfires. Throughout North America, millions of acres of forests and fields are on fire, burning from Canada to Mexico.

For the rest of us, we are dealing with restrictions to everyday life, due to the smoke and nano-particulates that have reached us in the northeast and shift with the wind. No one has been spared this year's smoke season.

In the United States, from January through August 3, this year, there were 44,722 fires that burned over five million acres. This is approximately two million more acres than 41,733 fires in 2025. Records reflect fluctuations in numbers since 2016; however, the numbers don't realistically reflect the year-over-year accumulation of forest and ecosystems forever negatively altered. The challenge is restoring the keystone species that are the stabilizing forces within healthy ecosystems.

On August 3, 102 new fires were reported nationwide, including seven new large fires. [Approximately 60,000 people were evacuated from their homes](#) in Spokane as homes were reduced to ash from the Spokane Complex Fires. Firefighters are currently working to contain 102 large uncontained fires across the country:

- Antelope Creek Fire in Nevada
- Creek and Middle Coulee in Montana
- Moose Mountain in Idaho
- Left Creek in Wyoming
- Bluegill in Florida's Everglades National Park, and
- The I-5 MM 57 NB Fire in southern Oregon

[Click here to find out "How much of the world is on fire right now?"](#)

Many of these incidents are threatening structures or infrastructure, with several prompting evacuations or road closures.

Not all wildfires are created equal. In the case of Canada's wildfires, these are primarily burning highly flammable conifers like black hemlock and different varieties of pine and other softwoods planted after clear-cut logging practices. They were planted in rows, close together, and of uniform size to accommodate re-logging of these areas.

The natural and man-made forests are being destroyed by wildfires faster than they can be replanted. If future monoculture forest fires are to be avoided, forests will require a mix of trees such as aspen, oak, and other hardwoods.

Salvage logging should be banned, if possible, to allow forests to regrow naturally. Many of these areas where monoculture forests were planted are the most challenging. They are unlikely to return to a natural state given the chemicals used to suppress growth of anything but the intended species.

Checking live updates for Mexico's wildfires on Aug 3rd, there were 254 reported, with 78 of high intensity.

***"Mexico faces significant wildfire activity**, particularly during the dry season, from January to June. Unlike in the U.S. and Canada, agricultural burning and land clearing are major causes of wildfires in Mexico, alongside natural ignitions. Mexico City and other major urban areas are increasingly affected by smoke from surrounding fires. "The country's diverse landscapes — from pine-oak forests in the Sierra Madre to tropical forests in the south — experience varied fire regimes. [States like Jalisco, Durango, Chihuahua, Oaxaca, and Guerrero frequently report the highest fire activity.](#)"*

The story is the same in Europe, as Spain, France, and Greece face devastating loss of forests, vital biodiversity, wildlife habitat, homes, and human life.

Forest fires are a clear consequence of climate change. But the contributing factors to the climate crisis include the out-of-control extraction of billions of gallons of water from aquifers, rivers, streams, and lakes, as well as fossil fuel use, mining, uncontrolled industrial agriculture, and urban development.

Everything from plants and animals to human activity is connected. If we choose to work toward a regenerative way of life in all that we do, we can begin to repair and reverse the decades of damage. Our outreach is grounded in the Principles of an [Indigenous Just Transition](#), which outline a path toward building a regenerative system that supports all life from cradle to grave.

Our grassroots work continues so IJT can be possible. Daily, we build opposition to the exponential expansion of natural resource extraction and to protecting clean water resources from toxins that demand removal from the earth's natural water cycles —or continue to poison all life forms that come in contact with chemically laden water. A prime example of water being squandered is the mining and processing of uranium for nuclear energy and weapons manufacturing.

Last month, the KIITG team conducted a webinar on just one of the most recent uranium mines being established or reopened:

The Roca Honda mine is a massive, proposed uranium mine just west of Mount Taylor near San Mateo, New Mexico. It is partially within the Mount Taylor Traditional Cultural Property (TCP). The Roca Honda mine would be a conventional underground mine that is anticipated to produce millions of tons of ore and waste over 30+ years. The mine would use over 1.6 billion gallons of water in a water-scarce environment. [Click here to watch and learn.](#)

Obviously, wildfires and uranium mines are not the only issues, and they are not the only educational outreach we work on. Stay tuned for more opportunities to engage with us, along with more tools and materials you can use in your own communities to promote a just transition that serves all, not a chosen few.

Keep reading - there's some good news included below...

*We send prayers and good energy to you and yours,
IEN Staff*

Events - Action Alerts - Announcements

Your comments and your presence at public meetings on August 5 and August 12 are needed.



Talon and Rio Tinto want to build an underground copper-nickel ore mine in a "massive sulfide mineralization" in one of the most water-rich areas ever proposed for a sulfide ore mine.

[RSVP to attend a public meeting](#) on Aug. 5 or Aug. 12:

[Click for talking points](#) and template letters you can edit and send to DNR:

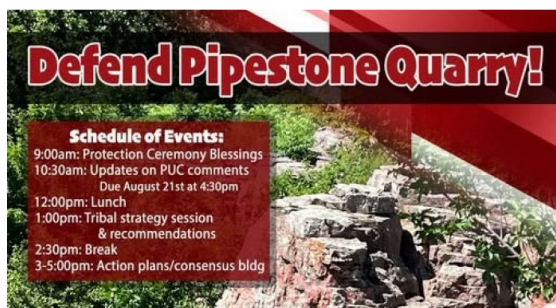
EPA: Monitor for Microplastics!

The EPA just excluded microplastics from its proposed list of emerging contaminants to monitor for in drinking water. The Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule is issued only every 5 years, and we can't wait any longer to get the information we need to win real protections from microplastics in our drinking water.

Tell the EPA to require monitoring for microplastics in the Sixth Unregulated Contaminant Monitoring Rule!

[Click here to add](#) your comment by August 31, 2026..

Tell EPA: Monitor Microplastics Now!



Defend Pipestone!

"We Must Stand For Our Sacred Red Stone" is translated as "Inyán šá wakháŋ kiŋ uŋkínižŋpi kštá" or "Čhaŋnúŋpa uŋkíčižuya othákiya uŋnižŋpi kte".

Tribal nations and activists are



demanding the PUC deny the permit to protect the rare, ceremonial red stone and surrounding cultural sites from pipeline leaks.Indigenous leaders and environmental organizations are actively mobilizing to oppose the project, citing that the company has failed to conduct proper tribal consultations or compliant cultural surveys. Protect Pipestone National Monument.

[Submit an Official Comment Against the Magellan Oil Pipeline Now.](#) - Action Network

Grants Available Through Tribal Home Energy Rebate Program

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) recently released updated program guidance for the High-Efficiency Electric Home Rebate (HEEHR) Program for Indian Tribes, which will distribute up to \$218.5 million in grants for energy efficiency upgrades for Tribal homes.

Tribes can find their formula award amounts in [this funding allocations document](#). The extended deadline to apply for funding from the program is Dec. 11, 2026

 SCEP Home Electrification and Appliance Rebates Program for Indian Tribes (Sec. 50122): Allocations to Indian Tribes		
Tribal State (for coordination purposes)	Tribal State (for coordination purposes)	Total Allocation
Alaska	AK	\$726,973
Alabama	AL	\$340,857
Alaska	AK	\$100,688
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$120,010
Alaska	AK	\$176,416
Alaska	AK	\$393,741
Alaska	AK	\$246,729
Alaska	AK	\$94,506
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$169,999
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$136,325
Alaska	AK	\$95,749
Alaska	AK	\$168,872
Alaska	AK	\$172,554
Alaska	AK	\$180,893
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$84,506
Alaska	AK	\$102,708
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$372,027
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$160,177
Alaska	AK	\$130,090
Alaska	AK	\$150,000
Alaska	AK	\$109,535
Alaska	AK	\$126,273
Alaska	AK	\$116,716
Alaska	AK	\$105,955
Alaska	AK	\$136,816
Alaska	AK	\$84,442
Alaska	AK	\$103,219
Alaska	AK	\$333,206
Alaska	AK	\$84,442

FCC Public Notice

American Indians, and Community Media Assistance Project6 recently requested a delay in the dates for the NCE reserved band FM translator filing window, primarily asserting that an August 2026, window would inhibit the ability of student media outlets, Tribal communities, and smaller, rural community based broadcasters to participate in the window. [Click here to learn more.](#)



PUBLIC NOTICE

Federal Communications Commission
45 L St., N.E.
Washington, DC 20554

News Media Information: 202-418-6500
Internet: www.fcc.gov
TTY: 800-655-6322

DA 26-666
July 6, 2026

MEDIA BUREAU ANNOUNCES REVISED DATES FOR THE FILING WINDOW FOR NEW NONCOMMERCIAL EDUCATIONAL RESERVED BAND FM TRANSLATOR STATION APPLICATIONS

WINDOW OPEN FROM NOVEMBER 4, 2026 TO NOVEMBER 17, 2026

LIMITED APPLICATION FILING FREEZE TO COMMENCE ON OCTOBER 2, 2026

MB Docket No. 26-20

ICYMI

News and More from Across Turtle Island

Tribes Celebrate as Michigan Supreme Court Nixes Line 5 Permit

Victory — Enbridge must re-do its application to build an oil tunnel below the Straits of Mackinac ... [Click here to learn more.](#)

The grave new threat facing communities

People living near power plants, mines and pipelines are particularly at risk [The bill](#) would create new authorities to waive any “relevant regulations” to build infrastructure or procure critical minerals. These provisions are broad enough to include waiving protections such as the Clean Air Act, Clean Water Act, worker safety protection, and any state or local laws that protect people, property or vital resources. [Click here to learn more.](#)

Big Tech Is Now Targeting Native American Land for Massive Data Centers

The data center boom has roiled communities across the country, but on Native land, a Big Tech push for quick approvals has pitted the need for development against a history of exploitation. [Click here to read more.](#)

AI, Defense Spending Fuel the Rush to Mine Minerals, Report Says

The global mining industry says more extraction of rare earth minerals is necessary to fight climate change. But a new report says conventional industries, AI and defense are driving much of the demand. [Click here to read more.](#)

It worked in Norway. But will a carbon capture plant work in a California town with 8K abandoned oil wells?

Even if all the carbon dioxide is safely secured underground, locals have concerns about potential leaks of other pollutants such as soot, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides and ozone, all of which can affect public health... [Click here to learn more.](#)

Mojave pipeline approved despite warning it will 'drain the desert'

A decades-old plan to move 1.25 million acre-feet of groundwater out of the Mojave Desert has cleared a major federal hurdle after the Trump administration approved a 50-year permit to convert a dormant oil and natural gas pipeline into a water conduit stretching roughly 162 miles across Southern California. [Click here to read more.](#)

'It's only going to get worse': wildfires forcing firefighters to make impossible choices

Deadly wildfires have engulfed western Europe this month – the grim consequence of a trio of heatwaves that have turned lush vegetation into dry tinder – while separate blazes suffocate North America with cloying smoke. France, Portugal and Spain have each been torched by a record-breaking number of wildfires for this time of year, leaving an unprecedented area of France in flames and 13 people dead in Spain. The UK began the week with 19 separate wildfires that led experts to warn of a “firewave” more widespread than ever before. [Click here to read more.](#)

The Rise and Fall of the Fracking Phenomenon

Bush and congressional Republicans did clear away a potential regulatory hurdle in the 2005 energy bill, ensuring EPA couldn't regulate fracking with a provision that came to be known as the “Halliburton Loophole.” Natural gas output started to turn upward in 2006 — accelerating under Obama — and oil output was a few years behind. [Click here to learn more.](#)

For more timely news, event announcements, calls to action and more that's happening across Turtle Island and beyond, engage with us on our social media

channels:



You make it possible for us to do what we do by sharing our newsletters, webpages, and social media posts - keep up the good ways of being and we'll see you on the trail!

The Indigenous Environmental Network • PO Box 485 • Bemidji, MN 56619
<http://www.ienearth.org/>

[Subscribe](#) • [Preferences](#) • [Unsubscribe](#) • [Report Spam](#)

Powered by [MyNewsletterBuilder](#)

