TRIBAL-LED CLEANUP ACTIVITIES AT THE TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

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Several hundred years ago, the Quapaw were a division of a larger group known as the Dhegiha Sioux. They split into the tribes known today as the Quapaw, Osage, Ponca, Kansa, and Omaha when they left the Ohio Valley.

The Quapaw moved down the Mississippi River into Arkansas. This is how the Nation became known by other Tribes as “Ugaxpa” (“Ugakhpā”), which means (roughly) “the downstream people.” The Nation’s name eventually became “Quapaw” which was easier to pronounce for Euro-American explorers and settlers.

Another tribe (the Illinois Tribe) referred to the Quapaws as “Arkansa”; thus the name of the Arkansas River and the State of Arkansas.

French explorers also applied the name of the river to the Quapaw people-Riviere des Arks or d’Asark from which Ozark (as in “Ozark Mountains”) was derived.
The Quapaws settled in the area where the Arkansas River met the Mississippi, where the meandering of the two massive rivers had deposited nutrient-rich soil conducive to farming.

This is where the Quapaw stayed until they were pushed out by the Arkansas Territorial, and US Governments in the 1820s.

After being removed from Arkansas, the Quapaws suffered greatly from disease and starvation until the US Government was finally convinced, in 1833, to establish a reservation for them in Oklahoma (then known as “Indian Territory”).
TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE

- Tri-State Mining District
  - Mining began in the area during the late 1800’s and lasted until approximately 1970
  - Mining and milling of ore (primarily lead and zinc) produced more than 500 million tons of waste in area
  - Two primary types of wastes from mining processes: chat and fine tailings
TAR CREEK SUPERFUND SITE
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Superfund Remediation

at Tar Creek
Work has been halted on CB199 since April 30th, due to an incredible amount of rainfall – 34.3 inches!
The Nation has been working with Southern Star Central Gas Pipelne on the existing gas line on site.
The Nation will work with Ottawa County to install a new drainage on the west side of the site, so that CB199 will drain.
After the site is dry, work will be completed and the site will be sampled and vegetated.
Currently, the Quapaw Nation is administering an EPA Superfund management assistance grant under an existing Superfund support agency cooperative agreement.

The Nation entered into this support agency cooperative agreement with EPA in 2001.

This management assistance grant has enabled the Nation to have “meaningful and substantial involvement” in the decisions related to the development and implementation of remedial activities.
Working together with EPA and other stakeholders on Tar Creek issues over the past 15 years has enabled the Quapaw Nation Environmental Office to develop the technical capacity required to administer a remedial response cooperative agreement.

Consequently, in 2013, the Nation negotiated a remedial response cooperative agreement with EPA Region 6 to self-perform the remediation of an historic and culturally significant tribal property known to the Quapaw as the “Catholic 40.” This was the first-ever Tribal-led Superfund Cleanup in the nation.
REMEDIATION PROJECTS

- Catholic 40: 107,310
- Beaver Creek North: 60,193
- Distal 6a: 83,838
- Distal 7 North (drainage): 4,251
- Beaver Creek Unrestricted: 103,667
- Distal 13: 759,767
- Distal 10-12: 539,886
- Elm Creek Unrestricted: 723,224
- CB199: 119,051
- Marketable Piles Project: 79,394

- TOTAL: 2,580,752 tons
CATHOLIC 40 BEFORE AND AFTER

* BEFORE

* AFTER
CATHOLIC 40 BEFORE AND AFTER

* BEFORE

* AFTER
BEAVER CREEK NORTH BEFORE AND AFTER

* BEFORE

* AFTER
BEAVER CREEK UNRESTRICTED
BEFORE AND AFTER

* BEFORE

* AFTER
DISTAL 13
BEFORE AND AFTER

* BEFORE

* AFTER
FUTURE WORK AT SITE

* Based on the Nation’s performance at the Catholic 40 and at subsequent RA sites, the Nation is now performing all remediation at the site.

* Elm Creek Watershed
  * Within the next 3-5 yrs, the Nation is projected to remediate over 2 million tons of mine waste concentrating on the Elm Creek watershed (represents close to $75 million of EPA funding).

* Operable Unit 5 (sediments) in the RI process. Nation anticipates having the same leadership roll in remediation of OU5
QUESTIONS and/or COMMENTS???

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