Kozmetsky Center of Excellence

Native American Perspectives on Science, Spirituality, Nature, and the Environment

Dr. Dianne Barton
December 5, 2016, 12:00-1:00pm
Mabee Ballroom A, Ragsdale Center

Dr. Dianne Barton is the Water Quality Coordinator at the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission (CRITFC), where she provides technical expertise related to water quality, environmental toxics, regulatory processes, and fate and transport of contaminants. CRITFC is a technical support and coordinating agency for its member tribes' fisheries management programs that works to restore fish in the ancestral homeland of the CRITFC tribes which covers one-fourth of the entire Columbia River Basin. Salmon, water, and other natural and cultural resources are critical to tribal culture, religion, and economy but are threatened by the production and discharge of toxic contaminants and other pollutants into the environment. Consequently, CRITFC's tribal members that rely upon their treaty fishing rights are at a greater risk of exposure to toxic contaminants than members from non-tribal communities.

Dr. Barton also serves as the Chairman of the National Tribal Toxics Council (NTTC) which is an EPA Tribal partnership group that advocates for tribal interests in toxic policy decisions. Key issues for the NTTC include advocacy for programs to minimize the disproportionate exposure of tribal members to toxic chemicals, increasing tribal capacity to monitor and assess foods and resources for toxic chemicals, and enhancing tribal consultation and coordination on national chemical risk management and pollution prevention policies and chemical regulation.

Previously, Dr. Barton was a Distinguished Member of Technical Staff at Sandia National Laboratories in Albuquerque, New Mexico and worked in their Environmental Restoration Technologies Department and in their Infrastructure Surety Department. She holds a Ph.D. in Geochemistry from the University of Arizona and is a member of the Bad River Band of Lake Superior Chippewa.

Sharyl N. Cross, PhD, Director, Kozmetsky Center