



National Tribal Water Systems Programs

Request for Nominations of Tribal Water/Wastewater System Personnel for the **2026 OPERATOR OF THE YEAR AWARD**

Have you noticed a dedicated water/wastewater operator working in Indian Country who:

- Goes above and beyond assigned job duties?
- Lends support to co-workers or staff members?
- Provides assistance to another utility?
- Volunteers within the community?
- Consistently goes the extra mile?

Here is your chance to recognize and celebrate the dedication, professionalism, and commitment of Tribal water and wastewater personnel who safeguard public health and the environment. The Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. (ITCA), through its National Tribal Water Systems Programs, is now accepting nominations for the **2026 Tribal Operator of the Year Award**, honoring outstanding professionals serving Tribal communities across Indian Country.

Eligibility Requirements

To be eligible for nomination:

- The nominee must currently work at a Tribal water or wastewater system serving **fewer than 5,501 people**.
- The system must be located on **Federal Trust Tribal lands (Indian reservations)** within the ITCA National Tribal Water Systems Programs service area, which includes United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) **Regions 5 through 10**.
- A utility manager may be nominated if they consistently perform the day-to-day operations and maintenance duties of a small, rural Tribal water or wastewater system.

Nominations that do not meet the eligibility criteria may be determined ineligible during the pre-screening process.

How to Submit a Nomination

Complete the attached Nomination Form and submit it to ITCA by one of the following methods:

- **Email:** TWSInfo@itcaonline.com
- **Fax:** (602) 258-4825, or
- **Mail:** Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc.
NATIONAL TRIBAL WATER SYSTEMS PROGRAMS
Attention: Anisa Flores
2214 North Central Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85004

The deadline for submitting nominations is July 10, 2026.

All nominees will be recognized at the Award Ceremony on September 18, 2026.
For more information, contact the ITCA National Tribal Water Systems Programs.

**2026 Operator of the Year for Water/Wastewater
Systems Award: NOMINATION FORM**

Deadline for submitting nominations is **July 10, 2026**

(Please print legibly or type)

(A) CANDIDATE / NOMINEE NAME:

_____ (First)

_____ (Last)

Title/Position: _____

Utility Program/Organization: _____

Tribal Nation: _____

Business Address: _____
(Regular Mailing Address)

_____ (Physical Street Address, for deliveries)

_____ (City)

_____ (State)

_____ (Zip Code)

Telephone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Fax Number: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail Address*: _____

**Please Note: We will be giving the nominees an opportunity to explain what the position of W/WW operator means to them, please include their email address (if available).*

(B) NOMINATION SUBMITTED BY:

_____ (First)

_____ (Last)

Title/Position: _____ Organization: _____

Relation/Affiliation to the Nominee: _____
(e.g., supervisor, colleague, Tribal leadership, regulator, community member)

Business Address: _____
(Mailing Address)

_____ (City)

_____ (State)

_____ (Zip Code)

Telephone Number: (____) _____ - _____ Fax Number: (____) _____ - _____

E-mail Address: _____

Name of Candidate/Nominee: _____

(E) Please describe significant challenges the nominee has faced and how they responded.

Include examples demonstrating initiative, leadership, or problem-solving under difficult circumstances.

(Please add more lines or pages if needed)

(F) Please describe instances of the operator lending aid to others? Examples may include: a personal sacrifice for the benefit of others, mentoring/training others, outreach efforts or community involvement, performing other (non-operations or maintenance) tasks/responsibilities for the benefit of the community, or generally serving as a role model through positive interactions.

(Please add more lines or pages if needed)

(G) Describe the nominee's contributions to their Tribal community. Include any special achievements, recognition, or examples of their spirit of service.

(Please add more lines or pages if needed)

NOMINATOR CERTIFICATION

I certify that the information provided is accurate to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: _____

Date: _____