
The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs
Tribal Roundtable Executive Summary

March 16 – April 14, 2011

Prepared by: The Udall Foundation's U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution

**DOE Tribal Roundtable Executive Summary
Tribal Energy Priorities, Policies, and Federal Agency Coordination
April 26, 2011**

DOE TRIBAL ROUNDTABLE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs hosted eight Tribal Roundtables from March 16, 2011 to April 14, 2011. Roundtables were facilitated by the Udall Foundation's U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution and held in the following locations:

Location	Date
Reno, NV	03.16.2011
Las Vegas, NV	03.16.2011
Pala, CA	03.23.2011
Washington, DC	03.30.2011
Phoenix, AZ	04.05.2011
Albuquerque, NM	04.06.2011
Anchorage, AK	04.14.2011
Tulsa, OK	04.14.2011

A ninth roundtable scheduled for Quinault, WA on 04.12.11 was postponed.

Each of the roundtables provided an opportunity for the DOE Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office) to provide information on the Office's roles within the DOE and working with tribal governments, federal agencies, and non-governmental tribal organizations. Further, the roundtables offered an opportunity for tribal leaders, representatives, and participants to provide information on Indian energy priorities and feedback on current and future DOE energy policies and programs, as well as to solicit comments on federal agency coordination and suggestions for future DOE/Office of Indian Energy tribal policies and programs.

Roundtable participants included:

- Governmental agency officials from the White House, DOE, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Department of the Interior (DOI), and state agencies
- Tribal leaders and representatives from tribal energy and environmental programs
- Representatives from the U.S. Senate Select Committee on Indian Affairs as well as numerous Senate and House staff members
- Representatives from tribal organizations, tribal non-governmental organizations, and associations
- Representatives from the energy industry and public universities

More than 260 people participated in the roundtables. Tribal leaders and representatives from more than 200 tribal governments, communities, and nongovernmental organizations and associations provided tribal energy priorities and interests, information on tribal energy policy and programs, and feedback on federal agency coordination. Written comments also have been submitted by tribal consortiums and organizations.

Across the eight roundtables, tribal participants stated that their goals for participating were to:

- Learn about DOE tribal energy policies and programs
- Provide information on tribal energy priorities, e.g. renewable energy, large scale or small scale energy projects
- Learn from federal agency representatives and other tribal energy programs
- Learn and provide information on grant funding opportunities and requirements
- Network and build working relationships with federal agency officials and other representatives who work on energy projects
- Share best practices

Tribal participants also provided information, a sampling of which is provided below, on the following tribal energy topic areas:

Tribal Energy Priorities

- Protect tribal sovereignty and environmental, natural, and cultural resources
- Support energy project and economic development
- Provide affordable energy access in rural tribal communities
- Access, coordinate, and secure a broad range of funding resources for large and small scale tribal energy projects
- Develop renewable energy projects, including wind, solar, hydro, and biomass energy production
- Work with federal agencies and Congress to streamline various energy policies and regulations, particularly where multiple federal agencies are involved in tribal energy projects

Feedback on DOE Tribal Policies and Programs

- Increase tribal access and inclusion in energy transmission planning and capacity
- Provide flexibility within tribal energy policies and grants across federal agencies to meet the unique needs of tribal governments and communities on a case-by-case basis
- Streamline program, policy, and regulatory requirements
- Re-examine, develop, and adapt tax laws and policies to provide an incentive for tribal governments and the energy industry to develop tribal energy projects within tribal lands
- Ensure policies and programs continue to develop and expand tribal technical capacity

Federal Government-wide Energy Issues and Coordination

- Engender coordination, leadership, and flexibility among agencies involved in tribal energy projects, including in the following areas:
 - Regulations and requirements
 - Grant and loan funding resources and opportunities
 - Permitting
 - Training and technical capacity building
- Support federal government and agency preference for buying energy from tribal governments
- Coordinate tribal consultation

Suggestions for Future DOE Office of Indian Energy Roles/Programs/Support

- Expand programs that encourage and fund energy efficiency projects within tribal lands
- Provide DOE Guidance and recommendations for tribal inclusion in transmission development projects
- Design programs with a training focus for tribal technical capacity building on energy development – particularly include financing and best practices in project development
- Increase regulatory interaction of and with local energy co-ops to help build better relationships for energy development collaboration
- Establish a clearinghouse for federal agencies and tribal governments on energy policies, programs, funding, notices, and projects