

**STATE AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP (STGWG)  
INTERGOVERNMENTAL MEETING WITH  
THE U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY (DOE)  
WASHINGTON, DC  
NOVEMBER 8-10, 2005**

<b>KEY OUTCOMES STGWG-ONLY SESSIONS</b>
---

**OVERVIEW**

STGWG appreciates the opportunity to meet with the Department of Energy and continues to endorse an annual meeting of the intergovernmental groups.

In his remarks at the Plenary Session, Assistant Secretary for Environmental Management James Rispoli underscored the importance of a strong working relationship with Tribes and States, including government-to-government interaction with Tribes. STGWG looks forward to working with senior DOE officials in that vein to achieve appropriate consultation and collaboration on key issues facing the Department, Tribes and States.

**TRIBAL ISSUES**

Tribes appreciated the participation of Eric Ciliberti, the new Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs. Tribes look forward to Secretary Bodman's reaffirmation of the DOE Indian Policy in 2006. They again offered their assistance with the planning of the next Tribal Leader Summit, as yet unscheduled.

Leading issues for the Tribal Issues Committee in 2006 include:

- o Implementation Plan for the DOE American Indian Policy.
- o 2005 Energy Act, Title V, Tribal Provisions. Tribes want to be involved in the new Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs established by the Act.
- o The right-of-way study required by Section 1813 of the Energy Act. Tribes want to have substantive involvement in the study.
- o Natural resource injury assessment. Tribes and States need to understand the nature of the injuries, and funding is needed so they can be involved in the process.
- o The invitation to tribal staff to work through the NNSA Diversity and Outreach office to learn more about how DOE operates.
- o Building a strong relationship with the Native American Legislators Caucus.

**LONG-TERM STEWARDSHIP (LTS) AND END STATES**

STGWG feels the issues of long-term stewardship and end states cannot be separated. The goal always should be maximum cleanup to minimize the need for long-term stewardship. States and Tribes want to have assured funding for LTS beyond annual appropriations.

For sites with continuing missions, the issue of LTS is unclear at this point. Work on LTS needs to begin now for when the sites close in 30-50 years.

Leading issues for the LTS Committee in 2006 include:

- Coordination of LTS activities among the DOE programs with LTS responsibilities, including Environmental Management, Legacy Management, NNSA, Nuclear Energy and the Office of Science.
- Development of predictable, sustainable, well-designed stewardship programs, including clarifying who is responsible and how the programs will be funded and enforced.
- Beneficial reuse and its implications on LTS.
- Coordination of End States Visions with LTS efforts, especially at sites with continuing missions.

### **TRANSPORTATION**

Jay Jones, Office of National Transportation (ONT), provided an update on the Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management (OCRWM) program activities, ONT's tribal program priorities, the ONT and tribal government collaborative approach, national and regional tribal interactions, and the transportation planning approach with States.

Leading issues for the Transportation Committee in 2006 include:

- State and tribal participation in DOE's update of its Transportation Practices Manual.
- Transportation planning for Yucca Mountain.
- Incident-free transport.

### **INTEGRATION AND DISPOSITION (I & D)**

STGWWG stands ready to work with the Department to evaluate its forthcoming strategy for waste and materials management and to participate in the dialogue to frame a national plan. The working group can assist DOE in identifying opportunities and potential roadblocks.

Leading issues for the I & D Committee in 2006 include:

- Plutonium disposition
- Commercial property
- Yucca Mountain
- National waste disposition map
- National Dialogue on Waste.

### **NEXT MEETING**

The date and location of the Spring 2006 will be determined by the Executive Committee in January.