

NAWIG NEWS

THE QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER OF THE
NATIVE AMERICAN WIND INTEREST GROUP

SUMMER 2007

As part of its Native American outreach, DOE's Wind Powering America program has initiated a quarterly NAWIG newsletter to present Native American wind information, including projects, interviews with pioneers, issues, WPA activities, and related events. It is our hope that this newsletter will both inform and elicit comments and input on wind development in Indian Country.

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An interview with Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Administrator Tim Meeks

You have stated your desire to continue helping tribal customers achieve economic self-sufficiency. What specific plans or policies do you wish to implement toward this end?



WAPA Administrator Tim Meeks

Currently, Western has 93 firm and non-firm tribal customers receiving allocations of Federal hydropower. In addition, we recently allocated power to five new tribes from the Parker-Davis resource pool, effective October 1, 2008.

I'd like to start by saying that I don't presume to have all the answers. Through formal consultation on projects and informal discussions, I plan to listen to our tribal customers to learn how they view Western's role and what Western can do to help them achieve economic self-sufficiency through energy-related activities. Working together, I believe we can make a difference.

We are already working on a number of fronts. The Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAct 2005) directed the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study on tribal use of Federal hydropower and the barriers that impede tribal access to Federal power. Western has prepared the *Tribal Allocation Study* on behalf of the power marketing agencies. Although the final study is under review at DOE prior to submission to Congress, I can tell you that Western intends to be flexible in allowing the use of Federal power allocations by tribes.

In addition, Western is willing to act as an agent, on a pass-through cost basis, in the sale of tribal energy/renewable energy attributes to third parties. Also, Western's Upper Great Plains Region recently issued a request for customer expression of interest in purchasing Native American wind energy or renewable energy credits. The response was encouraging, and we've sent all responses to the Intertribal Council on Utility Policy (COUP) and encouraged COUP to contact the entities.

Through what channels within Western should tribal groups seek your aid and assistance on energy resource and economic self-sufficiency issues? Who are the points of contact and what is their contact information?

A good starting point is Western's Native American Liaison, Steve Tromly. If Steve can't help directly, he can connect you with the appropriate regional contact person. You can reach Steve by phone at (720) 962-7256 or by e-mail at tromly@wapa.gov.

To work directly at a more local level, each of our regions also has a point of contact.

- Upper Great Plains: Bob Riehl, Power Marketing Manager, (406) 247-7394, riehl@wapa.gov.
- Rocky Mountain: Ron Steinbach, Federal Power Program Manager, (970) 461-7322, Steinbach@wapa.gov.
- Sierra Nevada: Bob Chesky, Regional Regulatory and Marketing Advisor, (916) 353-4482, chesky@wapa.gov.

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- Desert Southwest: Brian Young, Power Contracts and Energy Services Manager, (602) 605-2594, byoung@wapa.gov.
- Colorado River Storage Project Management Center: Brad Warren, Colorado River Storage Project Program Manager, (801) 524-6372, warren@wapa.gov.

[As hydropower resources remain static or even decrease, and with the demand for electricity continuing to grow throughout Western's territory, how do you envision tribal entities helping alleviate this situation?](#)

Today, tribes stand on the edge of a new era of economic development, with access to a range of resources, including energy development. Biomass and wind are two important tools in the renewable energy toolbox.

The *Wind/Hydro Feasibility Study* authorized in EAct 2005, Section 2606, is one attempt to evaluate ways to blend resources. The study will examine the feasibility of using wind power from tribal projects to supply firming power to Western. Western will work with tribes within our Upper Great Plains Region to study potential wind projects that could be developed on tribal land. Energy would be sold to Western to help meet our firm power commitments.

The goal of the study is to evaluate several projects in order to present a range of projects to Congress, some where project development would be easier (closer to transmission) and others where development would be more challenging (e.g., out of Western's control area or far from transmission.) The Blackfeet, Fort Peck, and Santee Sioux tribes, as well as Intertribal COUP, each have provided a tribal engineer to participate on the study team. We expect to complete the study and make recommendations to Congress in 2008.

Other opportunities for tribes include making their Federal power allocations go further by adopting cost-effective energy efficiency measures identified in tribal Integrated Resource Plans and developing other energy projects on their reservations to meet regional demand, promoting tribal economics and energy self-sufficiency.

[With regards to development of wind resources within the Western service territory, what issues do you see on the near-term horizon that Western wants to tackle and champion?](#)

Western has 277 MW of wind already interconnected, and more than 12,000 MW of additional interconnections for wind have been requested.

One area where we can make it easier for wind generators to connect to the grid is through innovative rates and products. For example, we proposed long-term, non-firm transmission service more than 2 years ago. Our Rocky Mountain Region adopted an energy imbalance rate that

did not assess penalties for wind. Conditional firm transmission service will be adopted by Western as part of our implementation efforts of FERC Order # 890.

While our *Dakota Wind Transmission Study* showed that our existing transmission system has non-firm capacity available to accommodate the addition of some wind generation, we know that larger-scale development of new resources requires new transmission. Western has broad authority to build transmission to market hydroelectricity, enhance reliability, and avoid excessive wheeling charges. EAct 2005 expanded that authority to authorize Western to construct transmission to alleviate congestion in national interest electric corridors. Congress is considering renewable energy zone legislation that could further expand our role. We can be part of the solution.

Western is involved with several wind integration efforts. In addition to the *Wind/Hydro Integration Study*, we are participating with the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL) in a multi-state wind integration study in the WestConnect footprint. We also participated with NREL in a study on the impacts of high penetration of wind generation on control area operations. In the Desert Southwest Region, Arizona Power Authority is exploring integration of wind with their Boulder Canyon Project allocation.

[Could you please address Western's role in DOE's National Electric Transmission Congestion Study and how you see Western aiding DOE in solving this challenge?](#)

While Western did not participate in conducting the study, we have reviewed it, and we see opportunities to participate in solutions.

With more than 17,000 miles of transmission lines throughout most of the western and central United States, we have a responsibility, obligation, and opportunity to help alleviate transmission congestion. EAct 2005, Section 1222, authorizes Western to upgrade or construct new transmission facilities in national interest electric corridors with bonding authority up to \$100 million to facilitate third-party financing. In the construction of Path 15 in California, we were able to leverage our expertise with financing provided by third parties to construct a much-needed and long-delayed enhancement to the bulk transmission grid. Western provided overall project management, construction management, land acquisition, and environmental analysis.

[Please share with us what you feel are some of the greatest challenges you face as the new Western administrator?](#)

These are exciting times, filled with change and possibility. In the face of the daily-changing political and regulatory landscape, it's a challenge to walk the tightrope between where we've been and where we want and need to go, and to make the journey in a way that still meets our statutory obligations.

DOE Names Director for Office of Indian Energy Policy and Makes Available \$2 Million for Clean Energy Projects on Tribal Lands

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Secretary Samuel W. Bodman announced the appointment of Steven J. Morello to Director of DOE's newly formed Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs on September 14, 2007. As director of this office, Morello will work to implement and manage energy planning, education, and efficiency for American Indian tribes.

The Indian Energy Policy and Program Office will reside within DOE's Office of Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs where Morello will also continue to serve as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Intergovernmental and External Affairs.

Bodman also announced that DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy would make available a total of up to \$2 million for 15 Native American tribes and Alaskan villages that have been selected for negotiation of awards that support the advancement of renewable energy technologies on tribal lands and rural Alaskan villages.

Of the 15 Native American tribes and villages whose projects have been selected for negotiation, six will study the feasibility of utilizing renewable energy technologies on tribal lands (see table below), and nine projects will take initial steps toward implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects on tribal lands. The selected projects will receive both financial and technical assistance from DOE.

FEASIBILITY OF RENEWABLE ENERGY PROJECTS ON TRIBAL LANDS					
#	Name (listed in alphabetical order)	Technology	State	Requested DOE Funds	Cost Share
1	Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments	Biomass Heat and Power & Biomass Delivery	AK	\$143,720	\$155,000
2	NANA Regional Corporation (Geothermal)	Geothermal	AK	\$149,988	\$46,840
3	NANA Regional Corporation (Wind)	Wind Energy	AK	\$149,990	\$88,080
4	Salish & Kootenai Holding Company (Flathead Reservation)	Biomass Heating	MT	\$117,070	\$4,000
5	Warm Springs Power and Water Enterprises	Utility-scale Wind Energy	OR	\$150,000	\$75,300
6	Yurok Tribe	Hydro & Wind Energy	CA	\$150,000	\$18,744

The following list identifies nine tribes selected for negotiation of awards that will focus on taking initial steps toward implementing renewable energy and energy efficiency projects on tribal lands.

1. Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (Warm Springs Power & Water Enterprises) (Oregon)
2. Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (North Carolina)
3. Interior Regional Housing Authority for Hughes Village Consortium (Alaska)
4. Karuk Tribe of California (California)
5. Lac Courte Oreilles Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Wisconsin)
6. Lac du Flambeau Band of Lake Superior Chippewa Indians (Wisconsin)
7. NANA Regional Corporation (Alaska)
8. Robinson Rancheria Band of Pomo Indians (California)
9. Seneca Nation of Indian.



Patrick Spears (left) and Robert Gough (right) of Intertribal COUP receive the Award for Courage at the World Clean Energy Awards in Basel, Switzerland.

Intertribal COUP (Council on Utility Policy) Environmental Justice Wind Project Wins World Clean Energy Award

The very first World Clean Energy Awards were presented in Basel, Switzerland, on June 15, 2007, and Patrick Spears and Robert Gough from Intertribal COUP were on hand to receive the Award for Courage. The award was presented to the Rosebud Sioux Environmental Justice Revitalization Project, Tribal Wind Power Demonstration Project Plan. The jury recognized the Tribe's investment in wind power in an environment that presents many obstacles to the development of renewable energy.

The COUP project encourages tribally owned development of significant distributed wind generation on Indian Reservations as a viable strategy for building sustainable homeland tribal economies.

The World Clean Energy Awards honor the world's premiere projects promoting the large-scale use of renewable energy. From among some 70 nominated projects, a high-profile international jury of renewable energy experts picked the nine winners of the first international renewable energy "Oscars," who traveled to Switzerland from Abu Dhabi, China, India, Kenya, Sweden, and the Rosebud and Lower Brule Sioux Indian Reservations in the United States to receive their awards at the Congress Center in Basel.

More info: www.cleanenergyawards.com/fileadmin/redaktion/factsheets/factsheet_webversion_9.pdf

NAWIG Events 2007–2008 Calendar

November 11, 2007

Tribal Energy Development in the 21st Century —
Denver, CO

www.drinkerbiddle.com/Events/detail.aspx?event=914

December 6 - 7, 2007

Conference on Tribal Energy in the Southwest —
Albuquerque, NM

www.lawseminars.com/seminars/07TRIBNM.php

June 1 - 4, 2008

WINDPOWER 2008 Conference & Exhibition —
Houston, TX

www.windpowerexpo.org/

September 19 - 24, 2008

**65th Annual Convention of the National Congress of
American Indians** — Phoenix, AZ

[www.ncai.org/Event_View.154+M56785fbd954.0.html?&tx_ttnews\[backPid\]=22&tx_ttnews\[tt_news\]=205](http://www.ncai.org/Event_View.154+M56785fbd954.0.html?&tx_ttnews[backPid]=22&tx_ttnews[tt_news]=205)

Current Native American wind events can also be found on the Wind Powering America Web site at www.windpoweringamerica.gov/native_americans.asp

Useful Links

Wind Powering America • www.windpoweringamerica.gov

American Wind Energy Association • www.awea.org

U.S. Department of Energy Tribal Energy Program •
www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy

National Wind Coordinating Committee • www.nationalwind.org



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For more information contact:

EERE Information Center

1-877-EERE-INF (1-877-337-3463)

www.eere.energy.gov

A Strong Energy Portfolio for a Strong America

Energy efficiency and clean, renewable energy will mean a stronger economy, a cleaner environment, and greater energy independence for America. Working with a wide array of state, community, industry, and university partners, the U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy invests in a diverse portfolio of energy technologies.

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