
The U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Albuquerque, New Mexico, Roundtable Summary

April 6, 2011

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

**DOE Tribal Roundtable on Tribal Energy
Albuquerque, New Mexico
April 6, 2011**

ALBUQUERQUE EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Albuquerque, New Mexico, DOE Tribal Roundtable convened at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, at the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy). Pilar Thomas, Deputy Director-Policy, DOE Office of Indian Energy, Brandt Petrasek, Office of Environmental Management, Don Ami, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Sandra Begay-Campbell and Lawrence Brown, Sandia Labs, represented DOE. Nineteen tribal leaders and representatives from eleven tribal communities attended the roundtable along with representatives from tribal and private industries, non-governmental organizations and federal agencies. There were thirty-six participants. The full list of participants can be found at the end of this summary.

The meeting was facilitated by Debra Drecksel, Senior Program Manager, Senior Facilitator, Udall Foundation's U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute). She was assisted by Patricia Lewis and Sasha Stortz of the U.S. Institute.

George Shendo, Jr., Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Jemez, offered an opening prayer.

Participants introduced themselves and shared their goals for the meeting and Deputy Director Thomas provided the following DOE goals for the roundtable:

- Understanding the primary energy development, electrification, efficiency, and capacity-building needs for Indian Country
- Identifying what DOE's Office of Indian Energy should do to help tribes accomplish their energy goals

Participants shared with Ms. Thomas their energy policy and development priorities, which included the following:

- Building and supporting tribal education initiatives and programs
- Generating revenue by selling power
- Sharing and replicating energy development models among tribes
- Maintaining adequate and reliable sources of energy
- Overcoming obstacles to energy development in Indian Country
- Competing fairly for federal energy contracts
- Resolving the issue of co-op payments owed to tribes for rights-of-way on tribal lands
- Streamlining the process to gain access to Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) transmission lines
- Cleaning up DOE energy facilities
- Increasing the carrying capacity of transmission lines

- Receiving assistance from DOE in meeting Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) regulation for clean coal
- Addressing tribal constraints for generating revenue through tax write-offs
- Incentivizing energy development on tribal lands
- Building infrastructure and capacity to generate energy to subsidize energy costs
- Addressing risks from nuclear energy facilities near tribal lands
- Developing green energy (e.g., solar and wind) to supplement energy needs
- Directing weatherization funds directly to tribes (instead of through the states)

Sandra Begay-Campbell, DOE Sandia Labs, provided an overview of a range of tribal energy programs offered over the last 10 years. Ms. Thomas then offered an overview of the Office of Indian Energy and reviewed a handout that included the DOE organization chart, a description of the offices and departments that reside in DOE, and a list of DOE resources and contacts.

Debra Drecksel, facilitator, reviewed the four topics on which DOE would like feedback:

1. Tribal energy priorities
2. Feedback on DOE policies and programs in Indian Country
3. Federal government-wide energy issues and coordination
4. Suggestions for future DOE tribal energy policies

Many of the comments alluded to the priorities listed above. Listed below is a sampling of other key issues that were raised:

Feedback on DOE Tribal Policies and Programs:

- Address conflicting Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) and Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPAAct 2005) regulations
- Address “prevailing market rate” issue: EPAAct 2005 stipulates that federal agencies pay “prevailing market rate” for any power source; renewable energy bids cannot compete with bids on fossil fuel and hydropower. Renewable energy bids should be considered separately from bids for other energy sources
- Recognize we are “very pleased” with DOE’s Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program, funded for the first time by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act
- Streamline DOE loan guarantee program; recommend tribal set-aside for federal loan guarantee programs
- Provide DOE support for facilitating tribal ownership of transmission lines
- Permanently extend the Renewable Energy Credit (REC) program

Federal Government-wide Energy Issues and Coordination

- Seek ways to integrate federal and state tribal energy programs
- Explore ways to braid U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), House and Urban Development (HUD), and Department of Commerce loan guarantee programs with DOE’s loan guarantee program

Suggestions for Future DOE Indian Energy Policies

- Provide more regulatory oversight of local energy co-ops; consider bail-outs for co-ops
- Provide technical assistance for contract development and review
- Create federal markets for renewable energy
- Convene regional and national level meetings and/or operating committee to facilitate information sharing among tribes and provide continuity when tribal governments transition
- Assist small tribes challenged with matching funds requirements and funding project development; allow tribes “tax credit equity” as matching funds

DOE representatives provided closing remarks. Ms. Thomas reminded participants about the May 4-5 Tribal Energy Summit and reiterated that the Office of Indian Energy’s emphasis is on “putting steel in the ground,” and assisting tribes in reaching their goals. She thanked everyone for participating in the roundtable.

William Waquie, Second Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Jemez, thanked everyone for their input and time and thanked DOE for “listening to our problems.” He expressed his hope that in the near future, “we can take steps to streamline some of the issues and use the programs to invest in the interests of our respective Pueblos.”

Derek Valdo, Pueblo of Acoma, closed the meeting with a prayer.

DOE Tribal Roundtable Summary Albuquerque, New Mexico

The Albuquerque, New Mexico, DOE Tribal Roundtable was convened at 8:30 a.m., Wednesday, April 6, at the Pueblo Indian Cultural Center in Albuquerque, New Mexico. The meeting was hosted by the Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Policy and Programs (Office of Indian Energy). Pilar Thomas, Deputy Director-Policy, DOE Office of Indian Energy, Brandt Petrasek, Office of Environmental Management, Don Ami, National Nuclear Security Administration, and Sandra Begay-Campbell and Lawrence Brown, Sandia Labs, represented DOE. Nineteen tribal leaders and representatives from eleven tribal communities attended the roundtable along with representatives from tribal and private industries, non-governmental organizations, and federal agencies. There were thirty-six participants. The full list of participants can be found at the end of this summary.

The meeting was facilitated by Debra Drecksel, Senior Program Manager, Senior Facilitator, Udall Foundation's U.S. Institute for Environmental Conflict Resolution (U.S. Institute). She was assisted by Patricia Lewis and Sasha Stortz of the U.S. Institute.

George Shendo, Jr., Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Jemez, offered an opening prayer.

Debra Drecksel, facilitator, reviewed the roundtable agenda, introduced the facilitation team, and provided background information on the U.S. Institute and the Udall Foundation, an independent agency of the federal government, with offices in Tucson, Arizona and Washington, DC.

I. Introductions and Goals for the Session

Ms. Drecksel invited participants to introduce themselves and to share what they would most like to take away from the roundtable session. The list below summarizes many of the goals offered by the tribal leaders and representatives:

- Hearing from others about their concerns
- Understanding the administration's agenda in Indian Country
- Sharing roadblocks to energy development among the New Mexico Pueblos
- Receiving feedback on the direction our tribe would like to take
- Learning about DOE resources (including financial) for developing renewable energy projects
- Exploring ways to collaborate with DOE on overcoming obstacles to selling renewable energy to DOE
- Sharing ideas for developing tribal-owned utilities to provide power to tribal facilities
- Learning what environmentally-acceptable energy development projects are available that can boost economic development in tribal communities

- Hearing about the potential impacts from some of DOE energy policies to tribal culture and to species
- Exploring ways to make the grant application process more efficient
- Exploring how bids for renewable energy contracts can compete on an equal footing with bids for fossil fuel and hydropower contracts

Following is a list of goals provided by nongovernmental organizations and private entities including:

- Enhancing the capacity of smaller tribes and leveling the playing field to “make development as attractive on tribal lands as it is on non-tribal lands”
- Incorporating solar technologies into the rehabilitation and development work done by the housing authority
- Learning how DOE interfaces with tribal needs
- Learning about funding opportunities for non-technical assistance
- Hearing what products and services our company can provide to tribes

Representatives from DOE shared what they would like to take away from the meeting:

Pilar Thomas, Deputy Director, Office of Indian Energy:

- Understanding the primary energy development, electrification, efficiency, and capacity-building needs for Indian Country
- Identifying what DOE’s Office of Indian Energy should do to help tribes accomplish their energy goals

Brandt Petrasek, Office of Environmental Management, DOE:

- Identifying what DOE and its sister agencies must do to remove the obstacles to energy development projects in Indian Country and to share that information at the Tribal Energy Summit in May

Don Ami, National Nuclear Security Administration:

- Share in the dialogue with tribal representatives in Indian Country

Sandra Begay-Campbell, Sandia Labs:

- Explore how Sandia National Laboratories can support tribal leaders

II. Overview and Background of DOE’s Tribal Energy Program (TEP) and the Office of Indian Energy Policies and Programs

Overview of Tribal Energy Program

Ms. Begay-Campbell, DOE, Sandia Labs, provided a history of DOE’s pilot projects that put hardware at tribal college campuses. Tribal leaders asked that funding shift its focus to project development. “First Steps” was a specific DOE solicitation that helped to develop energy planning and support. Eventually DOE turned its focus to funding consultants and providing

technical support to conduct feasibility studies for energy development projects in Indian County. The next phase supported by DOE is pre-project development, which is a more detailed analysis of what needs to be acquired to get the project off the ground; funding from DOE ends at this phase.

Ms. Begay-Campbell explained that DOE currently has two funding solicitations that are due later this month. One of them relates to energy efficiency and is meant to pick up where the stimulus block grant program ended. It is intended for developing and implementing energy audits, which can reduce energy loads by 30 percent. The other solicitation is the renewable energy feasibility study, due May 11. She shared that DOE's tribal energy solicitations funding goal for FY2011 is at the \$10 million level, but it is likely the current solicitations budget will be cut going forward; therefore, tribes should take advantage of the funding available this year.

Overview of Office of Indian Energy

Ms. Thomas then spoke about DOE's offices and organizational structure referring to a handout provided to participants at beginning of the meeting. Ms. Thomas reviewed DOE's organizational chart and explained that the Office of Indian Energy is under the auspices of the Office of the Under Secretary for Energy, as a program office. One of the Office of Indian Energy's goals is to leverage resources within DOE to build tribal capacity to launch energy development programs. While the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's (EERE) focus is on renewable energy projects and programs, the Office of Indian Energy's focus is on Indian energy – renewable, oil and gas, nuclear, coal, carbon sequestration, transmission, electrification, and geothermal. And, for further information, there is an Office of Indian Energy sister office -- Office for Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability – which is charged with providing electricity and ensuring stable, reliable energy costs. It also funds the *Smart Grid* program, which provides grants for *Smart Grid* demonstration projects. The Office of Environmental Management manages nuclear waste legacy at labs and weapons facilities. The Office of Legacy Management manages uranium mine clean-up.

Ms. Thomas told the group that the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) and the Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) are technically part of DOE. BPA and WAPA are charged by statute to work within Indian Country to provide greater access to the grid. She explained that the Energy Policy Act of 2005 (EPA 2005) authorized the establishment of a tribal energy loan program to be overseen by DOE's Loan Guarantee Program Office, although Congress has not appropriated funding for the program. The Office of Indian Energy will work with the Loan Guarantee Program Office to implement the program.

The Office of Indian Energy was established in 2005 but it wasn't staffed and funded. Tracey LeBeau was appointed Director of the Office of Indian Energy in December 2010. Congress has now appropriated funds for the office so Director LeBeau and Deputy Director Pilar Thomas are focused on how to put the appropriation to good use. The Office of Indian Energy is energy source and energy technology neutral (i.e., its focus is not limited to renewable energy), and it has a broad mandate. The Office of Indian Energy is authorized to receive an annual appropriation of \$20 million for fiscal year 2006 through 2016.

Ms. Thomas pointed out that the EAct 2005 stipulates that federal agencies give preference to purchasing tribal energy, at the “prevailing market rate.” Ms. Thomas asked tribal participants to share their experiences negotiating power purchases with federal agencies.

The facilitator reviewed the four topics on which DOE would like feedback:

1. Tribal energy priorities
2. Feedback on DOE tribal policies and programs
3. Federal government-wide energy issues and coordination
4. Suggestions for future DOE tribal energy policies

She asked that tribal leaders provide input first followed by tribal representatives and other participants.

III. Tribal Energy Priorities

Education and Training:

In response to a question about DOE’s role in tribal education initiatives, Ms. Thomas explained that the Office of Indian Energy has heard there is a need for DOE to help design academic curriculum. The Office of Indian Energy needs to know what specific educational needs tribal communities have (e.g., technology, economics, and energy policy development). DOE has a long-standing relationship with institutes of higher learning (i.e., DOE’s tribal internship program). A participant asked about building a tribal consortium to develop and introduce technological programs to, for instance, the Santa Fe Indian School, similar to the solar array project at the Albuquerque Academy. In response, Don AMI, National Nuclear Security Administration (NNSA), explained that NNSA partners with Santa Fe Indian School and supports several projects there. NNSA also is working with the Institute of American Indian Art. Deputy Director Thomas agreed that there are educational models/projects in DOE that could be implemented in tribal communities.

Adequate and Reliable Power:

A participant shared that transmission quality on the reservation is not consistent; there are extensive power outages due to thunderstorms. They posited that this is one reason the co-ops need to be regulated. Another participant explained that there are limitations on the amount of power that transmission lines can carry. A tribal member said that the Pueblo Tribes are looking toward alternative energy and solar power to prevent power outages such as those that occurred this winter. A participant suggested that the Office of Indian Energy advocate on behalf of the tribes, for redoing transmission lines and increasing capacity on any new grids. A tribal set-aside is one approach.

Cooperatives and Right-of-Way Issues:

A participant shared that when tribes seek to establish their own power authority, they experience problems with co-op franchise agreements. If they turn for help with the co-op’s

parent company, the company turns the issue back to the tribe; there is nowhere to turn for help. Co-ops need more regulation than they get from the state.

Another participant explained that tribal rate payers purchase energy from co-ops who purchase energy from Tri-State (in New Mexico). The co-ops have not made payments to the tribes for the rights-of-way access. They owe millions of dollars to tribes. These problems go back decades and are so severe that it is unlikely the co-op will be able to cover those costs any time soon. Banks will not loan money on projects where rights-of-way are expired. The federal government needs to intervene on behalf of tribes.

Economic Viability and Sustainability:

Participants shared challenges their tribal communities have ensuring enough revenue to run their governments, particularly since they don't have the ability to tax and raise bonds. Tribes are seeking to generate power to not only subsidize their members' energy costs but to also sell energy to pay back funds borrowed to develop renewable energy. At issue is infrastructure capacity to develop tribal energy projects. Despite the fact that many tribes have large land masses, they do not have access to the grid.

A representative of another tribal community asked how tribes can receive support for maintaining the infrastructure already in place (e.g., retrofitting heating, ventilation, and air conditioning units; offering rebate programs for upgrades).

Cleanup of DOE Facilities and Concerns about Nuclear Power Plants:

A participant shared that in New Mexico, the Los Alamos and Sandia Laboratories have contaminated sites that abut Tribal lands; they should be cleaned up.

When asked about DOE's efforts to prevent an incident such as happened in Japan this spring, Don Ami, NNSA, referred participants to DOE's or the Los Alamos National Lab's website and explained that EPA is taking the lead in coordinating a national response, should such an incident occur.

A representative from the Pueblo of Laguna asked about DOE resources for dealing with the clean-up issues stemming from the tribe's ownership of large uranium mine. She suggested that Pueblo of Laguna attend the summit; she will also let DOE's Office of Legacy Management know about Pueblo of Laguna's interest in information regarding uranium mine clean-up.

Energy Efficiency Initiatives:

Sandra Begay-Campbell, DOE Sandia Labs, commented that in working with tribal energy programs on renewable energy, DOE has seen more emphasis on incorporating energy efficiency; however, now DOE is hearing that tribes are faced with buildings and housing that need upgrading. The question being raised is whether weatherization improvements are more beneficial than new construction. DOE's response is that if weatherization reduces energy costs for low income housing, it is beneficial.

Revenue Generation:

A participant observed that from the Zuni perspective, revenue generation needs to be prioritized. EECBGs are not aimed at revenue generation. Tribes without taxes, bonds, or casinos are challenged to develop renewable energy projects. Energy efficiency projects can generate more savings when power consumption is greatest. Energy efficiency is a national priority but doesn't help many tribes in the way that revenue generation does.

Ms. Drechsel asked participants to focus on the second topic: Feedback on DOE Tribal Energy Policies and Programs.

IV. Feedback on Current DOE Energy Policies and Programs in Indian Country

Participants expressed their appreciation for DOE's support through the EECBG program.

Conflicting Regulations – Prevailing Market Rate:

A tribal participant shared their tribe's experience attempting to sell solar power to the Los Alamos Laboratory. In the process, it became apparent that the FAR and the EAct 2005 conflicted; specifically, bids for renewable energy contracts were left out. As a consequence, the tribe was unable to compete on equal footing with fossil fuel and federal hydropower bids. Also, the FAR directs the federal government to get the best possible "deal," however; the EAct 2005 stipulates that federal agencies cannot pay more than the "prevailing market rate" for any power, regardless of the source. When DOE issues a Request for Proposal (RFP) for power, it does not differentiate between types of power (e.g., renewable, fossil fuel, hydropower). Since renewable energy is at present more costly than other power sources, it cannot compete. The participant suggested that DOE look at ways to modify the FAR to address this issue.

The participant also commented that the FAR should provide that Renewable Energy Credits (RECs) be submitted as a separate product from power. In trying to sell solar power to DOE, the tribe offered two products – RECs and power – but DOE did not consider this beneficial; they saw only that the tribe's bid for the power contract using solar energy was two times as high as any bid based on power derived from fossil fuel. The tribal participant suggested that DOE identify the prevailing market rate for solar, geothermal, or biomass and said that the market rate needs to be derived by the investor-owned rates in the private sector, not by looking at the rate for federal hydropower, which is heavily subsidized.

Don Ami, NNSA, shared that DOE was reluctant to work on defining the "prevailing market rate" because it was looking for someone to develop a national regulatory framework that would address the issue, since it impacts the FAR and DOE, not just Native American tribes. He also shared that DOE is not authorized by Congress to pay the extra cost for renewable energy. Ms. Thomas commented that if the Office of Indian Energy is working on the issue of "prevailing

market rate,” it would like to be able to articulate the tribal viewpoints correctly, so input from the tribes on this topic is vital.

DOE Loan Guarantee Programs:

A participant posited that loan guarantee program application fees and application processing time discourages applications for federal loan guarantee programs and asked if there are any efforts underway to establish a tribal set-aside to facilitate tribal loan guarantee applications. Another participant asked if DOE’s loan guarantee program would apply to new market tax credits. In response, Ms. Thomas said, “No, but several tribes are looking at applying these tax credits to their energy projects,” and explained that the tax credits are transferable and that trust land qualifies for the credits. She also explained that the DOE tribal loan guarantee program is not limited to renewable energy projects.

Tribal Ownership of Transmission Lines:

A participant explained that some Pueblos have considered the feasibility of taking over transmission lines. Some of the studies have been funded by the Department of the Interior (DOI) and the Administration for Native Americans and it would help the tribes if DOE would provide support for these feasibility studies.

V. Federal Government-wide Energy Issues and Coordination:

Access to WAPA Transmission Lines:

A participant recommended a streamlined process for tribes to gain access to WAPA transmission lines; the current process is cumbersome.

EPA Permitting:

Another participant spoke of the challenges for the Navajo Tribe in obtaining permits from the EPA for wind generators. Ms. Thomas responded that, since DOE is not a land management agency, DOI is the lead agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance, and the DOI approves the right-of-way or lease in many cases. DOE only participates if it provides funding, in the form of a grant or loan guarantee, for the project.

Coordination with the Small Business Administration (SBA):

When asked whether DOE, in its discussions with the Department of Commerce, had touched on the Small Business Innovative Research Program, Pilar Thomas responded that DOE is part of the SBA’s federal initiative on technology transfer and is interested in learning of other opportunities to partner with SBA. She shared that the Office of Indian Energy is considering how to get more tribal-owned businesses to contract with DOE.

Don Ami, NNSA, explained that in 2010, the Los Alamos Laboratory had contracted with Native American firms for \$103 million in work and commented that NNSA is always interested in conducting business with tribes. Lawrence Brown of Sandia Labs shared that the New Mexico Small Business Development Association invests \$10 million/year in rural communities and \$20 million in urban communities’ small business development.

Consistency across Agency Load Guarantee Programs:

DOE is talking with USDA and HUD to find ways to leverage resources and ideally, every loan guarantee program would have the same rules or be better aligned. DOE is seeking ways to solve some of these issues administratively without having to go back to Congress and would like to know if tribal communities are supportive of administrative, rather than legislative, solutions.

VI. Suggestions for Future DOE Tribal Energy Policies**DOE Support for Technical Assistance:**

A participant expressed support for future DOE programs that would provide technical assistance for commercial-scale energy projects and advice on contracting and drafting agreements.

Information Sharing:

A participant shared their support for a technical assistance team that would provide opportunities for tribes to share information about their projects and lessons learned. Another suggested that DOE convene regional- and national-level meetings as forums for sharing information.

Braiding Federal Funding Sources:

A tribal representative shared that tribes are forced to be creative in combining funding resources from different agencies; however, funding can be depleted when grant writers have to be contracted with for each funding source. They expressed support for efforts to combine funding resources from several different agencies for tribal energy programs and projects.

A tribal member suggested that DOE establish a policy similar to EPA's Supplement Energy Project (SEP) policy as a resource for tribal energy initiatives.

Developing Markets for Renewable Energy:

A participant asked what DOE could do at that state and tribal level to assist in creating viable markets for solar REC programs (similar to what is happening in the Northeast). In response, Ms. Thomas explained that DOE is seeking to identify models and program that can be shared with tribal communities. DOE's Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Office currently funds technical assistance to state regulators who design and build energy policies; this program could be leveraged or act as a model to provide similar support to tribes. A tribal representative asked that the REC program continue, as it provides many benefits for tribes in developing energy projects.

Ms. Thomas added that a permanent extension of the renewable tax credits would require a legislative change. She said that the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Indian and Alaska Native

Affairs, Don Young, held a hearing on oil and gas, and some of the tribal leaders who spoke raised the same issues -- permanent extension of the renewable tax credits and permanent extension of credit on native coal. Chairman Young said he will be introducing legislation to resolve what he sees as barriers to energy legislation.

A participant offered that USDA has some flexibility to provide loan guarantees for “new market systems,” and that her organization is working with the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) on this issue as well. Ms. Thomas shared that the Office of Indian Energy has met with HUD, USDA, the Department of Commerce, and the EPA, and will be meeting with the Department of Labor – all agencies with funding opportunities for energy development projects – to learn about their programs and who they fund.

A tribal representative shared that their tribe had decided not to apply for some of these grant programs because the tribal project did not meet the agencies’ criteria. For instance, the U.S. Economic Development Administration’s grant ranks the provision of jobs high in evaluating proposals. The tribe’s solar project would have funded only one (1) full-time equivalent to maintain the solar panels once the project was constructed, so the project could not compete on the jobs front. Another tribal representative shared that their tribe applied for EPA’s Brownfields grant, but were not successful (the tribe is applying again).

Another participant commented that small tribes cannot benefit from many of the federal grants because of the matching funds requirement or the cost of start-up funds. Ms. Thomas said that this was a concern of the Office of Indian Energy and that she and Director LeBeau would like to learn more about how the office can help with these issues. A tribal member suggested that tribes be authorized to use tax credit equity as matching funds for grants.

A tribal member shared that their tribe had benefited from a DOE EECBG workshop and the opportunity to meet one-on-one with DOE to review grant opportunities. He suggested that a team, composed of an economist, a tribal liaison and a technician with energy development expertise, be convened. The team would meet with tribes every year to share information on funding opportunities. Several other meeting participants agreed with this suggestion.

Environmental Justice:

A participant expressed their concern that small tribes be treated fairly as new tribal energy policies are developed and said that tribes with small populations do not score well in areas such as the Superfund program.

Tribal Ownership of Transmission Lines:

A participant expressed support for a DOE policy that would facilitate the conversion of co-op owned utilities to privately owned transmission lines.

Tribal Energy Development Bonds:

A tribal representative asked DOE to consider a tribal energy development bond initiative.

The facilitator, encouraged participants to provide more comments on the four agenda topics on the comment sheets provided by DOE or on the post-it notes.

VII. Closing Remarks

Don Ami, NNSA, commented that the entire nuclear cycle exists in New Mexico from the mining of uranium to the development of weapons to the disposal and storage of waste. Much of the development has come at a sacrifice to tribal lands, which is why NNSA is very active here compared to other agencies. We have an order to initiate government-to-government consultation on the Environmental Management Office and want to work on that.” Mr. Ami thanked Ms. Thomas and Ms. Lebeau for their leadership.

Deputy Director Thomas, thanked participants for taking the time to attend Roundtable. Ms. Thomas announced that on May 4th and 5th the Office of Indian Energy will host a DOE Tribal Summit in Washington, D.C. The first day of the summit will provide a forum for tribal leaders and DOE’s political leadership (assistant secretaries and undersecretaries) to discuss tribal energy priorities, policies and programs. The session will be informed by the roundtable meeting discussions and summaries. One of the outcomes of the May 4 dialogue will be identifying ways for DOE agencies to leverage resources in support of tribal energy programs. On the second day of the summit, May 5, participants will hear from keynote speakers and dignitaries. A link to the Tribal Summit agenda is on www.energy.gov/indianenergy.

Ms. Thomas commented that the Tribal Energy Program has led tribal energy initiatives at DOE over the last 10 years by funding education, planning, and feasibility studies. The Office of Indian Energy’s goal going forward is “putting steel in the ground,” and assisting the tribes in meeting their goals. She stated that input provided at the tribal roundtable sessions has been valuable. Ms. Thomas thanked the tribal leaders for participating in the roundtable and Don Ami, Sandra Begay-Williams, and Brandt Petrasek of DOE for attending the meeting. She encouraged participants to contact the Office of Indian Energy.

William Waquie, Second Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Jemez, commented that it is important that information be shared at least annually with the tribes, since most of the Pueblo tribes have governments with one-year terms. He thanked everyone for their input and time and thanked DOE for “listening to our problems.” He expressed his hope that in the near future, “we can take steps to streamline some of the issues and use the programs to invest in the interests of our respective Pueblos.”

Greg Kaufman, Pueblo of Jemez thanked DOE for the work it is doing and continues to do on behalf of the tribes in New Mexico. He said that attending the roundtable was very worthwhile and that the Tribe is looking forward to the Tribal Energy Summit and the future, saying, “It’s looking brighter than the past.”

Debra Drecksel, facilitator, asked participants to write any additional comments on the Comments hand-out and referred them to the list of DOE contacts on the DOE handout.

Derek Valdo, Pueblo of Acoma, closed the meeting with a prayer.

VIII. Roundtable Participants

Don Ami, DOE, National Nuclear Security Administration
Sandra Begay-Campbell, DOE, Sandia Labs
Lawrence Brown, DOE, Sandia Labs
Rob Burpo, To'Hajiilee Navajo Chapter
Tim Chavez, Pueblo of Acoma
Peter Desmond, Navajo Nation
Richard Fialho, Sacred Power Corporation
Bob Gruenig, Stetson Law Offices
Gordon Hammond, Ute Mountain Ute Indian Tribe
Greg Kaufman, Pueblo of Jemez
Heather Kie, Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority
Rita Whitehorse Larsen, Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency
Jon Lee, U.S. Department of the Interior
Shannon Locke, DOI, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development
Mark Mitchell, Governor, Pueblo of Tesuque
Ernest Mirabal, Governor, Pueblo of Nambe
Amanda Montoya, Santo Domingo Pueblo
Leonard Ota, Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority
Roman Pawluk, Pueblo of Zuni
Don Pearson, Environx, LLC
Ted Pedro, American Indian Chamber of Commerce
Levi Pesata, Jicarilla Apache Nation
Brandt Petrsek, DOE Office of Environmental Management
Vangie Redsteer, Aranyu, LLC
Adam Ringia, Pueblo of Laguna
Jerry Ryburn, October Hill Funding
Greg Sample, Drummond Woodsum
Blane Sanchez, Santo Domingo Pueblo
George Shendo, Jr., Lt. Governor, Pueblo of Jemez
Carolyn Stewart, Red Mountain Energy Partners
Dean Suagee, Hobbs Straus Dean & Walker
Pilar Thomas, DOE Office of Indian Energy Policies and Programs
Derek Valdo, Pueblo of Acoma
William Waquie, Pueblo of Jemez
Neil Weber, Pueblo de San Ildefonso
Daryl Woolems, Ohkay Owingeh Housing Authority

Facilitation Team:

Debra Drecksel, Sr. Program Manager, Senior Facilitator, U.S. Institute

Patricia Lewis, Sr. Program Associate, U.S. Institute
Sasha Stortz, Program Associate, U.S. Institute

Logistics Management:

Jonathan Blackwell, Chickasaw Nation Industries

Charlie May, Chickasaw Nation Industries

Michele Cappel, Chickasaw Nations Industries