

DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

2021 Office of Indian Energy Program Review



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Indian Energy

November 15-18, 2021

Deployment Supervisor – Lizana Pierce



Lizana Pierce

Senior Engineer, Deployment Supervisor, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Colorado

Lizana Pierce duty stationed in Colorado and serves as the principal engineering expert for the Director and Deputy Director on deployment programs. Mrs. Pierce is responsible for implementing the Office's Deployment Programs: Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance; and Education and Capacity Building. Ms. Pierce has 25 years of experience in energy technologies, project development, and management, and has dedicated 20 of those years to assisting Indian tribes in developing their energy resources. Ms. Pierce holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering from Colorado State University, and she pursued a Master's in Business Administration through the University of Northern Colorado.



Deployment Specialist – Tommy Jones



Dr. Tommy Jones

Deployment Specialist, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

As a Deployment Specialist, Thomas ('Tommy') is responsible for assisting the Deployment Supervisor with implementing the Office's Deployment Programs: Technical Assistance, Financial Assistance, and Education and Capacity Building. Dr. Jones, is from Jones, Oklahoma and is an enrolled citizen of the Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma, Naknek Native Village, and a Native shareholder of Bristol Bay Native Corporation of Alaska. He has separate bachelor's degrees in Biology and Spanish, a Master's degree in Conservation Biology and Environmental Science, and a Ph.D. in Natural Resources and American Indian Studies.



Project Officer – T. Doe

Tweedie Doe

Project Officer, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, Colorado

Ms. Tweedie Doe is Project Officer duty-stationed in golden, Colorado. As a Project Officer she administers financial assistance awards to Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and tribal and inter-tribal organizations. Before joining the Office of Indian Energy, Tweedie served as a Project Officer for eight years with the DOE's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) under the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant (EECBG) Program.

Before joining DOE, Tweedie had the privilege of working with the Council of Energy Resource Tribes (CERT), where she gained valuable experience working with Tribal leadership. Ms. Doe has a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science at the University of Washington, and a Master of Arts in International Studies with emphasis on economics and human rights from the University of Denver. She obtained her Project Management Professional (PMP) certification in 2013 and is certified as a Project Officer and Contracting Officer Representative.



Engineer – Michael Stevenson



Michael Stevenson

Engineer, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Mike Stevenson joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy as an engineer in May 2021. Duty stationed in Golden, Colorado, he serves as a technical expert supporting technical assistance and administering financial assistance awards to Indian tribes, Alaska Native villages, and tribal and intertribal organizations.

Prior to joining the team at DOE, Mike spent the previous six years with the Department of the Interior (DOI) as an Electrical Engineer for the Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD), an energy office under the Bureau of Indian Affairs.



Engineer – Josh Gregory



Josh Gregory

Engineer, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Josh Gregory joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy as an engineer in September 2021. Duty stationed in Golden, Colorado, he serves as a technical expert supporting technical assistance and administering financial assistance awards to Indian tribes.

Prior to joining the team at DOE, Josh spent the previous five years with the Department of the Interior (DOI) as a Mechanical Engineer for the Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD), an energy office under the Bureau of Indian Affairs. While at DEMD, he assist Tribes with their energy planning, assessment and project development.



Engineer – Dan Smith



Dan Smith

Engineer, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Dan Smith joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs as a general engineer in February 2021. Duty stationed in Anchorage, Alaska, he serves as a technical expert supporting technical assistance and administering financial assistance awards to Alaska Native villages, Alaska Native regional and village corporations, and tribal and inter-tribal organizations. Mr. Smith originates from the Midwest around Chicago and studied Civil Engineering with a focus on hydraulic and water resources engineering.



After completing his education, he moved to Alaska to pursue his personal mission of building infrastructure, where he worked for Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) on a large hydroelectric projects and other smaller renewable energy projects. After a tenure at AEA, he began work with the Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium (ANTHC), where he worked on energy systems used for providing drinking water and sanitation infrastructure in Native villages across the State of Alaska.

Engineer – Alan Verbitsky

Alan Verbitsky

Engineer, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Alan Verbitsky joined the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs as a general engineer in November 2020. Duty-stationed in Alaska, he serves as a senior technical expert, advising the Office and its constituents on the technical ramifications, limitations, and engineering requirements of tribal energy and infrastructure planning and management, project development, capacity building, and costs, as well as the electrification of Indian lands and homes.



Prior to joining the Office of Indian Energy, Verbitsky spent several years as a consulting engineer, working in Canada, China, and the United States. Verbitsky graduated from North Dakota State University with a Bachelor of Science in electrical and electronic engineering. Following post-graduate studies and a brief stint in an oil field in the south-central United States, he served as the lead electrical engineer at Minot Air Force Base (MAFB) and earned his professional engineering license in North Dakota and later in Alaska.

After several years at MAFB, he transferred to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Region 7 Headquarters in Anchorage, Alaska and worked as the lead electrical engineer in the facility design section supporting bush Alaska. Verbitsky later transferred to the U.S. Coast Guard Support Center in Kodiak, Alaska, where he was the lead electrical engineer serving Coast Guard facilities in western Alaska and the Aleutian Chain. After separating from civil service, he became the Director of Engineering and Facilities for the Kodiak Island Borough. In 2002, he returned to the lower 48, where he worked as the Director of Engineering for SRT Communications in North Dakota and the Facility Manager for the Indian Health Service at the Quentin N Burdick Memorial Health Care Facility on the Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Reservation in Belcourt, North Dakota.

Office of Indian Energy Team



Back row: James Jensen, Kris Venema, Givvy Kochanowski (DOE), Kevin Frost (DOE, Director). Front row: Jami Alley, Lizana Pierce (DOE), Jen Luna, Tweedie Doe (DOE), Susan Manley, Jasmine Anderson, Thomas Jones. All others are DOE contractors.