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HOMARI AOKI: Hello, and welcome to the Grid Resilience Exchange Strengthening Tribal Communities workshop. I'm Homari Aoki with the Grid Deployment Office. And I'll be your host today.

This webinar is for tribal applicants for the Grid Resilient State and Tribal Formula Grant program that have either already received their award funding, or for those who have applied, but may be waiting on the funds still. This webinar is the second offering of a workshop that was hosted back in December, and will include the same content. So if you attended the workshop in December, feel free to drop-off.

For today's workshop, we'll facilitate breakout sessions for the majority of the workshop, which we will not be recording. However, we will record the informational portion at the beginning of the workshop to post on the Grid Deployment Office website as a resource. If you do not wish to have your voice recorded, please do not speak during the time of recording. If you do not wish to have your image recorded, please turn off your camera or participate by phone. If you speak during the call or use a video connection, you are presumed consent to recording and use of your voice or image. Again, when we go enter the breakout sessions, we will not be recording.

Now, I have a few housekeeping items for today's workshop. If you need to view the live captioning, please refer to the link that will appear in the chat now. Separate live captioning links will be provided in the breakout rooms as well. If you have any technical issues or questions, you may type them in the chat box and select Send to Host.

All participants are muted when you came in. Please raise your hand to make comments, and we will notify you of your turn to unmute. We ask that you unmute yourself again when finished to ensure we can hear others clearly.

With those announcements out of the way, let's get started. To kick off today's workshop, we'll have Maria Robinson, Director of the Grid Deployment Office joining us. Director Robinson, welcome. I'll turn this over to you.

MARIA ROBINSON: Thank you so much. Good morning, good afternoon, depending on where you are. My name is Maria Robinson, and I'm the Director of the Grid Deployment Office here at the United States Department of Energy. And certainly, I am delighted to welcome you to this Grid Resilience Exchange and Strengthening Tribal Communities, which is as mentioned, our second tribal workshop on grid resilience.

So first, thank you for taking time to be here today. We know your time is valuable, as is your perspective, and all of your expertise. And so we really appreciate your time and thoughtfulness here not just for us, but for each other.

We, here at the Grid Deployment Office are part of a team that was formed in August of 2022 to create and oversee programs that deploy the historic grid and transmission investments from the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. Included in that funding is \$2.3 billion for Grid Resilient State and Tribal Formula grants. To date, we have awarded 48 states, 53 tribes, three territories, and the District of Columbia nearly \$750 million in Formula grants for grid resilience, with more of those grid Resilience Formula grants from fiscal year 2022 and 2023 on the way.

I'm also excited to share that the application period for the next round of the Grid Resilient State and Tribal Formula grants is now open. Those applications are due on April 17, 2024, but should be noted that if you've already received a formula grant award this past year during that 2022-23 award period, you have until April 17 to submit a request for a Formula grant allocation for the '23-'24 award period.

If you've already applied for grant funding, but you have not yet received your award, you have until April 17 to amend your grant application to include those allocations for fiscal year '23-'24. If you are a new grant applicant, you have until April 17 to submit an application for a Formula grant for fiscal year '23-'24 award period. Through this work, we here at the Department of Energy and the Grid Deployment Office are committed to supporting tribal nations.

We really recognize the urgency to address grid resilience in your communities. And tribal input is essential to the success of the Grid Resilience Formula grant program. To that end, we've already implemented some of your suggestions on how to improve the Grid Resilience Formula grant program, including allowing tribal consortium applications, developing some templates to make applying easier, and reducing reporting requirements to try and ease some of that administrative burden. So we thank you for your participation and your feedback thus far.

Today's Resilience Exchange is an opportunity to deepen and strengthen our collaboration. Our team will provide an overview of grid resilience and what it could look like in your community, facilitate some workshops on how to best utilize Formula grant funding for grid resilience, and offer some guidance on requesting technical assistance from us here at the Department of Energy. We intend to use today's workshop as a baseline to determine how we can best facilitate additional tribal exchanges in the future. This is an opportunity for you to not only learn about grid resilience and share that feedback with the Department, but also share insights, best practices, and challenges with other Tribal Formula grant recipients across the country. Your contributions today and throughout this Formula grant program will certainly help to shape the success of the program. So thank you again for joining us today, and we really look forward to hearing from you. Back to you, Homari.

HOMARI AOKI: Thank you, Director Robinson, for your opening remarks. We now welcome Dr. Angelena Bohman, Technical Analyst for the State and Tribal Assistance programs with the Grid Deployment Office to go over the objectives of today's workshop, provide a brief overview of grid resilience, and share what assistance is available for the Grid Resilience State and Tribal Formula Grant. If you have any questions throughout her presentation, please feel free to submit them in the chat. We'll have some time at the end of her presentation for a few questions before we go into the breakout sessions. Angelena, welcome.

ANGELENA BOHMAN: Thank you, Homari, for the introduction. And thank you all again for making time to attend this workshop. So the goal of these workshops is to provide a space for Tribal Grant recipients to ask questions of GDO and to exchange ideas with each other.

For today's workshop, I plan to start the session with a few slides on grid resilience planning and provide some resources available to you when implementing these resilience projects. Then we'll ask some questions on where recipients are at in their grant process, and then proceed to breakout sessions to discuss potential grid resilience project ideas. Finally, we hope to close out the session with a better understanding of where we can continue to provide technical and other assistance to support successful project implementation.

So let's get into the section on grid resilience. In defining grid resilience in the context of this program, we first use the definition of a disruptive event as it is defined in the statute, an event in which operations of

the electric grid are disrupted, preventatively shut off, or cannot operate safely due to extreme weather, wildfire, or natural disaster. So grid resilience encompasses the ability to anticipate and prepare for a disruption event by preventing as much initial damage as possible, mitigating the impact of the disruption through temporary support services, and restoring power and repairing the system as quickly as possible, taking away best practices and lessons learned for future outage events.

Grid resilience investment is important because as we see increases in the frequency and magnitude of weather-related outages, compounded with aging electric infrastructure, there is greater risk of experiencing large power outages of long duration, which can be a huge strain on society and can even cause death. They are also very costly to recover from and hard to predict how often severe climate events will impact communities in the future. Therefore, investing in grid resilience is important to anticipate, mitigate, and withstand the impacts of these outage events.

Next, I'm going to go over how to think about resilience investment planning, specifically, what you should take into account when selecting a resilience project. There are really four things to know. First, understanding resilience needs. Essentially, asking yourself the question, why do you need a resilience project? You will want to look at climate risks and the outage threats that could impact your community, and also which parts of the electric grid are most vulnerable to those outage threats.

So, for example, if you're a tribe that resides in a more rural part of the Southwestern United States, you may identify wildfires or monsoons as outage risks, and then identify parts of the system that are particularly vulnerable. Maybe there is only one transmission line that provides power to the whole community. Therefore, if any section of that line were to be damaged, everyone would lose power. Or maybe instead, there are a section of homes that are particularly close to a forest and at most risk to outages caused by wildfires.

The second question to ask yourself is, now that I know what the risks are, what are my investment options to address those risks? So in the first example I gave of the single power line providing power to the entire community, you could consider ways to harden and upgrade that line making it more resilient, such as installing stronger or fireproof poles, thicker or different material wire, or new equipment rated to withstand higher temperatures, or wind speeds. There are often a range of options that communities can consider to mitigate outage risks. Some will be more focused on the planning and prevention side. Others may allow for quicker response and restoration after an event occurs.

The third question then becomes, which of these investment options makes the most sense in my particular situation? Which one will cost the least and fit within your budget, but provide the benefit that you were looking for? For example, maybe installing steel transmission poles is the initial project idea considered for wildfire protection. However, when further looking at the cost and timeline to replace all the poles desired, a recipient may instead consider moving to a cheaper, quicker option, such as replacing copper with aluminum wires, or installing weather stations and video cameras to better provide situational awareness.

The final thing you need to know for resilience planning is to determine if the project works the way you expected it to and made your system more resilient. The way to do that is to collect data on the performance of your new investment. For example, if the wildfire mitigation case, whenever there is another wildfire, you would want to be able to track whether the power was able to be restored faster than in a previous wildfire.

Being able to address all these stages of resilience planning can be challenging. That is why GDO is offering assistance to grant recipients to aid in all parts of the planning process. First, we have at the top of this slide an assistance request form that you can fill out, and the link is provided. We will work with you to answer any questions you may have and provide additional support.

The types of assistance DOE funds typically falls into five categories. We can fund program and planning assistance, such as reviewing project proposals, or providing guidance on filling out report templates. We can build extra capacity, for example. And the applications to be a host organization for the Clean Energy Innovator Fellowship is open until March 5 for this year's application cycle. Last year, GDO placed Fellows at five intertribal organizations.

We can also fund training and workshops, such as the one we're doing now. We can also fund technical analysis, such as a risk assessment determining future likelihood of outage threats. And finally, we can support stakeholder engagement and coordination, such as working with your local utility. We also just published to the GDO website some support documents, which I believe are also being posted in the chat right now, one providing an overview of microgrids, and another providing examples of low cost resilience projects.

Finally, we also wanted to advertise the Clean Energy Summit hosted by the Office of Indian Energy and the Department of Energy on February 27 and 28 at the Pechanga Resort Casino in Temecula, California. The registration link is available on the slide. So before getting into the discussion portion of the webinar, does anyone have any questions so far? All right, I will take that as a no.