

**FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE
FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE TANANA CHIEFS
CONFERENCE ALASKA TRIBAL ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY, MINTO AND
GRAYLING, ALASKA (DOE/EA-2284)**

U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations (OCED) prepared the *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Tanana Chiefs Conference Alaska Tribal Energy Sovereignty, Minto and Grayling, Alaska* (DOE/EA-2284) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and applicable regulations. DOE/EA-2284 is herein referred to as the Final EA and is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI). The Final EA analyzed the potential impacts of the Proposed Action. DOE's Proposed Action is to authorize the expenditure of federal funds by Tanana Chiefs Conference (TCC) to construct and operate a solar photovoltaic (PV) array and battery energy storage system (BESS) to support the villages of Minto and Grayling, Alaska (AK).

The TCC Alaska Tribal Energy Sovereignty Project was competitively selected for a DOE financial assistance award under the "Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas Program" fiscal year 2024 funding opportunity, DE-FOA-0002970. The Project will deploy high-penetration solar PV and BESS into existing microgrids in up to eight remote tribal communities currently relying on diesel for 100 percent of their electrical production.

PROPOSED ACTION: DOE is proposing to authorize the expenditure of federal funds by TCC (the Proposed Action) in support of construction and operation of solar PV and BESS for the villages of Minto and Grayling (the Proposed Project). The Minto, AK solar PV array will be located at the north end of Minto on the west side of an existing pathway to the existing sewage lagoon. The Grayling, AK solar PV array will be located in Grayling on the north side of H Street between the 3rd and 4th Streets intersections. TCC will clear one acre of land and site preparation for the PV racking foundation and an equipment pad at both locations. The BESS building will house solar batteries and be co-located with the existing power plants in each village.

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED: DOE evaluated two alternatives in the Final EA: the No-Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. Under the No-Action Alternative, DOE would not authorize the expenditure of federal funds by TCC in support of the Proposed Project. For purposes of analysis, DOE assumed the Proposed Project would not proceed if DOE does not authorize the expenditure of federal funds. The No Action Alternative was evaluated to provide a baseline for comparison with the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action, which is the Preferred Alternative, consists of authorizing the expenditure of federal funding by TCC in support of the Proposed Project.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: The following resources were evaluated in detail in the Final EA:

- Wildlife and Habitat
- Cultural Resources
- Air Quality
- Noise and Vibration

Under the No-Action Alternative, the solar PV and BESS would not be constructed, and all resources areas would remain unchanged when compared to existing conditions.

The Proposed Action will have short and long-term, negligible to minor impacts to resources from construction and operation activities (Table 1).

Table 1. Summary of Impacts

Resource Area	Level of Expected Impact
Wildlife and Habitat	Negligible to Minor, Short-term and Long-term impacts
Cultural Resources	Negligible, Long-term impacts
Air Quality	Negligible to Minor, Short-term impacts
Noise and Vibration	Minor to moderate, Short-term impacts

Applicant Committed Measures to reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Action are listed in Section 2.7 of the Final EA. The measures cover the following resource areas: infrastructure, traffic and transportation; biological resources; noise and vibration; and hydrology.

The cumulative impacts from the Proposed Action are expected to be negligible to minor with the greatest impacts to wildlife and habitat.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS: DOE provided the draft EA on April 23, 2025, to the Villages of Minto and Grayling for a 14-day host tribe review and comment period closing on May 7, 2025. DOE did not receive any comments.

CONSULTATIONS: DOE made a determination of *no effect* for threatened and endangered species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. On March 17, 2025 (Minto) and April 12, 2025 (Grayling), DOE received concurrence from the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office with a *no historic properties affected* finding on the Proposed Action following a 30-day review period under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). DOE did not receive any comments from consulting parties.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND CONTACT INFORMATION: This FONSI and Final EA are available at the following website: <https://energy.gov/nepa/docea-2284-tanana-chiefs-conference-alaska-tribal-energy-sovereignty-minto-and-grayling-alaska>.

For more information about this FONSI or Final EA contact:

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DETERMINATION: Based on the information and analysis in the Final EA, DOE has determined that the Proposed Action will not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of human health or the environment in accordance with NEPA, 42 U.S.C. §§ 4321 et seq and any relevant implementing regulations. Therefore, preparation of an EIS is not required.

DOE selects the Proposed Action from the *Environmental Assessment for the Tanana Chiefs Conference Alaska Tribal Energy Sovereignty, Minto and Grayling, Alaska* (DOE/EA-2284) and is issuing this FONSI.

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