

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR THE TANANA CHIEFS CONFERENCE ALASKA TRIBAL ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY, MINTO AND GRAYLINE, ALASKA (DOE/EA-2314)

U.S. Department of Energy (DOE)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) has prepared the *Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Tanana Chiefs Conference Alaska Tribal Energy Sovereignty, Huslia, Alaska* (DOE/EA-2314) [referred to as the Final EA and is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)], which 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 village of Huslia, 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-0003428. The Project and award would assist with deploying 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. This EA prepared pursuant to National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) covers the systems planned for the village of Huslia, AK.

The Final EA evaluated two alternatives to address TCC's request for financial assistance to construct and operate a solar PV array and BESS to support the village of Huslia, AK. The two alternatives are: a No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action to provide federal funding in support of the solar PV and BESS installations. The Proposed Action is the Preferred Alternative; it would meet the purpose and need for the Proposed Action and would also be protective of human health and the environment.

Based on the analysis in the Final EA, DOE determined that the Preferred Alternative would not constitute a major Federal action significantly affecting the quality of human health and the environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required, and DOE is selecting the Proposed Action and issuing this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

PROPOSED ACTION: The Proposed Action involves providing federal funds in support of construction and operation of solar PV and BESS for the village of Huslia (the Proposed Project). The solar PV array and BESS site would be located south of the Birch Grove Subdivision in Huslia, AK. Under the Proposed Action, TCC would clear approximately 2.7 acres of land and site preparation for the PV racking foundation, equipment pads, and BESS. The Tribal ownership model would help operation and maintenance (O&M) of the systems, reduce energy costs and develop future renewable projects in Tribal communities across the region. TCC plans to establish

a utility board of Tribal leaders from across the region to oversee the newly established independent power producer and ensure long term O&M across these systems.

ALTERNATIVES EVALUATED: DOE evaluated two alternatives in the Final EA. 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 Alternative, which is the Preferred Alternative. The Proposed Action (the Preferred Alternative) consists of authorizing the expenditure of federal funding by TCC to support the solar PV and BESS for the village of Huslia.

No alternatives were considered but eliminated for further analysis, see Section 2.3 of the EA.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES: The affected environment for the following resources at the project site were evaluated for potential impacts from the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action (the Preferred Alternative):

- 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 (the Preferred Alternative) would 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 are listed in Section 2.7 of the EA and include items to reduce potential impacts from the Proposed Project. Measures cover the following resource areas: infrastructure, traffic and transportation; biological resources; noise and vibration; and hydrology.

CONSULTATIONS: DOE made a determination of *no effect* for threatened and endangered species under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. On January 11, 2026, the 30-day consultation window closed. DOE did not receive any comments from Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) with a *no historic properties affected* finding on the Proposed

Action and was able to assume concurrence under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). DOE did not receive any comments from consulting parties. On March 9, 2026, TCC received verification that the work to be performed in the Village of Huslia would not require Department of the Army authorization.

COOPERATING AGENCIES: DOE did not invite any federal agencies or Tribes to be cooperating agencies for this project.

CERTIFICATIONS: DOE certifies that the agency has considered the factors mandated by NEPA; that the environmental assessment represents DOE's good-faith effort to prioritize documentation of the most important considerations required by the statute within the Congressionally mandated page limits; that this prioritization reflects DOE's expert judgment; and that any considerations addressed briefly or left unaddressed were, in DOE's judgment, comparatively not of a substantive nature that meaningfully informed the consideration of environmental effects and the resulting decision.

DOE certifies that the resulting environmental assessment represents DOE's good-faith effort to fulfill NEPA's requirements within the Congressional timeline; that such effort is substantially complete; that, in DOE's expert opinion, the analysis contained therein is adequate to inform and reasonably explain DOE's decision regarding the proposed action.

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY AND CONTACT INFORMATION: This FONSI and Final EA are available at the following website: <https://www.energy.gov/nepa/office-nepa-policy-and-compliance>

For more information about this FONSI or Final EA:
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DETERMINATION: Based on the information and analysis in the Final EA, DOE has determined that the Proposed Action would 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, the 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, Huslia, Alaska* (DOE/EA-2314) and is issuing this FONSI.

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Office of Clean Energy Demonstrations

U.S. Department of Energy