



U.S. Department of Energy  
Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management



# Tribal Topic Group Update

Presented to:  
**Transportation External Coordination Working Group**

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**Pueblo, CO**

# Summary

- **2005 Tribal program priorities**
- **Key Transportation External Coordination Tribal (TEC) Topic Group topics**
- **TEC Tribal Topic Group meetings update**
- **TEC Tribal Topic Group recommendations**
- **Next steps –Tribal interaction approaches**



# 2005 Tribal Program Priorities

- **Initiate consultation with Native American Tribes along potential transportation corridors**
  - ✓ **Issue notification letter**
  - ✓ **Contact Tribal leaders regarding notification letter**
    - **Begin holding discussions and/or meetings with Tribal representatives on the transportation program**
- **Work with Tribes, in addition to States and stakeholders, to develop the transportation system**



# Key TEC Tribal Topics to be Addressed

- **TEC Tribal Topic group members will provide input on a host of implementation issues and policy questions including:**
  - **Approaches for engaging Tribes along potential transportation routes**
  - **Distribution and allocation methods for providing technical assistance and funds for emergency response training**
  - **Routing methodology and route identification**



# TEC Tribal Topic Group Meetings Update

- **April 2005**
  - Provided an overview of the transportation program
  - Discussed financial and technical assistance implementation
  - Identified distribution of notification letter to 39 Tribes
- **Teleconferences with group members**
  - Advance and develop the collaborative process
    - ◆ Engage Tribes on transportation strategy planning
    - ◆ Develop information materials
    - ◆ Coordinate financial and technical assistance specifically for Tribal issues and interests
  - August 24, 2005
    - ◆ Welcomed new members
    - ◆ Provided an update on initial contact with 39 Tribes
  - Next teleconference Fall 2005



# TEC Tribal Topic Group Recommendations

- **Some recommendations and preferences from the Spring 2005 TEC meeting included –**
  - **Outreach**
    - ◆ **Inform Tribes before decisions are made**
    - ◆ **Explore regional/national meetings for 39 Tribes**
    - ◆ **Develop a Tribal outreach strategy**
    - ◆ **Solicit greater participation of Tribes in the Topic Group**
  - **Funding**
    - ◆ **Develop Assessment Plan for Tribal priorities for funding**
    - ◆ **Create a simple application process**
    - ◆ **Appoint Tribal representatives to application review board**



# Next Steps – Tribal Interaction Approaches

- **DOE is committed to expanding its interactions with Tribes along potential transportation routes**
- **Approaches to support interactions could include:**
  - **Evaluate existing Federal working relationships with Tribes**
  - **Hold discussions and/or meetings to explore Tribal government preferences of what and how they want to be involved**
  - **Develop a national and Nevada approach to consultation processes and day-to-day working relationships**
  - **Address Tribal governments' concerns**
- **We are open to suggestions from Tribes and welcome ideas on how best to pursue future interactions**

