U.S. DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY | Office of Indian Energy

TRIBAL LEADER FORUM SERIES

TRIBAL ENERGY SYSTEMS: CLIMATE PREPAREDNESS AND RESILIENCY

March 4, 2015

Thunder Valley Resort

Lincoln, California

This Tribal Leader Forum, the 10th in a series of planned U.S. Department of Energy Office of Indian Energy–sponsored strategic energy development forums, will focus on climate change preparedness and resiliency. Although this is a broad topic, this forum will cover tribal energy systems, models and best practices, clean and efficient climate-resilient energy developments, smart climate energy development practices, and climate-smart use of green and natural infrastructure. The forum will give tribal leaders and staff an opportunity to interact with other Tribes, federal agencies, and industry to learn more about climate change resiliency efforts.

Objectives:

- Understand the risks high-level disasters and climate change pose to Tribes
- Understand energy preparedness and climate change/disaster resiliency as strategies
- Hear from other leaders on how they have applied these strategies

DRAFT AGENDA	
CONFERENCE ROOM – TBD	
9 – 9:30 a.m.	**WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS, AND OPENING REMARKS** **Susan Masten**, Vice Chairperson, Yurok Tribe **Jana Ganion,** Energy Director, Blue Lake Rancheria **David Conrad**, Acting Director, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, U.S. Department of Energy
9:30 – 10:15 a.m.	**Climate Change and the Need for Energy Resiliency** Extreme weather events, including flooding, heat waves, and drought threaten U.S. energy systems and infrastructure, and tribal communities may be particularly vulnerable to these events. This session will provide an overview of how key energy infrastructure risks are impacting Indian Country as well as highlight resources available to assist Tribes as they address climate change risks. **Jeff Pillon**, National Association of State Energy Officials *(invited)* **Karen Diver**, Chairwoman, Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa
10:15 – 10:30 a.m.	***BREAK***

10:30 – 11:30 a.m.	**Federal Programs to Promote Disaster Recovery** Federal agencies offer a variety of programs to support community and tribal government efforts to prevent power outages, reduce storm impacts, and help communities better prepare for the effects of a changing climate. This session will highlight these federal programs and discuss the support available to help tribal nations promote energy resilience and disaster recovery.
11:30 a.m. – 12:15 p.m.	**Critical Infrastructure and Energy Assurance Planning** Energy disruptions caused by natural disasters and extreme weather pose significant risks to the economy, public health, and the environment. Assessing threats to energy infrastructure and developing plans to respond and protect energy delivery can help reduce these risks. This session will examine energy assurance efforts and approaches that can help Tribes evaluate risks to energy systems and infrastructure. **April Salas**, Infrastructure Systems Analyst/Program Manager for Preparedness and Response, Infrastructure Security and Energy Restoration Division, U.S. Department of Energy *(invited)* **Alice Lippert**, Senior Technical Advisor to the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Energy Infrastructure Modeling and Analysis (EIMA), U.S. Department of Energy *(invited)*
12:15 – 1:15 p.m.	***LUNCH***
1:15 – 1:45 p.m.	**Understanding Resilient Energy Systems** Climate change can affect the safety and reliability of the critical infrastructure that communities rely upon. This session will examine approaches and best practices for community energy systems to help Tribes identify risks and support resilience planning. Office of Energy Policy and Systems Analysis, U.S. Department of Energy
1:45 – 3 p.m.	***Microgrids for Resiliency: Challenges and Opportunities*** Many reservations have homes dispersed over large areas, often far from the power grid. Extending utility distribution lines to these rural areas is expensive, but advanced technologies offer new opportunities to power tribal nations. Microgrids can operate independently to bolster resilience and provide consistent power. This session will discuss the challenges and opportunities associated with using distributed generation and micro-grids to improve resilience. **Sandra Begay-Campbell**, Sandia National Laboratories **[Tribal Case Study]**
3 – 3:15 p.m.	***BREAK***
3:15 – 4:15 p.m.	**Climate Change Champions Overview** **Sarah Ashton, DOE** *(invited)* **Jana Ganion,** Blue Lake Rancheria **Sault Ste. Marie** Tribe of Chippewa Indians

4:15 – 5:30 p.m.	**Harnessing Natural Systems to Increase Climate Resiliency** The water sector is particularly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as severe droughts, flooding, and storms. Water scarcity and uncertainty could lead to vulnerabilities in the U.S. energy system. Healthy natural systems and green infrastructure can protect community water resources and energy infrastructure from severe weather events. This session will explore the water-energy nexus and ways communities can promote green and natural infrastructure to help address the risks associated with climate change. **U.S. Department of Energy (TBD)** **James Williams,** Environmental Specialist, Muscogee (Creek) Nation
5:30 – 5:45 p.m.	**CONCLUSION & WRAP-UP**