



Indian Country Energy & Infrastructure Working Group

ICEIWG MEMBER TRIBES

Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs (OR)
Co-Chair



Central Council of the Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska (AK)



Crow Tribe - Apsáalooke Nation (MT)



Ewíiaapaayp Band of Kumeyaay Indians (Southern CA)



Gila River Indian Community (AZ)



Ho-Chunk Nation (WI)



Rosebud Sioux Tribe (SD)



Yocha Dehe Wintun Nation (Northern CA)

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY

Office of Indian Energy Policy & Programs
Co-Chair

ORGANIZER

National Conference of State Legislatures

To: Western Area Power Administration/Department of Energy Joint Outreach Team

From: U.S. DOE Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG)

Date: January 21, 2013

RE: Comments on Draft Recommendations of Joint Outreach Team (JOT)

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the Joint Outreach Team (JOT) Draft Recommendations.

The Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG) is representative of tribes which have expertise in energy development and operation of energy infrastructure in Indian Country. With eight member tribes, ICEIWG has been operational since August 2011 and serves as a critical resource to the U.S. Department of Energy, the DOE Office of Indian Energy (IE), and other Energy Department programs which interact with and provide assistance to Indian Country.

Our comments on the JOT recommendations are as follows:

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) serves many important roles in Indian Country, ranging from providing hydroelectric resources to Tribal communities to transmitting energy across Indian lands and territories from hydroelectric facilities located on or near critical tribal waterways and lands. In recent years, Tribes have pursued opportunities to develop and host clean energy projects within the WAPA footprint and have encountered issues and opportunities in those pursuits and in their interactions with WAPA. Partly in acknowledgement of these issues and opportunities, Congress in 2005 directed and authorized WAPA to undertake a study related to the integration of wind and hydroelectric resources, evaluate firming opportunities for tribal energy as well as to take affirmative steps to facilitate, provide technical assistance and encourage tribal energy development.

Setting aside issues related to hydropower allocations for the purpose of the requested comments to the JOT Draft Recommendations; it is worthwhile to note that many Tribes that receive allocations in some manner may also be seeking to do business with WAPA in ways that implicate the scope of recommendations herein. Hence, it is important to also note that comments by Tribes are not simply stakeholder views but views of Tribes who are also frequently preference customers as well as governmental entities with which the federal government has a unique legal and political relationship. We encourage the Department and WAPA is encouraged, as a next step in this process, to conduct formal tribal consultations

with affected Tribes related to any material and programmatic changes which may be considered relevant to this initiative before any final decisions are made or implemented.

Consolidation, Transparency and Coordination

The Working Group supports additional uniformity and integration of information, products and services so as to facilitate coordinated and aligned interpretation and implementation of transmission programs across regional sites. Tribes have often noted the complex and opaque nature of transmission service and interconnection processes are difficult to navigate, particularly when Tribes cannot share information amongst each other if that information varies from region to region within Western.

LGIP Procedures

The Working Group supports revisions to its Large Generator Interconnection process if that would facilitate faster response times for tribal proponents and projects to move through the application and study process to better meet fast-moving market conditions. It should be noted that there has been long-standing tribal comments related to this process that many Tribes advocate for fee options and preference in interconnection due to their unique relationship to the associated hydroelectric projects and attendant transmission facilities. We recommend that Western dialogue with Tribes more on those issues as this process unfolds.

Transmission and Ancillary Service Rate Design

Many projects contemplated by Tribes which seek to move energy across Western transmission facilities would greatly benefit from a rate consolidation or looking seriously at joining adjoining RTOs, particularly MISO (Midwest Independent System Operator). The current pancaking of rates and seams issues related to moving energy across Western is dampening tribal project market potential.

Align Liaison Expertise with Tribal Needs

The draft recommendations as currently drafted would establish a liaison position within Western's Renewable Resource Program office to be a Renewable Energy Liaison for facilitating renewable energy interconnection to Western's transmission system for Native American tribes. We understand that WAPA has a tribal liaison. There also already exist DOE programs and initiatives which provide dedicated renewable energy development technical

assistance to Tribes, including the Office of Indian Energy's START Program, and DOE and WAPA on-demand technical assistance.

In light of the Department's recently announced Tribal Renewable Energy Procurement Preference Policy and Guidance (December 2012), the power marketing administrations may likely play a pivotal role as Tribes look at options related to selling to federal facilities. We acknowledge that additional and dedicated technical expertise is needed now and into the foreseeable future to work with Tribes and assist in the navigation of Western's interconnection and transmission service process as well as facilitate generation market opportunities with potential off-takers (e.g., preference customers, federal facilities).

We have the benefit of having tribal experiences beyond WAPA and with other power marketing administrations which may provide unique perspectives to this effort. We encourage a dialogue with WAPA with respect to how best to serve Tribes in scoping out an effective, responsive liaison position and tribal efforts throughout WAPA.

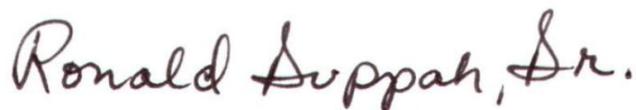
ICEIWG-JOT Open Dialogue

ICEIWG requests the opportunity to have an open dialogue with the Joint Outreach Team through either a conference call or a face-to-face meeting to discuss the draft recommendations and implications for tribes in more detail.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Draft Recommendations. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at rsuppah@wstribes.org or (541) 553-3257 or Jim Manion, General Manager, Warm Springs Power at j_manion@wspower.com or (541) 553-1046.

Sincerely,

The Indian Country Energy and Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG)



Vice Chairman Ronald Suppah
Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation
ICEIWG Co-Chair