



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF
ENERGY

Office of
Indian Energy

TRIBAL LEADER FORUM SERIES

TRIBAL ENERGY AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT: TRIBAL UTILITY FORMATION

July 27, 2015

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center
2401 12th St NW
Albuquerque, NM 87104
(505) 843-7270

The eleventh in a series of planned United States Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Indian Energy-sponsored strategic energy development forums, this Tribal Leader Forum will focus on the tribal utility as a structure for long-term economic growth and meeting the needs of tribal communities.

The forum will give Tribal leaders and staff an opportunity to interact with other Tribes, federal agencies, and experts in the energy industry to learn more about Tribal utility formation and regulation. A blend of informative sessions and interactive roundtables brings beginners and experienced practitioners together for a national dialogue of fundamentals and best practices for tribal utilities.

Objectives:

- Explore the fundamental opportunities and challenges in capturing the benefits of tribal energy from the perspective of tribal utilities
- Create a better understanding of the role, function and power of the tribal utility in achieving tribal policies
- Establish an ongoing dialogue among tribal leaders to help shape the future of tribal energy and tribal utilities

DRAFT AGENDA**CONFERENCE ROOM – TBD**

8 – 8:30 a.m.	BREAKFAST
8:30 – 9:15 a.m.	WELCOME, INTRODUCTIONS AND OPENING REMARKS Christopher Clark- Deschene , Director, U.S. DOE Office of Indian Energy (IE) Sarai Geary , Program Manager, Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, U.S. Department of Energy
9:15 – 10:45 a.m.	Why Form a Tribal Utility? A Strategic Tool for Economic Growth, Building Tribal Capacity and Advancing Self Determination Tribal utilities are more than a business selling energy to consumers. This session will explore the basic structure, function and role of the tribal utility in achieving the tribe’s big picture goals including strategic energy and economic planning, reducing energy costs, improving the quality of life for tribal members, building tribal capacity and experience and keeping tribal culture and values at the core of economic growth. Sandra Begay-Campbell , Principal Member of the Technical Staff, Sandia National Laboratories (moderator) Douglas C. MacCourt , Partner & Chair, Tribal Business Practice, Ater Wynne LLP Walter W. Haase , General Manager, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority
10:45 – 11 a.m.	BREAK
11 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.	Roundtables: Tribal Utility 101 - Regulation, Finance and Business Structure Options This interactive trio of concurrent roundtables provides every attendee a forum for exploring three critical forces that shape tribal utilities and the services they provide to tribal and non-tribal customers: regulation, finance and the choice of business structures available to tribes for creating and operating the tribal utility. Each roundtable will last twenty minutes and participants will attend all three sessions. Sarai Geary , Program Manager, U.S. Department of Energy (moderator) Thora Padilla , Tribal Natural Resources Director, Mescalero Apache Tribe (<i>invited</i>) Heather M. Kie , General Manager, Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority Rex P. Kontz , Deputy General Manager, Navajo Tribal Utility Authority (<i>invited</i>)
12:30 – 1:30 p.m.	LUNCH
1:30 – 3 p.m.	Renewable Energy, Water, Telecom and Internet: Capturing Opportunities and Competing in the Marketplace

	<p>Tribal utilities provide customers with a wide variety of services, including electricity from renewable resources, water, wastewater, natural gas, telecom, internet and other benefits. Tribal utilities providing these services understand the significant hurdles to competing in the utility market, including updating federal and tribal regulations, integrating renewable energy into existing transmission grids, community vs. utility scale project development, the need for distributed generation, capturing financial incentives, securing purchase power agreements, and creating a stable, sustainable economic platform for addressing climate change and protecting tribal resources for future generations. This session will explore how tribal utilities can address these issues with case studies from across Indian Country.</p> <p>Abe Ellis, Photovoltaic Systems Manager, Sandia National Laboratories (moderator) Tohono O’odham Nation</p> <p>David Grantham, Director, Energy, Environmental and Economic Development, Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa Indians</p> <p>Leonard Gold, GRIUA General Manager or John Lewis, GRICUA Board Chair (invited)</p>
<p>3 – 3:15 p.m.</p>	<p>NETWORKING BREAK</p>
<p>3:15 – 4:45 p.m.</p>	<p>Policy Panel: Emerging Tribal, Federal and State Objectives and the Future of the Tribal Utility</p> <p>Current and emerging policies impact all aspects of tribal and non-tribal utility operations. Some of these initiatives – including trust reform, pending federal energy legislation and the creation or renewal of key financial incentives – could open greater opportunities for tribes and tribal utilities. Tribal and energy sector leaders from previous sessions and those listed below will explain these policies and all participants will explore opportunities to shape the future of tribal energy.</p> <p>Laurence Brown, Government Relations Manager, Sandia National Laboratories (moderator)</p> <p>Christopher Clark- Deschene, Director, U.S. DOE Office of Indian Energy (IE)</p> <p>Simon Boyce, Policy Director, Navajo Nation Washington Office</p> <p>Jeffrey Shields, General Manager, South San Joaquin Irrigation District and Board Member, The Utility Reform Network</p> <p>New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (<i>invited</i>)</p>
<p>4:45 – 5 p.m.</p>	<p>CONCLUSION & WRAP-UP</p>