

CONSORTIA INTERIM PROGRESS REPORTS

Keystone Policy Center

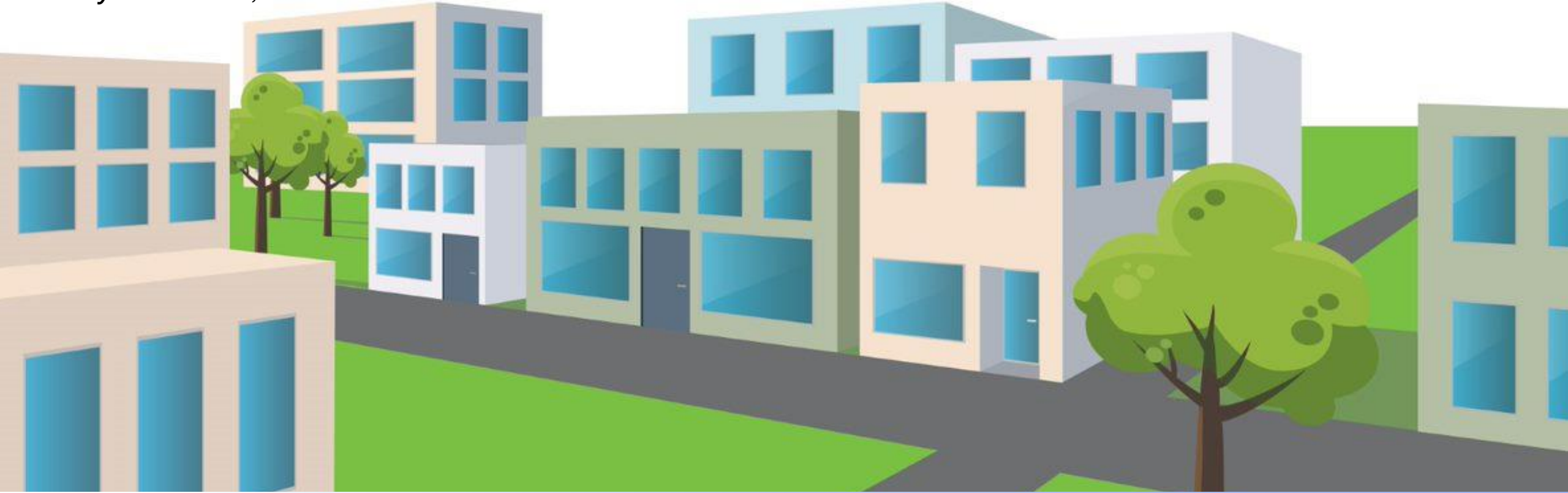


Office of
NUCLEAR ENERGY



KEYSTONE TEAM – WITH SERI, NARC & GDFWATCH

*Consent-based Siting Consortia – Quarterly Meeting #4
May 22 and 23, 2024*



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This project is being funded in part by the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE).
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DOE's Consent-based Siting for Interim Storage Program: DE-FOA-0002575



Creating the Conditions and Capacity for Communities to Willingly Participate in Consent-Based Siting

- Formalizing agreements for Year 1 engagement plans with four broad communities from different regions – Southeast, Midwest, Rocky Mountain West – and exploring the possibility of a multi-Tribe convening in a Western city.
- Two engagements are with regional Councils of Government, one is with a rural community building a civic leadership network and one, in very preliminary stages, is with an organization that represents large Tribes throughout the West.
- Developing potential collaborations with SCU and ASU – harnessing respective expertise to enhance each other's projects.



Overall Project Progress

- Formalizing agreements for Year 1 engagement plans with four broad communities from different regions – Southeast, Midwest, Rocky Mountain West – and exploring the possibility of a multi-Tribe convening in a Western city.
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Key Developments

Advancing plans with four Year 1 communities

- Multiple exploratory and planning meetings held
- Project proposals drafted or underway
- Interviews and desk research underway to learn about community history, cultures, challenges, and engagement dynamics
- Early consideration of range of grant options and projects to fund



Engagement

- **Community A (Southeast):** Majority-minority, mostly rural, environmental justice community vulnerable to toxic releases, flooding, and wildfires. Awaiting community feedback on project proposal before formalizing MOU and requesting grant application. We are planning capacity-building retreat to better equip the community to build consensus internally and advocate effectively with nearby industrial facilities.
- **Community B (West):** Sprawling rural community struggling with housing issues, underserved immigrant population, and need for regional visioning. Working with COG staff to finalize project proposal and proceed to MOU. We are outlining a vision for capacity-building retreat; topics include conflict resolution and de-escalation, collaborating across political & other cultural differences.

Engagement

- **Community C (Midwest):** Largely urban region concerned about implementing several planning projects in the next year, with a history of some effective collaboration but struggling with pattern of local community interests impeding regional planning. We are outlining a vision for capacity-building to include creative approaches to effective convening and consensus-building.
- **Community 4 (West):** Tribal Roundtable. Working with a representative of a multi-Tribe coalition to convene a discussion of several Tribes. The envisioned roundtable likely would be convened in a Western city, involving briefings on relevant matters of science and policy to lead up to a dialogue about effective and equitable consent-based siting.

Engagement Details

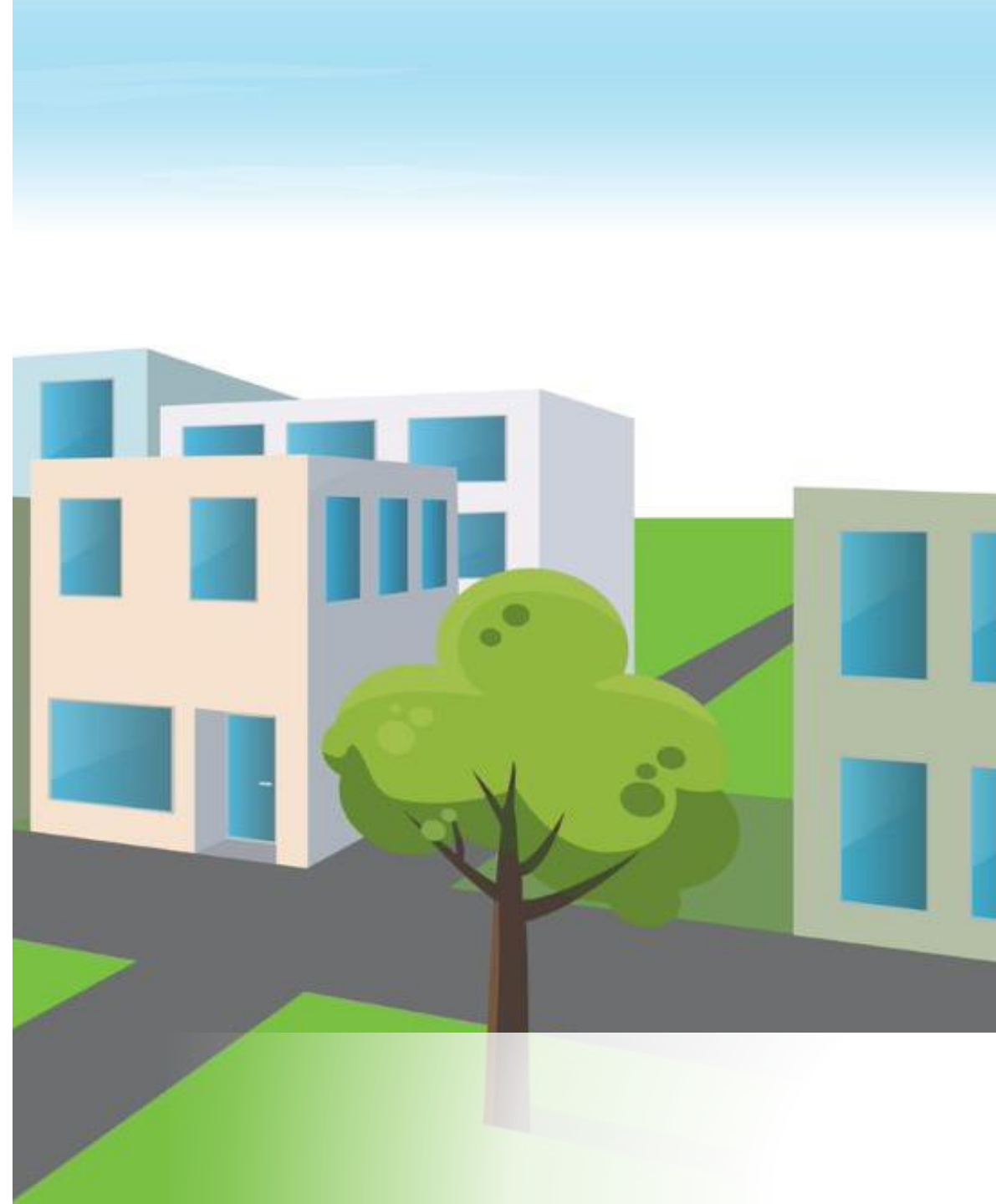
Event / Task	Date	Location	Brief description (if not in previous slides)	# of Participants
First visit	April 25-27	Community A (Southeast)	Introductory meeting with app. 20 community representatives, immersive tour of community, interviews with 12 individuals (and counting)	App. 25

Key Observations

- At this phase of our community engagements, we are not able to share any distinct observations.
- As we move through the engagement process, we anticipate summarizing community characteristics and challenges and sharing those with the participating communities to receive their endorsement of our assessment. At that point we'll be able to share specific relevant observations.

Expected Next Steps

- MOUs with three Year 1 communities.
- Interviews and desk research completed, with summaries made available to community partners.
- Initial learning visits to Communities B and C.
- Capacity-building workshops planned for all three communities, and conducted for at least Community A.
- Year 1 community subgrant applications submitted, reviewed, and approved.
- Tribal Roundtable scheduled, agenda drafted, invitations issued.
- Start Planning for Year 2 - International and US nuclear communities

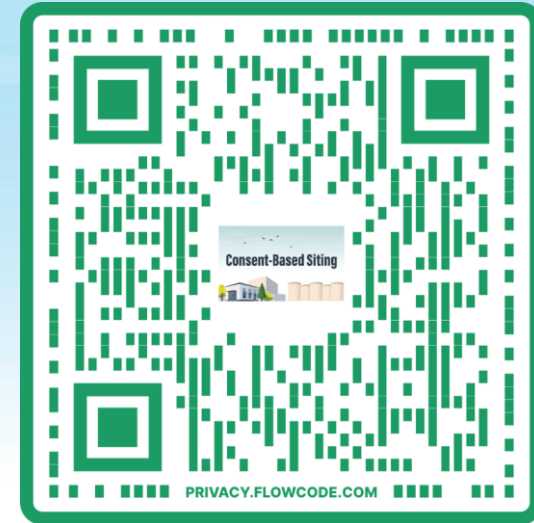


For questions or comments related to this consortium, please contact

Name: Brad Sperber

Email: bsperber@keystone.org

Phone: +1 (301) 233-0734



For more information, visit us at energy.gov/consentbasedsiting

