

DOE OFFICE OF INDIAN ENERGY

# 2024 Program Review





Welcome

# Invocation

## Wayne Yazza Jr., Utilities Director Picuris Pueblo



# Lizana Pierce, Senior Engineer and Deployment Supervisor



- Lizana Pierce manages the implementation of all Office of Indian Energy deployment programs: technical assistance, financial assistance, and education and capacity building.
- As Deployment Supervisor, she also serves as the principal engineering expert on these programs for the Director and Deputy Director.
  - Holds a Bachelor of Science degree in mechanical engineering
  - Brings 30 years of experience in energy technologies, project development, and management
  - Has dedicated the last 25 years to assisting Indian tribes in developing their energy resources and building their human capacity to realize their energy visions

*“One of the things that motivates me the most is the ability to touch people [and] to see how these energy projects have had a positive impact on the everyday lives of people and tribal communities.”*

# Leadership



**Wahleah Johns**, Director,  
Washington, D.C.



**David Conrad**, Deputy Director,  
Washington, D.C.

# Wahleah Johns, Director

- Director Johns carries primary responsibility for upholding and advancing the Office of Indian Energy's mission *to maximize the development and deployment of energy solutions for the benefit of American Indians and Alaska Natives.*
- A member of the Navajo (Diné) Tribe from northeastern Arizona, she has deep experience in renewable energy and community organizing.
  - Cofounded Native Renewables, a nonprofit that builds renewable energy tribal capacity while addressing energy access
  - Helped win groundbreaking legislative victories for groundwater protection, green jobs, and environmental justice through her work with the Black Mesa Water Coalition and Navajo Green Economy Coalition
  - Awarded the Nathan Cummings Foundation Fellowship in 2019



*“We have to think through how to really give tribes access to determine what type of energy future they want and be able to participate and actually be generators of power if they want. . . . I love to tackle challenging issues, and this is one that I really want to take on.”*

# David Conrad, Deputy Director

- Deputy Director Conrad brings decades of intergovernmental affairs experience in energy, environment, economic development, and natural & cultural resources.
- A citizen of the Osage Nation, oil & gas development on the Reservation influenced him to pursue pathways in environmental policy.
  - Supported tribal and local governments in intergovernmental, legislative, and public affairs roles; worked with legislative bodies at the federal, tribal, state, and local levels
  - Held executive leadership positions with the National Tribal Environmental Council and the Council of Energy Resource Tribes
  - Recently served as the Director of the Office of Public Affairs for the Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs in the Department of the Interior, managing press relations, digital media, and communications

*“The whole notion of energy sovereignty is even a possibility—that people can make choices that fit their lives and their visions of their futures more appropriately. I think that's the brightest spot on the horizon.”*

