U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY

USEA
United States Energy Association

REPORT

FOSSIL ENERGY TRIBAL WORKING GROUP

SPRING MEETING 2026

March 17 – 18, 2026
United States Energy Association
Washington, DC

BACKGROUND – FOSSIL ENERGY TRIBAL WORKING GROUP

The Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group (FETWG) is a collaborative partnership between the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (DOE-HGEO) and Tribal Leaders. Its mission is to provide Tribal perspective and strategic guidance to unleash the full potential of tribal fossil energy production; streamline coal, oil, and natural gas resource development; and assert energy sovereignty to drive reliable baseload power, strengthen grid reliability, and secure American Energy Dominance.

The Federal Government has a treaty and trust responsibility to protect Tribal sovereignty and to revitalize Tribal communities, including through economic and energy development. Ensuring Tribal access to funding and incentive opportunities requires sufficient outreach and coordination. As such, the Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group was formally established in Fall 2024 to provide a portion of this outreach and coordination. The purpose of the Tribal Working Group is two-fold:

1. Accelerate the Tribes' development of their vast energy resources and potential to contribute to American Energy Dominance

2. Empower the Tribes with fossil energy resources to gain full access to available funding and incentive opportunities.

To achieve these goals, the Working Group will provide input, local knowledge, and expertise to the Federal Government on the best ways to assist Tribes' fossil energy development efforts, as well as the utilization of their natural resources.

THE FOSSIL ENERGY TRIBAL WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

FETWG meetings, organized with assistance from the United States Energy Association (USEA) and funding provided by the U.S. Department of Energy's Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (DOE-HGEO), are a regular venue for dialogue with tribes on energy opportunities, options, and collaboration.

The most recent meeting, taking place on March 17 – 18, 2026, at the Headquarters of the United States Energy Association, was the 9th in a series dating back to the first Trump administration. The previous meetings took place in Moab, Utah in November 2019; Las Vegas, Nevada, in September 2022; Moab, Utah in March 2023; Santa Fe, New Mexico in October 2023; Jackson Hole, Wyoming in April–May 2024; in Medora, North Dakota in October 2024; In Washington, DC in May 2025, and in Norman, Oklahoma in September 2025.

The meeting was convened by tribal leaders, DOE officials, and partner organizations to advance tribal energy self-determination, resource management, and capacity building. Co-Chairs William D. McCabe (Navajo) and Curt Coccodrilli (Principle Deputy Assistant Secretary, DOE-HGEO) opened the session by emphasizing the Working Group's mission to help tribes transition from passive royalty recipients to active owners and developers of their fossil energy resources while navigating regulatory, financial, and technical barriers and calling for concrete deliverables and action items.

Invited tribes included Caddo Nation; Crow Nation; Fort Peck Tribes (virtual); Hopi Nation (unable to attend); Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope (unable to attend); Kiowa Tribe; Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation (virtual); Navajo Nation; Osage Nation (virtual); Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Ute Mountain Ute. Federal participants included the DOE Hydrocarbons and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO), the DOE Office of Indian Energy (DOE-IE), the DOE Office of Energy Dominance Financing

(EDF), and the Department of Interior's Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA).

While the meeting concluded with a commitment from all participants to compile and submit a list of actionable items to DOE, the following items emerged from discussions across both days:

- Streamline BIA and interagency permitting processes, reducing the 48-step TERA pathway and consolidating multi-agency review timelines.
- Address NEPA burdens, outdated leasing templates, and unresolved unit agreements for tribal energy projects.
- Establish MOU templates across agencies to expedite energy development approvals.
- Develop and distribute a white paper outlining the end-to-end process for financing a tribal energy project, tailored by project type (oil and gas, coal, geothermal, data center) and tribal jurisdiction.
- Establish a Tribal Project Finance Training Program -- to include presentation to Tribal Councils -- covering project structuring, financial modeling, sovereign immunity considerations, and lender due diligence requirements.
- Work with EDF to clarify and streamline eligibility criteria, reduce barriers between Part 1 and Part 2 application stages, and provide dedicated Tribal liaisons for project continuity.
- Enable tribal resource assets (proven reserves, royalty streams) to serve as collateral for federal and private financing.
- Advance federal coordination on port development for coal and LNG exports, including potential Special Economic Zone designation for Crow Nation on the I-90 corridor.
- Engage rail companies and transmission operators on tribal resource transportation corridors.
- Address grid access constraints that leave tribal energy stranded, particularly for the Crow Nation and Navajo Nation.
- Explore produced water reuse for data center cooling in applicable jurisdictions.
- Fund updated mineral assessments for tribes where characterization data is decades out of date (e.g., Crow Nation's last mineral assessment dates to 1973).
- Support CO_2 EOR feasibility studies and source identification for tribes with EOR potential, including the Osage Nation's Argonne National Laboratory work on 90+ million recoverable barrels.
- Expand DOE geothermal resource mapping on tribal lands; invite geothermal presentations to future FETWG meeting agendas.
- Investigate reuse of plugged oil and gas wells for geothermal energy applications.
- Expand the PACT Initiative and tribal college programming, with a particular focus on petroleum engineering, accounting, and environmental technology.
- Fund travel and housing for tribal students at national laboratory summer programs.
- Develop high school-level energy career awareness programs in tribal communities.
- Consider regional tribal utility commission models to build regulatory and procurement capacity.
- Create a centralized, DOE-IE-maintained database of vetted data center developers for tribal reference.
- Develop tribal negotiating guidance for data center land lease and power purchase agreements, including water use provisions and long-term equity stakes.

In addition to these topics, each tribe was asked to submit an actionable list of priorities to FETWG Secretary, Demi Morishige following the meeting. HGEO will use these lists to attempt to assist the tribes further in areas under their authority. It was also agreed that the next meeting of the FETWG would be hosted by Crow Nation in Montana in June, followed by a meeting at Colorado School of Mines in September. The FETWG plans at least one annual meeting in Washington, D.C., to facilitate engagement with DOE and Congressional leadership.

SUMMARY OF DISCUSSIONS

DAY 1: Tribal Working Group Limited to TWG Members + 1

The first day focused on introductions, the history of the Working Group, and a tribal roundtable in which each member tribe presented the current state of their energy resources and development priorities. DOE officials provided updates on their programs and priorities under the current administration. Discussions underscored the scale of tribal fossil resources, the structural and regulatory barriers to development, and the opportunities for stronger federal-tribal collaboration.

Key Takeaways from the Discussions

- **Working Group History and Leadership Comments**

  Co-Chair Bill McCabe (Navajo) emphasized the urgency of the Energy Dominance era and the importance of DOE as the central federal partner -- "where the brain trust is held" -- for tribal energy engagement.

  Co-Chair Curt Coccodrilli (DOE-HGEO, Acting Assistant Secretary) highlighted the history of tribal oral traditions and their role in early fossil exploration efforts. He called for concrete, executable deliverables: addressing extraction, transportation, export markets, and royalty structures. He identified priority corridors from Alaska to Mexico encompassing all tribal energy resources and how to best utilize the R&D from the national labs, financing from EDF, and other resources of the federal government.

  John Lassek (DOE-HGEO, Deputy Assistant Secretary – Subsurface Energy) stressed data-driven decision-making and alignment with industry. He highlighted programs in coal, oil and gas, and geothermal, including doubling O&G recovery factors from the current 10% through unconventional sources, a $171 million funding opportunity for geothermal, and expressed a commitment to treating tribes as industry partners.

  Eric Mahroum (DOE Office of Indian Energy) outlined four priorities: inter-agency communications and technical assistance, workforce development for the next generation, energy affordability (approximately 23,000 tribal homes lack electricity), and public-private partnerships that screen out bad actors.

  Demi Morishige (Southern Ute) announced that the Jicarilla Apache Nation has officially joined the Working Group, expanding representation. Upcoming meetings are planned in Washington, D.C., Montana (hosted by Crow Nation), and at Colorado School of Mines.

- **Tribal Roundtable -- Resource Status and Priorities**

  Ute Mountain Ute: Focused on O&G and helium exploration. A DOE EMDP-funded 2D seismic survey identified approximately 100 new drilling prospects. The tribe is evaluating whether to conduct 3D seismic independently (at approximately $3 million) or partner with an outside investor. PacificCorp corridor discussions are underway for transmission access. A 600 MW pumped hydro project is also under development.

  Osage Nation: Holds 1.5 million acres with 50,000 wells drilled and 16,000 currently producing, yielding approximately 10,000 barrels per day. An Argonne National Laboratory study identified over 100 million barrels recoverable via CO_2 enhanced oil recovery (EOR) in legacy fields, but CO_2 supply is limited and regulatory hurdles -- including NEPA and endangered species issues -- have constrained new drilling since 2014.

Fort Peck: Currently focused on solar energy and reducing energy costs for a very rural community.

Caddo Nation: Actively inventorying O&G assets across 18 formations in the Anadarko Basin. Leases are trading at $1,000 to $5,000 per acre with $44 million in recent royalty distributions. The tribe received $3.7 million to plug wells and is exploring horizontal drilling (approximately $12 million per well) as well as seeking loan guarantee access.

Southern Ute Indian Tribe: Has operated a tribal Department of Energy since the 1980s. The tribe has moved from passive royalty recipient to equity owner in upstream and midstream assets. A new CO_2 pipeline came online in January, with plans to capture 500,000 tons per year. Current focus is on the Mancos Shale play, pipeline constraints, and leveraging gas for power generation for tribal members.

Crow Nation: Holds an estimated 17 billion tons of coal but faces severe infrastructure and grid constraints. The tribe has been unable to export coal due to port access limitations. Leadership raised the possibility of Special Economic Zone designation and a 500-acre private port development on the I-90 corridor. Data centers and AI infrastructure were discussed as potential uses of stranded energy assets.

Navajo Nation: With over 400,000 enrolled Tribal Citizens and 17 million acres of Trust Land, the budget to operate a self-sustaining government is significant. Navajo has long relied on revenue from both coal and oil operations - primarily as a passive royalty participant. However, with declining oil production and the persistent closures of coal-fired power generating facilities, the Tribe is challenged to meet the objectives of serving the 160,000 Navajo Citizens who reside on the Navajo Reservation. As an Energy Tribe, Navajo Nation has engaged in updated and overall assessment of their resources. These studies indicate significant potential for increased revenue. With over 100 years of remaining coal reserves, optimization of the existing 1.5 billion barrel giant oil field along with increased ownership share from current the 36%, further review of the San Juan Basin for shale oil and unconventional natural gas, and expanded studies for what is described as a world class helium opportunity; the Navajo Nation looks to US DOE for technical support and financial access to unleash the constraints currently restraining the Navajo Nation as a primary participant of America's goal of energy dominance.

- **Cross-Cutting Themes from Tribal Roundtable**

  Tribes collectively hold an estimated 30% of U.S. coal resources, 10% or more of oil and gas, and significant geothermal and helium assets -- yet these holdings are not reflected in community wealth or quality of life.

  A recurring theme was the gap between resource potential and realized benefit, driven by regulatory barriers, infrastructure deficiencies, and underdeveloped federal partnerships.

  Curt Coccodrilli said he is committed to elevating tribal issues through the National Energy Dominance Council and to engaging BIA, DOI, the National Coal Council, and the National Petroleum Council on tribal priorities.

- **Geothermal Energy Briefing**

  DOE's Geothermal Technology Office presentedon geothermal energy opportunities relevant to tribal lands, covering the full spectrum from thermal energy networks for heating and cooling to next-generation Enhanced Geothermal Systems (EGS) and closed-loop systems capable of gigawatt-scale power generation.

  Geothermal offers firm, baseload power with capacity factors greater than 90%, making it a

strategically secure energy source.

Geothermal power potential is concentrated in the western United States and Hawaii; current installed capacity is approximately 4 GW, with 1 GW of next-generation systems in development.

Major corporate PPAs are advancing: Alphabet/Google has contracted with Fervo Energy for 500 MW in Utah; Meta is partnering with Sage (Texas) and XGS (New Mexico) for approximately 150 MW.

A new DOE Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) opened on February 25 supporting EGS pilots, field tests, and drilling demonstrations.

About 50% of geothermal resources are "blind" -- no surface expression -- meaning significant potential exists on tribal lands that may not yet be identified.

Osage Nation expressed interest in geothermal development, having already completed a geothermal network project for tribal administrative buildings with significant energy savings.

DOE noted that reuse of plugged oil and gas wells for geothermal is being actively studied, particularly through Oklahoma State University partnerships.

A motion was made, seconded, and passed unanimously to invite geothermal to future FETWG meeting agendas as an informational topic, while not formally adding geothermal as a core Working Group portfolio item at this time.

DAY 2: Expanded Stakeholder Engagement – Industry and Partners

The second day expanded participation to industry representatives, federal agency partners, and other stakeholders. Sessions covered Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) financing mechanisms, BIA updates on tribal energy governance, data center opportunities, and workforce development.

Key Take-Aways from the Discussions

- **Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) -- Sebastian Jano**

  EDF has a $20 billion mandate for deployment into Indian Country. Financing is offered at Treasury rate plus 3/8%, available as direct loans or loan guarantees. Direct loans are preferred to avoid dual diligence with bank guarantees.

  Off-reservation projects require 100% tribal ownership; on-reservation projects have more flexibility. EDF is exploring smaller equity stake structures to lower the capital barrier for tribes.

  The application process involves a Part 1 high-level overview, followed by Part 2 detailed diligence (permitting, financial modeling, site control). Tribes successfully clear Part 1 but often struggle with the lift required for Part 2.

  AI/data center projects may present an entry point for billion-dollar-scale tribal projects, though hyperscalers are only beginning to open to tribal opportunities. EDF encouraged a forward-looking mindset and cautioned against letting historical difficulties foreclose economic opportunity.

  Tribal sovereignty waivers and arbitration agreements are often prerequisites for private financing; EDF encouraged tribes to develop track records and legal frameworks that enable transactions while protecting tribal interests.

A white paper was proposed outlining the end-to-end process for financing a tribal energy project -- from concept to closing -- tailored by project type and tribal jurisdiction.

- **BIA Update -- Kennis Bellmard, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs**
  BIA is holding its 2nd Indian Energy Summit in Houston to facilitate tribal-industry relations.

  Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs) are the primary vehicle for reducing the 48-step permitting process to approximately five steps. BIA is building a capacity-building pathway to help tribes qualify for TERAs.
  The Indian Service Center in Lakewood is being developed as a one-stop shop for BIA, BLM, and related agency coordination on tribal energy matters.

  New NEPA announcements and reduced timeframes for Section 106 reviews are expected to accelerate project timelines. Staff training on new NEPA procedures is underway.

  Probate backlogs remain a significant obstacle to leasing and title clearance. BIA emphasized the importance of tribes building business capacity separate from tribal politics to qualify for commercial financing.

- **Data Center Opportunities -- DOE Office of Indian Energy**
  DOE-IE presented an overview of data center types (ranging from 0.1-2 MW modular/container to hyperscale campuses), noting that tribes have natural advantages in land availability and power proximity.

  Data centers require power, land, and water -- the first two of which tribes have in abundance. Water usage and cooling requirements scale with facility size and should be addressed early in negotiations.

  Data centers create limited direct employment (dozens, not hundreds) but bring significant infrastructure investment and co-location benefits. Noise and air quality (diesel backup generators) should be considered in siting near schools and hospitals.

  A proposal was made for a centralized tribal database of vetted data center developers to help tribes distinguish credible partners from bad actors.

  Crow Nation noted 16 billion gallons of industrial-use water capacity that could support cooling requirements.

  DOE-IE indicated it could provide legal and regulatory technical assistance for data center negotiations, including reviewing proposed developer contracts.

- **Tribal Finance Bootcamp – Will Polen, USEA**
  Following an initial presentation at the previous meeting in Oklahoma, USEA's Will Polen reintroduced a proposed **Tribal Project Finance Training Program** to equip tribal professionals with hands-on skills in project structuring, financial modeling, and negotiations.

  Participants strongly supported the initiative, stressing its importance for enabling tribes to shift from leasing arrangements toward direct ownership and operation of energy resources. Feedback indicated this content should also be presented to Tribal Councils, and that virtual delivery would increase accessibility.

  Key competitive advantages for tribes include tax status, land asset base, and proximity to

energy resources. Tribes have five enumerated competitive advantages for data center development specifically.

- **Workforce Development -- Caleb Woodall, DOE-HGEO**

  The upcoming PACT Initiative (Partnerships for Academic-Industry Career Training) includes $2.3 million dedicated to tribal colleges, covering trades in the hydrocarbon and geothermal portfolio. Applications will be available at TECHWERX.gov.

  The Mickey Leland Energy Fellowship supports STEM university students. Funding gaps for travel and housing remain barriers to participation in national lab programs.
  Priority workforce needs identified include: petroleum engineering, accountants, environmental technicians, and business operations positions. Workforce housing is an emerging constraint.

  Participants noted that 2/3 of tribal residents may benefit more from trade school pathways than traditional four-year university programs.

  High school-level awareness and career pathways were identified as a necessary foundation, with Crow Nation highlighting prior outreach to Doyle Anderson of FIELDS Education (Facilitators of Innovative Education, Leadership Development, & Sustainability) on this issue.

  Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory noted a funding gap for tribal students seeking summer internships (travel and housing). Sandia National Laboratories reported open positions in business operations.

- **DOE Office of Indian Energy -- David Conrad**

  IE is deploying the largest-ever financial assistance funding round, with a focus on electrification, strategic energy planning, and grant navigation.

  IE has incorporated a grant navigator that will assist in matching tribal energy plans with applicable federal programs across agencies and provide application status tracking.

  IE can act as a switchboard to other DOE offices and federal agencies for tribes. It is developing a Tribal Intern Program and continuing a program funding 1-2 years of a tribal employee's labor.

  IE noted the Indian Country Electric Infrastructure Working Group (ICEIWG), which focuses on mid- and downstream infrastructure and smaller-scale projects (including solar), and which complements the upstream focus of FETWG.

  DOE-IE is developing a Customer Relationship Management (CRM) tool to better track inter-agency engagement with tribal energy projects.

  Congress has provided $75 million for technical assistance; formula grant programs are also under development to reduce the administrative burden of applying for support.

While not on the planned agenda, Andrew Browning of the Western States Tribal Nations Natural Gas Initiative (WSTN) provided a quick update informing the group that it had released a major study quantifying tribal basin resources and making economic competitiveness cases for domestic and export markets. For instance, Arizona ranks in the top four domestic markets; the Pacific Northwest is a growth market. Additionally, Mr. Browning informed the group that WSTN is organizing a pre-CERAWeek event in Houston

featuring a breakfast with Asian nations and tribes to explore international LNG and coal export opportunities.

MEETING AGENDA

Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group (FETWG) Meeting with DOE Leadership

Date: March 17-18, 2026
Location: 1300 Pennsylvania Ave, NW, Suite 550, Washington, DC 20004

Day 1: FETWG Limited to TWG Members + 1
Strategic Planning Session
Reserved only for FETWG members and DOE Leadership

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM | Welcome Remarks & Introductions

- **William D. McCabe**, Co-chair, Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group (FETWG)
- **Tribal Leader**, Invocation Prayer
- **Mark W. Menezes,** President & CEO, Unites States Energy Association (USEA)
- Participant introductions (all attendees quickly introduce themselves)

10:15 AM – 10:30 AM | History & Establishment of the FETWG

- **Joseph Giove,** Director of Business Operations- Office of Coal, Hydrocarbon and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO)

10:30 AM – 10:40 AM | Address from the FETWG Co-Chairman

- **William D. McCabe**, Co-chair, Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group (FETWG)

10:40 AM – 11:00 AM | Priorities of the Administration

- **Curt Coccodrilli,** Acting Assistant Secretary Hydrocarbon and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO)
- **John Lassek,** Deputy Assistant Secretary, Office of Subsurface Energy
- **Eric Mahroum,** Director, Office of Indian Energy (OIE)

11:00 AM – 12:00 PM | Tribal Report and Round Table Discussion (Part I)

- **Chairman Bobby Gonzalez,** Caddo Nation
- **C.J. Stewart,** Crow Nation
- **Wilfred Lambert,** Fort Peck Tribes
- **Dr. Carrie Joseph,** Hopi Nation
- **Doreen Leavitt,** Iñupiat Community of the Arctic Slope
- **David Sullivan,** Kiowa Tribe
- **Chairman Mark Fox,** Mandan, Hidatsa, and Arikara (MHA) Nation
- **William McCabe,** Navajo Nation
- **Talee Redcorn,** Osage Nation
- **Demi Morishige,** Southern Ute Indian Tribe
- **David Balleau,** Ute Mountain Ute

12:00 – 12:45 PM | Networking Lunch Break

12:45 PM – 2:45 PM | Tribal Report and Round Table Discussion (cont'd)

2:45 PM – 3:00 PM | Break

3:00 PM – 3:45 PM | Administrative Item: Inclusion of Geothermal Topics

- **William Shinevar**, Fellow, Geothermal Technologies Office
- Discuss including geothermal in working group discussion

3:50 PM – 4:00 PM | FETWG Administration Item: Geothermal Motion

4:00 PM – 4:30 PM | DOE and FETWG Interactive Close-out Discussion

Day 2: Expanded Stakeholder Engagement – Information Sharing
Federal agencies, industry, and academic partners join tribal representatives

9:00 AM – 9:30 AM | Welcome/Introduction/ Recap

- **William D. McCabe**, Co-chair, Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group (FETWG)
- Introductions of FETWG, DOE Leadership and Guests- Roundtable introductions

9:30 AM – 10:30 AM | Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF)

- **Sebastian Jano,** Senior Investment Officer, Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) Overview

10:30 AM– 10:45 AM | Break

10:45 AM – 11:15 PM | United States Energy Association – Financial Bootcamp

- **Will Polen**, Senior Director, United States Energy Association

11:15 PM – 12:15 PM | Data Center AI Overview

- **Elisah Vandenbussche**, Permitting & Tribal Affairs- Presentation Title: Beyond Land Leases: Harnessing Data Center for Tribal Economic Development Economic Development
- Discussion on tribal opportunities and obstacles

12:15 PM – 1:00 PM | Lunch

1:00 PM – 2:00 PM | Federal Partnerships Open Discussion/Updates

- **Caleb Woodall,** Director Program Manager of the University Training and Research Program, Hydrocarbon and Geothermal Energy Office (HGEO)
- **David Conrad**, Deputy Director, Office of Indian Energy (OIE)
- **Kennis Bellmard**, Deputy Assistant Secretary- Indian Affairs for Policy and Economic Development, Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
- **Dr. Thomas Jones,** Tribal Affairs Specialist, Department of Energy (DOE)
- **Sebastian Jano,** Senior Investment Officer, Energy Dominance Financing (EDF)

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM | Break (Optional)

2:15 PM – 3:00 PM | Closing Discussion

- **William D. McCabe**, Co-chair, Fossil Energy Tribal Working Group (FETWG)

APPENDICES

- Energy Finance Division (EDF) -- Tribal Financing Overview and Eligibility Guidelines
- Data Centers: Exploring the Opportunity (DOE Office of Indian Energy)
- Tribal Finance Bootcamp Presentation (USEA)

U.S. Department of Energy | Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF)

5 Things To Know

About the Tribal Energy Financing Program (TEFP)

1 WHAT WE DO: INVEST IN TRIBAL ENERGY SOVEREIGNTY

With the considerable energy resources that exist throughout Indian country, developing energy projects can help address the nation's energy needs and create economic development opportunities for Tribes and ***EDF stands ready to assist with TEFP financing.***

2 WE ARE STAFFED, FUNDED & OPEN FOR BUSINESS

- **EDF has $20B in loan authority available for Tribal project financing**
- Direct loans or loan guarantees for third-party lenders
- Up to 30-year loan terms, which can include the construction period
- Financing available for up to 80% of eligible project costs
- Interest rate as low as 30-year Treasury + 3/8%

3 WE CAN COMBINE TEFP FINANCING WITH OTHER FEDERAL FUNDING

- **The Federal Support Restriction no longer applies**
- We have greater flexibility in project structuring, including:
  - o Projects supported by federal grants
  - o Participation by federal or government off-takers
- EDF works alongside technical assistance from offices like DOE Office of Indian Energy and BIA Division of Energy & Mineral Development

4 WE CAN FINANCE PROJECTS ACROSS EDF PRIORITY ENERGY SECTORS

- Coal, Oil and Gas & Hydrocarbons
- Critical Minerals & Materials
- Generation & Transmission (including geothermal, hydro & battery storage)
- Utilities
- Manufacturing & Transportation
- Nuclear
- Other energy sector projects may also be eligible

5 WE FOCUS ON BUILDING SUCCESSFUL PARTNERSHIPS WITH ELIGIBLE PARTIES

- Federally Recognized Tribes as well as Alaska Native Village or Regional Corporations
- Tribal Energy Development Organizations (TEDOs)
- Lenders that apply in partnership with Tribes for a loan guarantee

Next Steps

Why work with EDF to finance your tribal energy project?

Advantages of financing via TEFP:

- Focus on Tribal ownership
- Opportunity for energy investment on & off Tribal lands
- Flexibility in project design
- Direct loan option eliminates the need for Tribes to find a lender
- Economic development opportunities
- Informed decision making for Tribal Nations

Let's Talk About Your Project!

- **Reach out to EDF's TEFP team at TEFP@hq.doe.gov**
- Schedule a no-fee, no-commitment consultation to discuss your project at: **Energy.gov/EDF/Pre-App**

EDF's Tribal Energy Financing Program

The Tribal Energy Financing Program (TEFP) is available through DOE's Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF). Eligible applicants for the TEFP include Federally Recognized Tribes as well as Alaska Native Village or Regional Corporations, Tribal energy development organizations (TEDOs), and lenders that apply in partnership with Tribes for a loan guarantee. With the considerable energy resources that exist throughout Indian country, developing energy projects can help address the nation's energy needs and create economic development opportunities for Tribes. EDF coordinates with the Office of Indian Energy and other Federal Agency partners to identify and support potential applicants.

For more information, contact the TEFP team at: TEFP@hq.doe.gov

U.S. DEPARTMENT of ENERGY | Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs

Data Centers: Opportunities for Tribes

FETWG March 2026

Elisah VandenBussche

Office of Indian Energy Mission

The Office's mission is in its Congressional authorizing statute:

- **Promote** Tribal energy development, efficiency, and use.
- **Reduce** or **stabilize** energy costs.
- **Enhance** and **strengthen** Tribal energy and economic infrastructure.
- **Electrify** Indian lands and homes.

The Office of Indian Energy was established by Congress in the Energy Policy Act of 2005 under 45 USC 7144e & 25 USC 3502(b).

The remote Native Village of Unalakleet, Alaska completed two rounds of technical assistance with the Office of Indian Energy, focused on energy efficiency and microgrids. Photo by Werner Slocum / NREL.

Data Centers

Modular/Container

- Portable and scalable
- Rapid setup in remote or emergency scenarios
- 0.1-2 MW

Edge/Micro

- Small, modular units
- Low-latency services close to users and data sources
- < 1 MW

Enterprise

- Medium-to-large
- Secure, customized infrastructure for large organizations
- 1-10 MW

Colocation

- (Multi-Tenant) Large, shared facilities
- Cost-effective infrastructure for multiple businesses
- 5-50 MW

Hyperscale

- Extremely large
- Massive-scale operations with high efficiency
- 50-200+ MW

Data Centers: Opportunities & Considerations

Opportunities:

Land Leases

Power Purchase Agreements

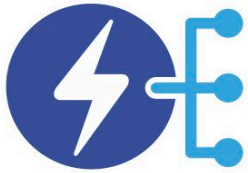
Infrastructure Development

Job Creation

Considerations:

Water Use

Local Impacts



Transmission Infrastructure and Interconnection

Fiber Connectivity

Speed is a key selling point for data center developers

How the Office of Indian Energy Can Help

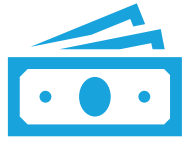
The Office of Indian Energy can support many different stages of the planning process.

Curious whether you have a good site for a data center?

Approached by a developer?

Interested in finding a developer to partner with?

Considering legal, regulatory, and/or utility impacts of a data center?



Looking for energy project funding?

Legal & regulatory technical assistance	Introductions to developers	Educational resources & engineering TA	Site evaluation support

Contact the Office of Indian Energy to discuss your needs!

Stay Connected!

Office of Indian Energy
(240) 562-1352
indianenergy@hq.doe.gov
energy.gov/indianenergy

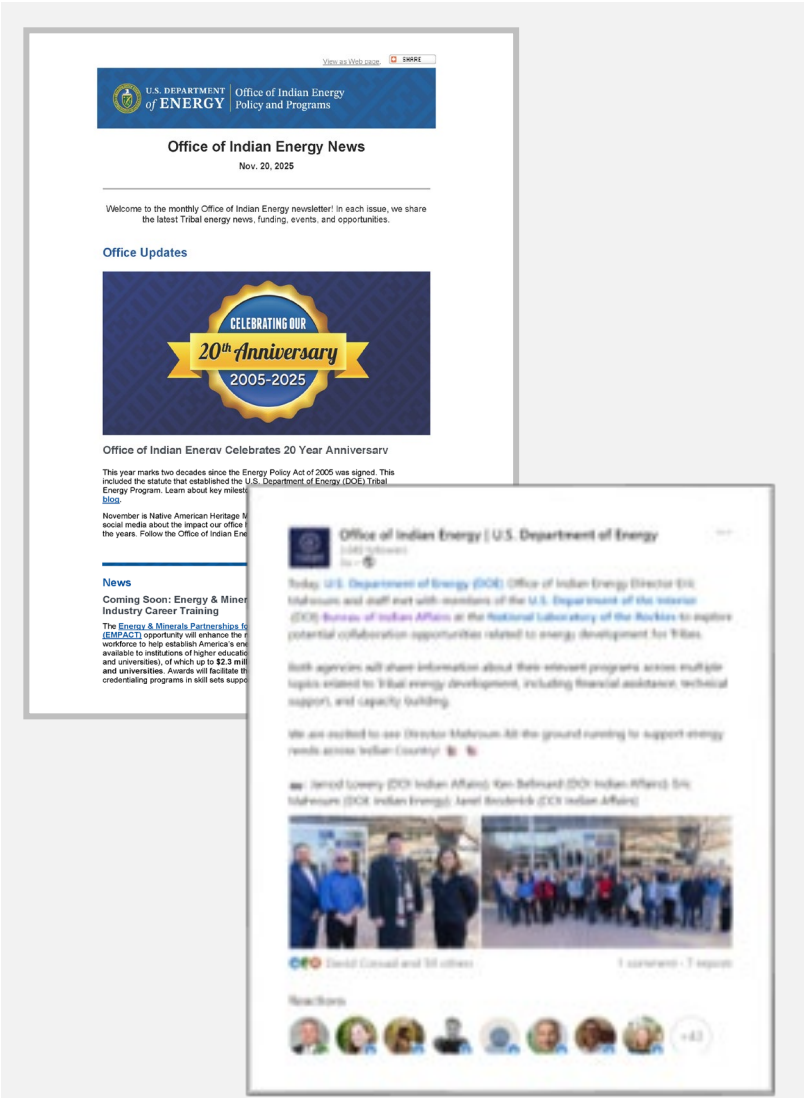
Subscribe to get our email updates:
energy.gov/indianenergy/office-indian-energy-newsletters

Social Media

facebook.com/DOEIndianEnergy

x.com/DOEIndianEnergy

linkedin.com/company/DOEIndianEnergy



Tribal Fossil Energy Project Finance Bootcamp

Initial draft proposal, not for distribution

What is USEA?

The United States Energy Association (USEA) is an association of public and private energy-related organizations, corporations, and government agencies. USEA represents the broad interests of the U.S. energy sector by increasing the understanding of energy issues, both domestically and internationally.

USEA's mission is "to promote the sustainable supply and use of energy for the greatest benefit of all."

About USEA

USEA was founded in 1924 and this year marks our 100th anniversary.

USEA's mission has two pillars of equal importance.

- USEA serves as a resource, by convening energy stakeholders to share policy, scientific, and technological information to foster the advancement of the entire energy sector.

- Internationally, USEA promotes energy development by expanding access to safe, affordable, sustainable, and environmentally acceptable energy in partnership with the U.S. Government.

Mark Menezes. President and CEO, USEA

About Consensus

- Cooperative Agreement with DOE-FE
- Builds domestic and international consensus on needs for coal
  - Stabilize
  - Optimize
  - Grow
- Convenes stakeholders through briefings, webinars, and workshops
- Produces Research Reports and White Papers
- Bi-monthly newsletter to keep stakeholders informed
- Supports FETWG

Why Training Matters & Objectives

- Coal = potential for revenue, jobs, economic development
- Independent Power Generation Projects use Non-Recourse Financing

Financial Markets	Risk Analysis
Contracts	Financial Modeling
Contracts	Project Management
Permitting	Power Markets
Technical Literacy	Project Structure

- Build tribal human capital for non-recourse coal projects
- Provide tribes with the knowledge & confidence to engage developers to structure, finance, and manage coal projects
- Support partnerships with U.S. government and private sector

Long-Term Vision

- Establish corps of tribal specialists in coal related project finance
- Enable tribes to own and operate coal projects
- Create models replicable across Indian Country
- Drive long-term tribal economic growth

Day 1: Foundations of Project Finance

- Welcome & Introductions
- Non-Recourse Project Finance Fundamentals
- Typical IPP Project Structure
- Assessing Risk
- Allocating Risk through Contracts
- Case Study: Financing Independent Power Project

Day 2 - 3: Financial Modeling for Non-Recourse Project Finance

- Overview of Model Design
- Revenue Modeling
- Capital Expenditures
- Operating Costs
- Financing Structure
- Return Analysis
- Sensitivity Analysis
- Bankability
- Hands on Modeling Exercise
- Certificate Presentation