

Energy and Mineral Development

Providing Information and Technology for the 21st Century

The Division of Energy and Mineral Development provides assistance to tribes in the development of energy and mineral resources on trust land and coordinates energy and mineral resource activities with other Federal, State, and local governmental agencies, industry personnel, and tribal governments.



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The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) was created by the Secretary of the Interior to address the overarching issue of economic development in Indian Country so that tribes would have a solid economic foundation to achieve self-governance. The mission of IEED is to enhance the quality of life and promote economic opportunity for American Indians and Alaska Natives in balance with meeting the responsibility to protect and improve their trust resources. IEED believes that vigorous economic development and creation of new jobs are the best antidotes to combat the economic and social malaise in Indian Country through consultation and outreach to Native American leaders, Indian Affairs policy-makers and decision-makers, and Indian people. ●



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Indian energy and mineral resources generated \$217 million in royalty revenue paid to tribes and individual Indians in 2000. It is estimated that an additional 15 million acres of undeveloped energy and mineral resources exist on allotted Indian and tribal lands.



The Division of Energy and Mineral Development provides technical advice to assist tribes with the exploration and development of 1.81 million acres of active and potential energy and mineral resources. The division is responsible for identifying resources, collecting exploration and engineering data, funding assessment studies, performing feasibility and market analyses, and other development initiatives. The division is responsible for reviewing exploration and development agreements for energy projects such as oil, gas, coal, uranium, geothermal, industrial mineral and metal deposits, and a variety of renewable energy projects located on Indian lands. The division is also responsible for developing, implementing, and reviewing bureau-wide policies and associated documentation related to development and production of energy and mineral resources on Indian lands.

The United States produces approximately 2.1 billion tons annually of natural aggregate in the form of crushed stone, sand, and gravel. These materials are primarily used in the construction industry for residential and commercial buildings, bridges, highways and airports; as bituminous mixes for road construction and parking lots; and as road base, railroad ballast, erosion control, landscaping, and road surfacing. Aggregate production accounts for about half of the non-fuel mining volume in the United States. Income to tribal governments from the sales of natural aggregates

far exceeds income generated from any other mining activity. The demand for aggregates is increasing because of growth and infrastructure replacement. Thus, potential income to tribes from new development of natural aggregate resources near the area of use is very significant.

Renewable energy relies on the natural flow of wind, running water, sunshine, and the earth's internal heat. Tribes today are seeking ways to develop their communities based on sound, long-term sustainable practices that include use of renewable energy and achievement of energy efficiency. No group of people in the United States has received fewer benefits from the conventional energy system than Native Americans. Native Americans pay the highest rates for fuel and electricity, have the highest percentage of non-electrified and non-weatherized housing, and have the least control over energy services.

The technologies available for saving energy and using renewable sources have improved significantly in recent years. Much has been learned about how to develop beneficial and cost-effective renewable energy projects. Many American Indians and Alaska Natives see renewable energy and energy efficiency as friendly to the environment and compatible with their development objectives. The division, under the Energy Policy Implementation Plan, is addressing renewable energy as part of its overall programmatic functions.

The division's Outreach program was established in 1988 to provide tribes with an opportunity to present results of mineral assessment and potential oil and gas projects to industry and government agencies. The division facilitates this by providing tribes with funding, technical assistance and representation at various industry and government trade shows. The key purpose for the program is to stimulate industry interest in exploration and development of resources on Indian lands. Since the initial inception of the program, outreach activities have expanded into many different areas including joint conferences with industry organizations, prospect fairs and expos, publications, and Internet commerce.

Left Photo: Wind turbine in South Dakota. **Right Photo:** Staff exploring aggregate resources in Wisconsin.

Division of Energy and Mineral Development

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