

Tribal Energy Subcommittee
Tuesday, July 3, 2018
10:00am-11:00am EST
Meeting Summary

AGENDA

- Welcome
- Roll call
- Update from DOI
- Categorical Exclusion
- Work group updates
- Next Steps
- Adjourn

Welcome and Roll Call

Update from DOI

- Jim James will take over for Dr. Steven Payson as Co-Director of the Tribal Energy Subcommittee. Dr. Payson will remain a member and continue participating. The Subcommittee thanks Dr. Payson for his service and looks forward to continuing to have him as a participating member.
- The Albuquerque RPC meeting summary will be posted to the RPC website soon and distributed to the members via email.

Categorical Exclusions

- As a follow up to discussions in Albuquerque, the Tribal Energy Subcommittee discussed the relevance of Categorical Exclusions (CX) to Indian Country.
- The 2005 Energy Policy Act included a statutory provision that gave CX status, under NEPA, to five different types of activities being undertaken by oil and gas companies under federal leases. Congress had heard that NEPA process was causing undue delay with respect to approval of applications for permits to drill.

TERA

- The TERA work group would like an update on regarding the June 2018 RPC recommendation and is considering next steps for the Denver meeting in September.

Model Statute

- The work group is reviewing comments on the model statute document and is looking for additional input. Some interested parties volunteered to work on this after the Albuquerque meeting.

Taxation

- The work group would like to set up a briefing with Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs Tara Sweeney about this issue and needs the names of people who want to be part of this briefing.

Next Steps

- BLM provide a presentation on CXs on the next Tribal Energy call.
- Subcommittee read background document provided by Councilman Red.
- Tribal Energy Subcommittee representatives brief new ASIA Tara Sweeney on its work for the RPC.
- Subcommittee members review the Council of Environmental Quality advance notice about proposed rule making regarding NEPA. Comments are due July 20, 2018.
- Jim James provide an update on the next call regarding internal DOI discussion about the RPC's TERA recommendation.
- Model Statute WG look at statutory acts that in which Indian lands are excluded/exempted.

Attendees

President Russell Begaye, Navajo, Subcommittee Co-Director

Matthew Adams, CloudPeak

John Andrews, State of Utah

Bidtah Becker, Navajo

Jackson Brossy, Navajo

John Fredericks, MHA Nation

Jim James, DOI

Natasha John, Navajo

Monte Mills, University of Montana School of Law

Dr. Steven Payson, DOI

Councilman Adam Red, Southern Ute

James Schindler, RPC Executive Director

Tom Schipps, Southern Ute

Kathleen Sgamma, Western Energy Alliance

David Smith

Rachel Milner Gillers, Facilitator