

**Tribal Energy Subcommittee  
Wednesday, March 20th, 2019  
10:00 AM – 11:00 AM EST  
Meeting Summary**

**DOI Update:**

- **DOI Activity:** The confirmation hearing for Acting Secretary Bernhardt is next week. Following that, it is expected that the Secretary will consider different options and next steps for the RPC. Some considerations include the need to renew the RPC Charter, which expires at the end of April. In the meantime, thanks to everyone for their patience and continued hard work. If the Charter is not renewed or there is a delay, all work on the RPC must stop.
- There has been some progress on some of the RPC recommendations. ONRR's new head of audits recently announced that audits will be completed within 16 months; the offshore economics study has been completed in response to the RPC's recommendation and can be found on BOEM's webpage. The onshore study portion will be finished and published this summer.
- Marcella Burke, a political appointee with the Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals office, will assist with the RPC's work.

**TERA Working Group Update**

- There was no announcement on TERA at the NCAI; however, the Department is using the RPC recommendation regarding TERAs.
- While there is no definite timeframe for the rollout of the TERA work, the RPC recommendation has provided a great starting point.
- Questions/Comments:
  - Prior to the shutdown, there was mention of a Department meeting to discuss TERA. Will there be a meeting and is there a way for the TERA Work Group to play a role in that? Jim James will find out.
  - During the next call, it would be helpful to:
    - get an update on CATEXs (perhaps from Southern Ute)
    - have a succinct summary of what is in S245. Specifically, the TES would appreciate information on the Department's plans regarding regulatory reviews and TERAs. Prior to the shutdown, the TES discussed a recommendation related to the regulatory review, specifically for the Department to take a closer look at inherently federal functions and to do so in a way that calls for adequate and meaningful Tribal Consultation. Jim will look into this.

**Model Statute Working Group**

- The Working Group is tweaking a draft of model statute language. Once the draft is ready, the Working Group will circulate it to the subcommittee for review. The plan is to circulate this to the full RPC at the next meeting.

**1938 Act Working Group**

- No update at this time.

### **Taxation Working Group**

- Cynthia will follow up with Chairman Fox regarding the Working Group and priorities.

### **Additional Items**

- During the next subcommittee call, it would be helpful for the subcommittee to be briefed on the steps that will be necessary for the Secretary (once confirmed) to review the Charter. The subcommittee would like to weigh in on the renewal, and wants to do so in a way that is helpful.

### **Roll Call**

Russell Begaye, Co-Chair

Jim James, Co-Chair

John Andrews

Chris Bahe, Navajo Nation

Bidtah Becker

Catherine Everett, MHA Nation

Natasha John, Navajo Nation

Santee Lewis, Navajo Nation

Michael Marchette, ONRR

Monte Mills, University of Montana

Cynthia Monteau, MHA Nation

President Jonathan Nez, Navajo Nation

James Schindler, James Schindler, DOI/BOEM, RPC Executive Director

Yvette Smith, ONRR

Deirdre McCarthy Gallagher, Facilitator