

## 2014 Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar Series

### Questions and Answers

#### “Pulling it All Together” Webinar

Oct 29, 2014

Speakers: Lizana Pierce of DOE; Amy Hollander of NREL; Brian Lipscomb is the CEO of Energy Keepers

Attendees: 64

Questions for Lizana Pierce of DOE:

- Q: The current grant programs that were outlined on the website appear to be for everyone, not exclusively tribes. Are there current programs dedicated to tribal entities only in FY15?
- A: Only Federally-recognized Tribes, Tribal Energy Resource Development Organizations and Tribal Consortia are eligible for funding opportunities offered through the Tribal Energy Program. However, “related opportunities” (list of other funding opportunities) included on the Tribal Energy Program website ([www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/related\\_opportunities.cfm](http://www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/related_opportunities.cfm)) are not exclusively offered only to Tribes. As the opportunities are offered by a variety of agencies/organizations, each has its own requirements and eligibility. However, we try to include opportunities which may be relevant to Tribes, Inter-tribal organizations, or tribal organizations. Be aware, however, that BIA’s Division of energy and Minerals (DEMD) typically offers a funding opportunity exclusively to Tribes for energy and mineral assessment each year. Also, there are specific opportunities through EPA (see their tribal website at <http://www.epa.gov/tribal/>). USDA also has a number of opportunities (grants and loans) for tribal entities.
- Q: Your slides show that DOE has invested \$48 million in 186 tribal energy projects between 2002 and 2013. What is the projected funding for the future (2014-2020)?
- A: The projected funding for the future is uncertain as funds are appropriated by Congress on an annual basis. However, historically, the program has average about \$6 million per year.
- Q: Is it possible to get an on-site workshop with hands on technical assistance for my tribe in FY2015?
- A: Yes. The DOE Office of Indian Energy and Tribal Energy Program offer up to 40 hours of in-depth [technical assistance](#) for federally recognized Indian Tribes, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities to advance tribal renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. Please fill out a technical assistance request at: [http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/technical\\_assistance.cfm](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/technical_assistance.cfm)

Examples of project development technical assistance include:

- Third-party independent reviews of transmission studies, financing structures, lease agreements, project reports, etc.
- Objective advice grounded in research and real-world experience on technologies
- Modeling and analysis (or assistance in using available modeling/analysis tools)
- Pre-feasibility transmission studies
- Interconnection agreement facilitation
- Economic evaluations



- System design reviews
- Other specific studies or analysis, upon request

Q: Could you repeat the grant resources available for Tribes?

A: The Tribal Energy Program website is an excellent resource for grant resources and other financial strategies: <http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/>.

Other funding sources to consider:

- DOE (Deployment of Clean Energy and Energy Efficiency on Indian Lands)
- United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) (See RBEG, RBOG, HCEG)
- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)–Tribal Energy and Mineral Dev grants
- Housing and Urban Development (HUD) (community development block grants)
- Solar Investors
- Power Purchase Agreements with outside investors
- Utility-scale projects with lease payments

Questions for Brian Lipscomb of Energy Keepers/Kerr dam acquisition

Q: Energy and ownership issues aside, because of the age of the original dam, have any environmental assessments been accomplished to determine the impact of the dam?

A: Yes, the Kerr Dam license was reissued by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 1985. Fish and wildlife loss assessments were conducted as part of this process resulting in mitigation measures being incorporated into the license in 1999 as ordered by the Secretary of Interior. This decision process required an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act.

Q: What does the acronym CSKT stand for? (The Kerr Plant is on CSKT-owned land.)

A: CSKT stands for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes. It is a constitutional government—governed by a popularly-elected ten-member Tribal Council.

Q: Has the Kerr Hydroelectricity Plant been updated for “run of the river” fish migration?

A: No, Currently there is not a fish passage requirement placed on the facility as part of the mitigation mainly because there are no migratory fish species requiring passage at this facility.

Q: What is the price per watt charged to customers of Kerr Plant?

A: Energy Keepers Inc. will operate as an independent power producer marketing the energy produced at Kerr into the wholesale market. The prices paid will be determined by the marketplace in 2016.

Q: When will the Kerr plant begin making a profit for CSKT, or when will the conveyance price of \$18.3M be paid back in power?

A: Energy Keepers Inc. is projecting a \$2 million to \$3.5 million dividend to be paid back to the Shareholder (CSKT) the first full year of operation which will be 2016.

Q: What is the rate of return expected to be for the first year of operations?

A: Energy Keepers, Inc. is projecting 12.16% return for the first full year of operations in FY2016.

### Links to Helpful Resources

To find this webinar recording and other WAPA Tribal Webinar Series recordings go to:

<http://ww2.wapa.gov/sites/western/renewables/Pages/Webcasts.aspx#2014tribe>



There are many resources available to help Tribes decide which renewable resource is best for them. These include:

- The DOE Office of Indian Energy offers [education and training](#) on project development and financing and renewable energy fundamentals and an [Energy Resource Library](#).
- Tribal-specific renewable energy curriculum developed by the DOE Office of Indian Energy can be accessed any time on the [National Training Education Resource website](#).
- Basic information on the [types of renewable energy](#), as well as [tools and resources](#) for assessing renewable energy potential, are available on the NREL website.
- [Energy 101](#) videos developed by the DOE Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy provide short, basic overviews of the various types of renewable energy.
- The DOE Office of Indian Energy and Tribal Energy Program offer up to 40 hours of in-depth [technical assistance](#) for federally recognized Indian Tribes, tribal energy resource development organizations, and other organized tribal groups and communities to advance tribal renewable energy and energy efficiency projects.
- The DOE offers [approved ESPC contractors](#). Please see this link.
- The DSIRE website records all rebates and resource information by state: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>
- The Tribal Energy Program tribal projects by technology: [http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/projects\\_technology.cfm#Biomass](http://apps1.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/projects_technology.cfm#Biomass)

Answers are provided by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory and webinar guest speakers. If you have additional questions, email [indianenergy@hq.doe.gov](mailto:indianenergy@hq.doe.gov). The Tribal Renewable Energy Webinar Series is sponsored by the DOE Office of Indian Energy, Tribal Energy Program, and Western Area Power Administration.

