

Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development
Respecting Tradition... While on the Path to Prosperity

Energy and Mineral Development



Who We Are...

The Division of Energy and Mineral Development provides the best technical and economic advice and services to assist Indian mineral owners in gaining economic self-sufficiency by creating sustainable economies through the environmentally sound development of their energy and mineral resources. Indian reservations – largely unexplored lands – hold vast natural resources, and our staff members are uniquely poised to offer services no other agency can provide.

Currently we offer technical advice in assisting tribes to explore and develop nearly 2 million acres of energy and mineral resources. An additional 15 million acres of undeveloped lands could hold the potential for further energy and mineral exploration.

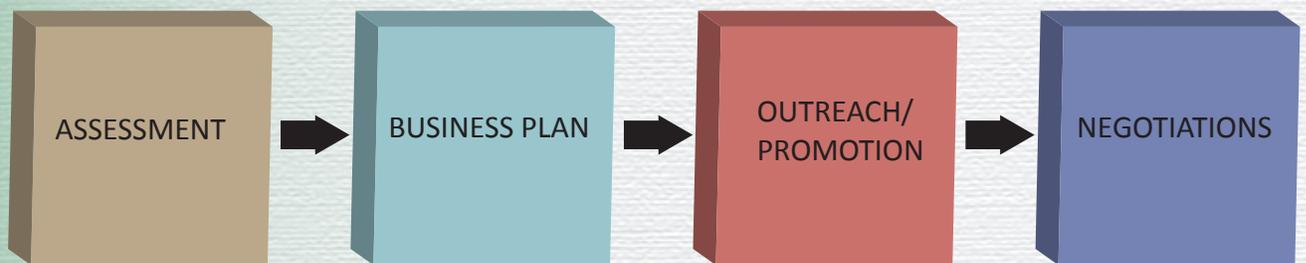
The Division is committed to identify tribal needs and how they best fit with their long-term desires. Once identified, the Division helps tribes develop their resources by finding the best companies to fit with tribal goals. The Division also helps Indians diversify and re-invest their money with other profitable enterprises that can create employment for their people

What We Do...

Our professionals are ready to:

- Help with lease negotiations
- Analyze mineral and energy resources
- Look at potential renewable energy resources
- Bridge the gap between technology and economics
- Review development agreements
- Encourage industry to work with tribes on environmentally sound development projects
- Help Indian tribes maximize their resource potential to whatever extent they desire

In 2007, Indian energy and mineral resources generated \$574 million for tribes and individual allottees



The chart above explains the process by which DEMD helps tribes meet their goals.

Renewable Energy

Renewable energy relies on the natural flow of wind, running water, sunshine, and the earth's internal heat. These concepts have always been a part of the American Indian's traditional ways.

Renewable energy development offers tribes the prospect of a sustainable energy future while preserving their traditions.

Top renewable energy development priorities are:

- Wind
- Solar
- Geothermal
- Biomass

The technologies available for saving energy and utilizing renewable resources have improved significantly in recent years. The division is playing a major role in achieving the current Administration's renewable energy goals by working on over 50 projects that include solar, wind, biomass, geothermal, and hydropower. These projects have been well received in Indian country because they resonate with the American Indian's strong environmental ethic.



IEED staff collects soil samples for pressed brick project on Crow Reservation.
Photo: Lynne Carpenter

Left: Division Staff and consultant check wind monitoring equipment for Oklahoma Cherokee Wind Project.
Photo: Winter Jojola-Talburt

Construction Aggregates

Today, many of America's highways and bridges need rebuilding. As the 21st century brings another wave of prosperity along with population increases, the problem of finding aggregate supplies to meet construction needs is growing, particularly on the West Coast and in the Sun Belt region. And it is on Indian lands where large reserves of sand and gravel, and crushed rock offer a quick, reachable solution.

More than 100 reservations with aggregate potential are located within five miles of an Interstate highway, and many with accessible by truck, rail and sea links. Indians are poised to not only help improve their own infrastructure but also that of local communities, thereby creating jobs for Indians.

In Albuquerque, N.M., the market value of aggregate is estimated at \$80 million annually, of which \$8 million goes directly back to tribal coffers as royalties, rentals and tribal taxes. Of Phoenix's \$400 million annual consumption of construction aggregates, \$160 million worth comes from Indian sources, feeding monies back to the tribes.

The Division is actively involved in helping tribes identify and develop their aggregate resources.



IEED staff gathers soil samples for home foundations.
Photo: Robert Just



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