

Tribal Energy Transmission System Planning Workshops

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development along with the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Office of Trust Services recently held a series of Tribal Energy Transmission System Planning Workshops. The two-day workshops provided information and guidance on planning and developing corridors for energy transmission system projects on tribal lands, including both electricity transmission and pipeline projects. The workshops gave an overview of the multiple steps involved in transmission projects, guidance on how to address environmental and siting issues, and information about resources available to tribes to assist in developing designated corridors for such projects. Presenters included: the Western Area Power Administration, Argonne National Laboratory, Department of Energy Tribal Energy Program and Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The workshops were designed to assist tribal leaders, staff of tribal resource management departments, and federal employees that work with tribes. Workshops were held in Albuquerque, NM, Phoenix, AZ, Portland, OR, and Bismarck, ND. There were a total of 37 tribes represented in attendance at the four workshops. Federal participants included: the Bureau of Indian Affairs, the Bureau of Land Management, Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Forest Service, and the Bonneville Power Administration.

DIEPD staff acted as point-of-contacts for the four workshops sponsored by IEED and Argonne on Tribal Energy Transmission Planning. Along with securing the locations and meeting set-up, staff registered participants via email and telephone calls, provided sign-in information, classroom materials, and followed-up on questions and requests received from workshop participants.