WIND POWER ON NATIVE AMERICAN LANDS: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND STATUS

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Existing and Pending Native American Wind Projects: 50 kW and Larger

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Tribal Wind Opportunities and Issues

- Wind resource
- Transmission access
- Renewable energy for climate change mitigation
- Environmental justice
- Federal outreach programs (DOE TEP, WPA, DOI/BIA MAP, USDA 9006)
- Wind-hydro integration
- Federal green energy preference
- Purchase by Intertribal COUP of Native Energy, a green tag broker (supporting tribal wind projects by purchasing green tags at beginning of project)
- Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs)

Projects on Tribal Land Are Different

- Inability to monetize Production Tax Credit (PTC) and accelerated depreciation (affects projects with tribal equity interest)
- Tribal tax advantages: Not as valuable as the PTC. Projects with non-tribal partners may lose these tax advantages
- More stringent environmental regulations (NEPA)
- Agreements require multiple levels of review: Tribal, BIA, FWS, EPA, THPO/SHPO
- Land ownership often varies within the reservation (checkerboarding): Trust, Allotted, Fee. Needed permissions and tax status vary depending on ownership status
- Tribal sovereignty/Tribal policies/Native American law: Applicable laws and jurisdictions vary with regard to projects and contracts
- Optimal business structure with tribal equity interest has not emerged

Business Models

- Tribally Owned: e.g., TDX Power, Blackfeet
- Joint Venture: No current examples. Tribes evaluating lessons from community wind experience.
- Land lease to third-party owner: e.g., Kumeyaay

Tribal Energy Program: www.eere.energy.gov/tribalenergy/
Wind Powering America: www.windpoweringamerica.gov