WIND POWER ACROSS NATIVE AMERICA: OPPORTUNITIES, CHALLENGES, AND STATUS

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Existing and Pending Native American Wind Projects: 50 kW and Larger (March 2009)

In-Place Projects

1. TDP Power, Inc.
   6. Fort Plain, NY
   2x 250-kW turbines
   High-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed 1999
   Financing: Commercial financing

2. Pine Ridge Reservation
   2x 66-kW turbines
   High-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed 2000

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   2x 66-kW turbines
   High-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed 2000

4. Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
   4x 100-kW turbines
   High-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed 2005

5. Alaska Village Electric Cooperative
   2x 100-kW turbines
   High-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed June 2006

6. Kiattono Electric Association
   1x 600-kW turbine
   High-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed 2000

7. Assiniboine-Sioux Tribe
   1x 100-kW turbine
   Low-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed July 2008
   Financing: TEP grant

8. Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
   1x 65-kW turbine
   Low-penetration wind-diesel system
   Installed in 2008
   Financing: TEP grant

Pending Projects

9. Osage Nation
   1x 65-kW Nordex
   Installed in 2008
   Honoring the Earth, Intertribal COUP, NREL, and private donors
   DOE, WAPA, DOE, BIA, Economic Development
   Turbine & Installation/Training
   Supplied electricity to KILL radio station

10. Sisseton-Wahpeton Community College
    1x 40-kW ‘North Star’
    Installed in 2005

11. Spirit Lake Sioux
    1x 100-kW turbine
    Installed 2005
    Financing: TEP grant

12. Turtle Mountain Band of Chippewa
    1x 150-kW turbine
    Installed 2006
    Financing: TEP grant

13. Rosebud Sioux
    1x 100-kW turbine
    Installed 2005
    Financing: TEP grant

14. Blackfeet
    1x 100-kW turbine
    Installed 2006
    Financing: TEP grant

15. Camp Band of Kumeyaay
    1x 750-kW turbine
    Installed 1996
    Financing: TEP grant

16. Little Shell Tribe
    1x 65-kW turbine
    Installed 2005

17. Northern Cheyenne
    1x 100-kW turbine
    Installed 2004
    Financing: TEP grant

18. Crow Nation
    1x 125-kW turbine
    Installed 2005
    Financing: TEP grant

19. Assiniboine-Sioux Tribe
    2x 65-kW turbines
    Installed 2005
    Financing: TEP grant

20. Three Affiliated Tribes
    1x 100-kW turbine
    Installed 2005
    Financing: TEP grant

Tribal Wind Opportunities and Issues

• Abundant wind resources, especially throughout the West
• Transmission access to Federal and non-Federal grids
• Renewable energy for climate change mitigation
• Renewables and energy efficiency in Tribal “Green Collar” economies
• Environmental justice regarding past Federal policies
• Federal outreach programs (DOE TEP, WPA, DOE/BIA MAP, USDA 9068)
• Federal green energy preference under Energy Policy Act of 2005
• Tribal wind-Federal hydro integration study under Section 2606
• Intertribal ownership interest in Native Energy, a green tag broker (supporting Tribal
  wind projects by purchasing green tags at beginning of project)
• Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERA): Tribes can assume Federal permitting
  responsibilities for renewable and conventional energy projects.

Projects on Tribal Land Are Different

• Inability to directly 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 (federal NEPA)
• Agreements require multiple levels of review and approvals: Tribal, BIA, FWS, EPA, THPO/SIHO
• Since 1887, land status varies within an Indian reservation (checker-boarding): Trust,
  Allotted, Free, Tribal, Individual, Indian, Extended Families, and Non-Indians. 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
• Clean Renewable Energy Bonds (CREBs) not expressly available to Tribes
• Tribes often do not control significant tribal loads such as casinos.

Business Models

• Tribally owned: e.g., TDP Power, Blackfeet, Rosebud, others
• Joint venture: No current examples. Tribes evaluating lessons learned from community
  wind and tribal casino experiences
• Land lease to third-party owner: e.g., Campo Kumeyaay Nation

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