Energy Update: Balancing Tribal Interests

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Global Climate Change Debate

Tribes’ Inherent Sovereignty
  - Treaty, Trust, & Organic laws
  - Values & Principles
  - Resources
  - Economy

NW Tribes—Controlling Our Destiny

Policy, Legislation, Economic & Related Impacts
Climate change is any long-term significant change in the “average weather” that a given region experiences.

Global warming is the increase in the average temperature of the Earth's near-surface air and oceans since the mid-twentieth century and its projected continuation.
The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

"most of the observed increase in globally averaged temperatures since the mid-twentieth century is very likely due to the observed increase in anthropogenic greenhouse gas concentrations."

Anthropogenic effects, processes, objects, or materials are those that are derived from human activities, as opposed to those occurring in natural environments without human influences.
Assertions Against

- Natural phenomena such as solar variation
- Volcanoes
- Natural global ocean variations due ocean salinity
Social Economic Political Debate

- Cost and vs. benefits
- Adopting alternative or clean energy sources in order to reduce carbon emissions.
- Creating and supporting an economy for clean energy and industry.
- Adopting a global political, economic, and social commitment to clean energy resources, markets, and industries.
Questions for Tribes

- What is the degree to which energy resource tribes could be expected to support a clean or green economy?
- Who should decide for tribes?
- How can tribes support a clean energy or a green economy?
Considerations for Tribes

- Fundamental Values & Principles
  - Traditional and Natural Laws
  - Spiritual, Cultural, & Environmental Principles
  - Exercising tribal sovereignty in a forward-thinking context

- Resources & Needs
  - Energy, Natural, Cultural, Political, & Social Resources
  - Planning for and development for future needs

- Economy
  - Development & Participation
  - Sustainability & Revenue
Tribal Law

Fundamental
- Draw wisdom from our Traditional and Natural Laws—Customs, Ceremonies, & notions of Shared Stewardship
- These laws provide sanctuary for life and culture, our relationship with others, and the balance we maintain with all things in this world and beyond.
- These laws provide the foundation and guiding principles for how to develop, administer, and execute policies and plans that benefit our people—present and future generations.
- These guiding principles give hope when faced with a seemingly hopeless future.
Tribal Energy Development

- Develop comprehensive and strategic planning for energy resources
- Develop chosen energy projects and resources
- Develop training, employment opportunities, economic development and community development that enhance self determination
- Develop tribal resources for the social, economic, and cultural well-being of tribes
NW Tribal Energy Interests

- Survey of NW Tribal Energy Interests & Development
  - Tribal Utilities
  - Rights of Way—Transmission & Gas Pipelines
  - Hydropower—Large & Small Hydro-projects
  - Energy Efficiency
  - Biomass Energy
  - Wave, Tidal & Hydrokinetic Energy
  - Wind Energy
  - Solar Energy
  - Geothermal Energy
  - Transmission—getting tribal power to market
  - Oil & Gas
  - Carbon Cap & Trade
  - Legislation & Policy
ATNI Energy Program

- **ATNI Policy**
  - Supporting NW Tribes Energy Interests
  - Following Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) Power & Transmission
    - BPA Financial Planning Process
    - BPA Tiered Rates Methodology

- **ATNI Economic Development Corporation**
  - Formation of Northwest Tribal Energy Group
    - Policy focus on Federal legislation, Department of Energy—Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and BPA
Conclusion

- Tribal tradition of applied comprehensive resource management
- Importance of honoring and recognizing decisions made by sovereign governments as they attempt to balance the considerations of all interested persons with a long term view