

**STATE AND TRIBAL GOVERNMENT WORKING GROUP (STGWG)**  
**Arlington, Virginia**  
**November 28-30, 2006**

**KEY OUTCOMES**

**OVERVIEW**

- The members of STGWG appreciate the attendance and participation of DOE personnel at the various sessions.
- NCSL is working as a team on STGWG issues. Nithin Akuthota (303-856-1379) will be the primary contact person.
- A moment of silence was held in memory of Donna Powaukee. Donna, the former Manager of the Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Department of the Nez Perce Tribe, was an active member of STGWG for many years.

**TRIBAL ISSUES**

- STGWG appreciates the efforts to achieve concurrence by EM, NE, NNSA and Science on the Implementation Framework for DOE's Tribal Government Policy. STGWG expects to see that process completed before the spring STGWG meeting.
- The full STGWG wholly supports DOE hosting a Tribal Summit consistent with DOE's own Secretarial policy. STGWG supports sending a letter to the Secretary from the Co-Convenors requesting a Tribal Summit and stating that tribes should play a key role in the planning of the Summit.
- States, as well as tribes, should be concerned about the Rights-of-Way Study (s.1813) and Energy Corridors Study (s. 368) that are required under the Energy Policy Act of 2005.
- There is much uncertainty about the new Office of Indian Energy Policy and Programs, including what it is supposed to do, or who asked for its creation.

**EM ISSUES**

- The states and tribes have a keen interest in the Draft national Waste Disposition Strategy and want to work with DOE to assure that it is comprehensive and adequately addresses equity, compliance and strategic management issues. The states, through NGA, may have periodic conference calls with Christine Gelles to keep up to speed on waste disposition issues and will share this information with the full STGWG.
- Maintaining clarity of goals between EM, LTS, and LM remains a big issue, as does funding for states.
- NRDA is important to both the tribes and states. For a variety of reasons, it has been difficult to have substantive discussions on this issue with DOE at the national level. STGWG would like to see this dialogue improved.

## **TRANSPORTATION ISSUES**

- The Transportation External Coordination Working Group (TEC) is the main forum for discussions between all interested parties. Routing is the next big issue.
- There is no pending crisis with regard to transportation planning. In several areas, such as WIPP shipments, it is one of the success stories of DOE building good working relationships.

## **LTS ISSUES**

- STGWG will be observing closed sites to monitor the effectiveness of institutional controls.
- The tribes and states would like to see greater clarity on how LTS is being planned and implemented. This would include issues such as how internal coordination between programs is accomplished, how long term funding is being addressed and how LTS obligations are factored into cleanup decisions.
- There is an LTS Summit in San Diego on April 4, 2007. Participation by a STGWG representative is being considered.

## **ACTION ITEMS**

- Peter Chestnut will work on a draft letter requesting a Tribal Summit.
- Research the history (legislative intent) behind the new Office of Indian Policy and Programs.
- Accumulate states' comments about the Waste Disposition Strategy and "highlight" the overall view of things--put into a STGWG perspective rather than just NGA's.
- Look into funding for sending a STGWG representative to LTS Summit in April.
- Executive Committee will determine where to have the spring STGWG meeting.
- Determine whether STGWG wants to continue to meet in conjunction with the Intergovernmental Groups meetings. Look into past attendance figures.
- Possibly invite Utah to spring meeting.