

Generating
Economic
Opportunities
In Indian
Country

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) was created by the Secretary of the Interior to address the overarching issue of economic development in Indian Country.

The mission of IEED is to enhance the quality of life and promote economic opportunity for American Indians and Alaska Natives in balance with meeting the responsibility to protect and improve their trust resources. There are five divisions within IEED which work together to accomplish this mission.

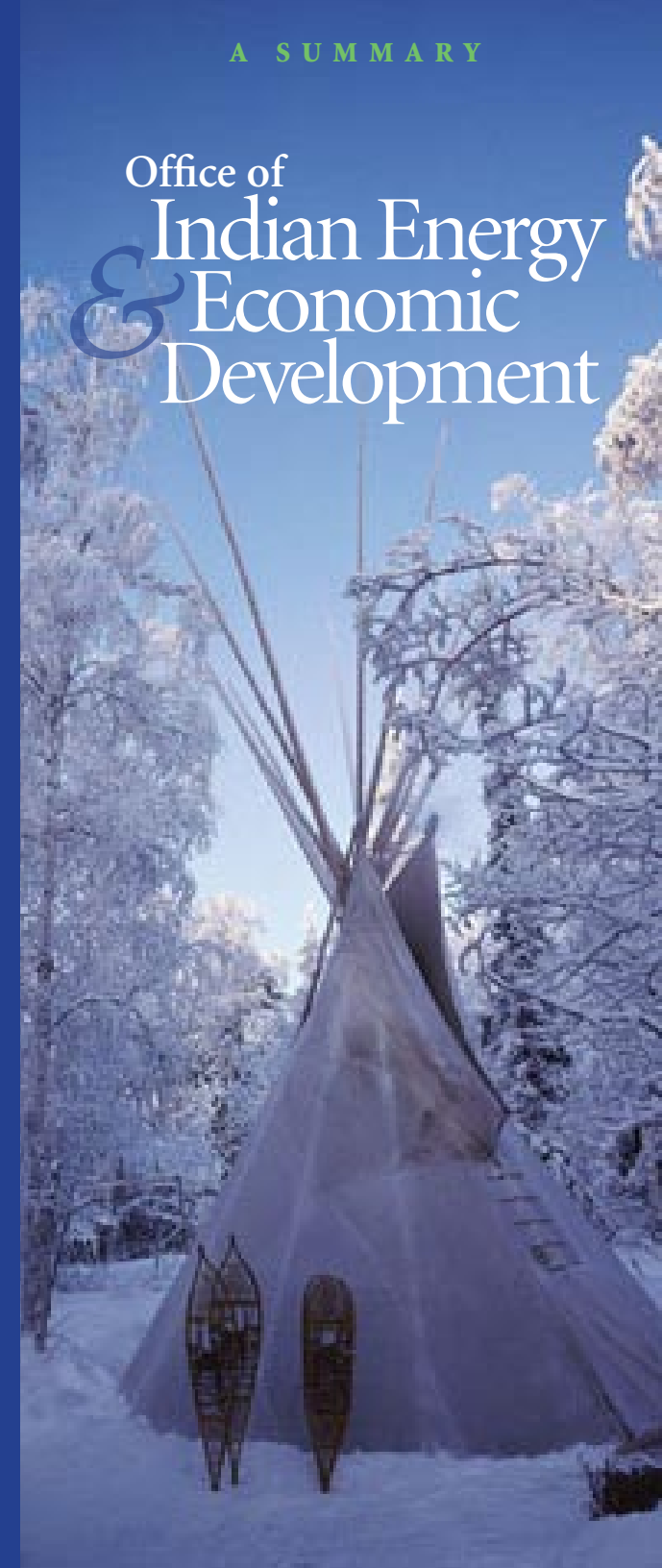
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THE
DEPARTMENT
OF THE
INTERIOR



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Office of Indian Energy & Economic Development



Energy Policy Development



The Division of Indian Energy Policy Development was formed to provide technical and financial assistance to tribes wanting to develop their own energy resources. Under Title V, Section 503 of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, DIEPD is responsible for developing regulations for Tribal Energy Resource Agreements (TERAs). A TERA provides a tribe with the option of entering into energy-related business agreements and leases and for granting rights-of-way without the review and approval of the Secretary of the Interior for each proposed project. Through DIEPD, the Department also provides assistance to tribes in building their technical capacity to appropriately develop energy and mineral resources and coordinates development of Departmental policies and guidelines for energy and mineral development on Indian land.

Energy and Minerals Development



The Division of Energy and Minerals Development (DEMD) provides technical advice to assist tribes with the exploration and development of 1.81 million acres of active and potential energy and mineral resources. DEMD is responsible for identifying resources, collecting exploration and engineering data, funding assessment studies, performing feasibility and market analysis, and other development initiatives. DEMD is responsible for reviewing exploration and development agreements for oil, gas, coal, uranium, geothermal, industrial mineral and metal deposits, and a variety of renewable energy projects located on Indian lands. DEMD, in coordination with the Division of Indian Energy Policy Development, is responsible for developing, implementing, and reviewing bureau-wide policies related to development and production of energy and mineral resources.



Economic Development



The Division of Economic Development (DED) brings together the resources of IEED's other divisions to address specific Indian Country economic development problems and opportunities. The division seeks to create a tribal environment for economic progress, arrange training for tribal members to take advantage of that environment, and provide tribes with strategic advice and planning to make the most of business opportunities. DED also establishes partnerships with other government agencies, American Indian and Alaska Native tribes, and private sector entities to achieve its goals. In 2007, the division conducted the Native American Economic Policy Summit in partnership with the National Congress of American Indians, assisted tribes in adopting uniform commercial codes, and established several computer centers, with the help of private sector entities.

Workforce Development



The Division of Workforce Development implements the Indian Employment, Training and Related Services Demonstration Act of 1992, which authorizes tribal governments to integrate a variety of education, employment, training, and social services under a single plan, single budget, and single reporting system. Federal programs that are covered under the law include any program which provides services to Indian youth or adults that: (1) helps such persons succeed in the workforce, (2) encourages self-sufficiency, (3) familiarizes youth or adults with the workplace environment, (4) facilitates the creation of job opportunities, (5) allows tribes to use a portion of the funds for economic development, or (6) provides services related to any of these goals. A tribe wishing to participate under this law initially submits an integrated service plan and budget to the division. Following an inter-agency review, the Secretary of the Interior approves the plan, the appropriate funds are transferred, and the tribe then implements its services.

Capital Investment



The Division of Capital Investment manages the Indian Loan Guaranty, Insurance and Interest Subsidy Program. In an effort to assist Indian tribes and individuals to establish or expand Indian-owned businesses, and to move toward self-sufficiency, Congress passed the Indian Financing Act of 1974. The Act was established to provide reservation businesses with access to investment capital equal to that available to businesses in non-reservation areas. The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to guarantee up to 90 percent of unpaid principal and interest, reducing the risk of the lender, thus enabling them to make loans to less conventional borrowers. The Program also authorizes interest subsidy on qualified, guaranteed, or insured loans which reduces the interest payable by the borrower, thus increasing cash flow for business activities.



Left Photo: Solar Panels in Montana. **Right Photo:** Staff exploring aggregate resources in Wisconsin.