



2008 ATNI Winter Conference
January 22-25, Yakama, Washington

Energy Update

For more information on these or other energy issues, contact Margie Schaff, ATNI Energy Director, Schaff & Clark-Deschene, LLC at LOSCDLLC@gmail.com or mschaff@att.net.

Right of Way Negotiations: Many tribes and allottees are dealing with expired, expiring or new requests for energy and other rights of ways. ATNI wants to know how best to support you. A right of way conference is proposed. Please give us your feedback on what you most need to support successful right of way negotiations.

Bonneville New Power Contracts: Bonneville is changing its power contracting obligations to regional customers, and its rate setting methodologies. Those changes are described in the *Final Bonneville Regional Dialogue Policy*. The policy will be considered “final” only after new contracts are offered to customers in late 2008. Ongoing meetings will clarify many details of the policy. ATNI has submitted detailed comments on the policy and various implementation details. There are a number of issues of concern to tribes. Issues include:

- Timing and notice provisions for new tribal utilities- will we be required to give 3 years notice and not be eligible from preference power rates during the notice period?
- How will transmission of power to tribal utilities be accomplished?
- Will tribes with power settlements related to dam relicensing be required to use that power to serve its load rather than acquire BPA power to serve their load?
- How will BPA cost and rate setting decisions impact fish and wildlife and cultural resources programs?

Many New High Voltage Transmission Projects Planned: Because there has been so few transmission system upgrades over the last 15 years, the national transmission system is constrained and in some situations overloaded. A number of efforts are underway to improve access to transmission. For example, both groups below are cooperating to assess the transmission needs and to work together to build new facilities and manage existing facilities better. Many new projects are being planned; see attached map. Tribes are welcomed to participate in planning sessions and to be on “Interested Parties” lists to be emailed information.

- **ColumbiaGrid:** Columbia Grid is a non-profit corporation that has been formed by a voluntary organization of regional utilities, including Bonneville, Avista, Puget Sound Energy and a number of Bonneville’s customers from Washington State.
- **Northern Tier:** Northern Tier Transmission Group is a membership organization formed by PacifiCorp, Idaho Power, NorthWestern Energy, and Utah utilities.

Energy Corridors on Federal Lands EIS: Federal land managing agencies are amending their land use plans to allow for large energy corridors. Make sure traditional territories are protected by commenting on the Programmatic EIS by February 14, 2008.

NW Renewable Energy Venture: Tribes are considering working together to develop renewables and other energy projects. A proposal is under consideration for a biodiesel business, and other energy businesses. For more information about becoming a shareholder, call ATNI.

Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007: The U.S. Congress has passed new energy legislation. Included is a summary of issues impacting tribes.

Energy Jobs: There is a severe and growing shortage of energy professionals and staff. Opportunities exist, often with on the job training in many fields for high school graduates.

Renewable Energy Tradeable Production Tax Credit: There is a bill before Congress which would improve the economics of tribal renewable energy projects like wind farms, solar projects, and biomass projects. This is a production tax credit that tribes who own renewable energy projects could assign to taxable entities. Your letters of support of this bill is requested!

Makah Bay Offshore Wave Pilot Project: This project of the Makah Tribe and Finavera Renewable Ocean Energy, Ltd, received a Conditional License from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on December 21, 2007. Under this pilot project, 4 buoys will convert wave energy in the Pacific Ocean to electricity. This is a research project to further the understanding of wave powered electricity generation. In it's Order, FERC provides the Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary with certain rights to make conditions to the license. While this portion of the Order is objected to by the Makah Tribe the order is a success for Makah. Congratulations!