

Services Provided by The Division of Energy and Mineral Development (DEMD)

The Division's goal is to establish sustainable Tribal economies and create jobs through natural resource development. To achieve this goal, the staff offers technical services from qualified and experienced geologists, engineers, geophysicists, market analysts and other technical personnel to address all aspects of both conventional and renewable energy as well as mineral development. The technical background of the staff is based upon direct industry experience and not regulatory or government practice.

With this background, the Division staff can provide a high level of technical expertise to the Tribes prior to, and while in negotiations with a potential developer. With expertise and experience on their side, Tribes can negotiate from a position of strength and knowledge. In addition, the staff can provide full economic analysis and offer possible deal structures for the Tribes consideration.

A significant role is in renewable energy, where the DEMD is working on over 80 renewable energy projects for Tribes in wind, biomass, waste to energy, geothermal, hydropower and solar. The DEMD staff can assist Tribes with energy development from developer agreement review, feasibility studies, resource assessments, negotiation assistance, due diligence on developers, pro forma and economic analysis, and through the EMDP (Energy Mineral Development Program) funding. The DEMD, as trustee to the Tribes, reviews and make recommendation to the Regional Director on all Indian Mineral Development Act (IMDA) agreements.

Services including technical assistance and scientific information are provided to both tribes and allottees, to assist them in maximizing their resource potential from oil or gas, renewable energy or mineral resources. A key component is the ability of the Division to provide insight into any contract, agreement or lease offered to a Tribe. Services are provided at no cost to the Tribe as part of the Divisions Trust role.

Though heavily involved in oil, natural gas and coal development, new focus has been placed on development of aggregate resources. Many of America's highways and bridges need rebuilding, and to meet that need, enormous amounts of construction materials are required. Indian lands offer large reserves of sand, gravel, and crushed rock to meet regional demand and provide employment opportunities.

Our Division is uniquely poised to offer services no other government agency can provide – on the reservation, where it counts. Contact Winter Jojola-Talburt (winter.jojola-talburt@bia.gov, 720-407-0668), Roger Knight (roger.knight@bia.gov, 720-407-0613) or Robert Just (bob.just@bia.gov, 720-407-0611) for further assistance.