



Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project

Selection Criteria

Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017 (Public Law 115-325) is a project designed to provide Indian tribes with greater autonomy over the management and development of their energy resources.

The Bureau of Indian Affairs, in partnership with the Bureau of Land Management, is implementing the Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project to promote biomass energy production for federally recognized Indian tribes and Alaska Native corporations.

For each fiscal year the projects are authorized, the Bureau will carry out at least four projects on Indian forest land and nearby tribal communities, and at least one project in Alaska.

According to the Indian Tribal Energy Development and Self-Determination Act Amendments of 2017, merchantable logs that have been identified for commercial sale and cannot be included in any Tribal Biomass Demonstration Project.

Criteria for Project Eligibility

The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Indian Affairs established the following criteria to participate in the Tribal Biomass Demonstration Projects.

1. Proposal must contain information the Secretary may require;
2. Includes a description of the Indian forest land or rangeland under the jurisdiction of the tribe
3. The demonstration project the tribe proposes to carry out.

Project Selection Criteria

When entering into an agreement or contract in response to a request of an Indian tribe, the Bureau will use best-value basis and give specific consideration to tribally-related factors in the proposal, including:

- Status of the Indian tribe as an Indian tribe;
- The trust status of the Indian forest land or rangeland of the Indian tribe
- The cultural, traditional, and historical affiliation of the Indian tribe with the land subject to the proposal;
- The treaty rights or other reserved rights of the Indian tribe relating to the land subject to the proposal;
 - the indigenous knowledge and skills of members of the Indian tribe;
 - the features of the landscape of the land subject to the proposal, including watersheds and vegetation types;
 - the working relationships between the Indian tribe and Federal agencies in coordinating activities affecting the land subject to the proposal; and
 - the access by members of the Indian tribe to the land subject to the proposal.

The Bureau will also consider whether a proposed project would:

- Increase the availability or reliability of local or regional energy;
- Enhance the economic development of the Tribe
- Result in or improve the connection of electric power transmission facilities serving the Indian tribe with other electric transmission facilities;
- Improve the forest health or watersheds of Federal land or Indian forest land or rangeland
- Demonstrate new investments in infrastructure; or
- Otherwise promote the use of woody biomass