

International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management

Roundtable on Tribal Issues and Opportunities Related to the Long Term Stewardship of Contaminated Federal Facilities

**March 14-15, 2001
Sheraton Denver West
Lakewood, Colorado**

Sponsors

**International Institute for Indigenous Resource Management
U.S. Department of Energy - Center for Risk Excellence
U.S. Department of Energy - Office of Intergovernmental and Public Accountability
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency**

As the recent report of the National Research Council stated, it is now becoming clear that relatively few U.S. Department of Energy waste sites will be cleaned up to a point where they can be released for unrestricted use. "Long term stewardship" (activities to protect human health and the environment from hazards that may remain at its sites after cessation of remediation) will be required for over 100 of the 144 waste sites under DOE control. Many facilities under U.S. Department of Defense control will also require long term management. After stabilizing wastes that remain on site and containing them as well as is feasible, DOE and DOD intend to rely on stewardship for as long as hazards persist—in many cases, indefinitely. Physical containment barriers, the management systems upon which their long term reliability depends, and institutional controls intended to prevent exposure of people and the environment to the remaining site hazards, will have to be maintained at some DOE and DOD sites for an indefinite period of time.

Although the NRC report is silent on the roles and responsibilities of Indian tribes under the DOE's long term stewardship programs, it is readily apparent that many Indian tribes will be affected by a wide range of stewardship activities. The purpose of this Roundtable is sort out tribal roles and responsibilities in an era of long term stewardship and to set out specific federal agency roles and responsibilities to support tribal long term stewardship efforts as well as the procedures or processes these agencies will use to lend support to such efforts.

PRELIMINARY AGENDA

The Issues: Agency Perspectives

Representative, Department of Energy, Office of Long
Term Stewardship
John Selstrom, Department of Defense (Invited)
Jim Woolford, Environmental Protection Agency
(Invited)

The Issues: Tribal Perspectives

Representative, Nez Perce Tribe
Representative, Yakama Indian Nation

The NRC Report

Thomas M. Leschine, University of Washington
(Invited)

Kaitiakitanga: A Maori View of Trusteeship

Mike Barnes, International Institute for Indigenous
Resource Management University Fellow

Science and Technology for Long Term Stewardship

Representative, Department of Energy, OST

Human Resources for Long Term Stewardship

Dr. Alvin Young, U.S. Department of Energy Center
for Risk Excellence

Fort Wingate: Navajo/Zuni/Interior

Pablo Padilla, Pueblo of Zuni (Invited)

Tribal Institutions for Long Term Stewardship

Legal Institutions

Jeanne Rubin, International Institute for Indigenous
Resource Management

Social and Cultural Institutions

Kim TallBear, International Institute for Indigenous
Resource Management

Facilitated Discussions

- What roles do tribes want to play in long term stewardship?
- What should federal agencies and others be doing to support tribal efforts in long term stewardship?