

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

DTLL CONSULTATION ON INFLATION REDUCTION ACT

Washington, D.C.

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

1 PARTICIPANTS:

2 BRYAN NEWLAND
3 Assistant Secretary
4 Bureau of Indian Affairs
5 United States Department of the Interior

6 SEAN HENDERSON
7 Indian Affairs Infrastructure and
8 Economic Development Coordinator

9 OLIVER WHALEY
10 Host

11 VANESSA SNIDER
12 Co-Host

13 WINNIE STACHELBERG
14 Infrastructure Coordinator
15 Department of Inferior

16 ONNA LeBEAU
17 Director
18 Office of Indian Economic Development

19 JOHNNA BLACKHAIR

20 JASON FREIHAGE
21 Deputy Assistant Secretary for Management
22 Office of the Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs

WIZIPAN "WIZI" GARRIOTT
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary for Indian
Affairs
Office of the Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs

TRINA LOCKE
Acting Deputy Bureau Director
Office of Trust Services

CRYSTAL KEYS
Acting Director
Tribal Climate Resilience Program

1 PARTICIPANTS (CONT'D):

2 DAVID WOOTEN
3 Chief of the Office of Trust Services
4 Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife, and Recreation

5 WAHLEAH JOHNS
6 Department of Energy

7 DIONNE CRAWFORD
8 Councilwoman
9 Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate

10 GENEVIEVE ROCK
11 Native Village of Shaktoolik

12 REGGIE TUPPONCE
13 Tribal Administrator
14 Upper Mattaponi Indian Tribe

15 LISA WILSON
16 Lummi Nation

17 DAVID CONNER
18 Administrative Officer
19 Red Lake Band of Chippewa Indians

20 WILL MICKLIN
21 Vice President, Executive Council
22 Central Council, Tlingit and Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska

VIVIAN KORTHUIS
Chief Executive Officer
Association of Village Council Presidents

DARYL WILLIAMS
Tulalip Tribe

21
22 * * * * *

1 P R O C E E D I N G S

2 (3:03 p.m.)

3 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Good afternoon and
4 good morning. My name is Katherine Isom-Clause
5 and I am Taos-Pueblo. I serve as the Deputy
6 Assistant Secretary for Policy and Economic
7 Development in Indian Affairs at the Department of
8 the Interior, and I'd like to welcome you all to
9 our Inflation Reduction Act tribal consultation
10 today. We thank you for your presence today to
11 provide input on implementation of this critical
12 investment opportunity. And, just before we start
13 I want to note that this is a tribal consultation.
14 It's not open to the public, and if you are a
15 member of the press, we would ask that you please
16 exit the meeting right now. Looks like folks are
17 still joining on, but I think -- I think we have
18 critical mass here, all right, so now I would
19 like to turn to councilman Joe Garcia of Ohkay
20 Owingeh, Pueblo. He has graciously offered to
21 lead us in a prayer. Councilman are you ready to
22 take over?

1 MR. GARCIA: Yes, I am ready.

2 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Okay, thank you.

3 MR. GARCIA: Thank you for the
4 opportunity and thank you for the honorable
5 request and respectfully requested, and I did
6 accept, so let's move on with it. With all due
7 respect (speaking Tewa language). With all due
8 respect, I speak the Tewa language and what I have
9 offered is, I call upon the creator, I call upon
10 the spirit, I call upon the spirits of our
11 ancestors to be here with us today in this
12 endeavor. And that we have listened to things
13 that we need to do for our people, and that the
14 federal government is working hand in hand with
15 the tribal people, the tribal leaders, and it is
16 important for us to respect that, and this is an
17 opportunity to say our piece, to say our minds and
18 to say our ideas that we may want to promote. On
19 behalf of the people that we represent, and a lot
20 of respect, and a lot of efforts have gone into
21 what we are doing, but that it continue and that
22 we continue to work together on behalf of those

1 that we represent. All of our people and the
2 nation, and the nation and the country, but, as
3 well as, the United States Government. So, we
4 should do this as partners, we should stand
5 together, and as I call upon the spirits of our
6 ancestors, who have done this in the past. Their
7 spirits is still with us. And, I call upon them
8 from all directions, from the north, from the
9 west, from the south, and the east from the
10 heaven, and from mother earth. These spirits are
11 with us today, and I'll add today, that they will
12 always be with us, and all we have to do is ask
13 that they be with us, because there are a lot of
14 good ideas that have gone in the past, and they
15 continue in our country and in tribal lands. So,
16 with all of that, I also ask the creator to
17 provide you the guidance, the brain power, and the
18 heart and soul, and the spirit, to work together.
19 And, that we -- all these ahead of us, we will be
20 successful in our undertaking, and this is what I
21 have asked, I have asked for the blessing for all
22 of you that are participating in that you stay

1 safe, you stay well, and blessings to all of those
2 people in our tribal nations and in our united
3 state nation. Thank you so much and thank you for
4 asking me. My name is Sokwul Wektung (phonetic),
5 that means mark of the misty lake, and I come from
6 Okan Wingate (phonetic). Thank you for this
7 honor. So, the floor is now back to you Kathryn.
8 Thank you.

9 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you so much. It
10 is an honor for us to hear from you as well. We
11 really appreciate it. We are also joined today by
12 Principal Assistant Secretary for Indian Affairs,
13 Wizipan Little Elk Garriott, and if he is
14 available, I'd like to turn to him for opening
15 remarks, now.

16 MR. GARRIOTT: Thank you Kathryn.
17 (Speaking Native language). To each and every one
18 of you with good hearts and this has conducted
19 with the Secretary of Indian Affairs. So, I bring
20 greetings from the Secretary Bryan Newland who was
21 planning on attending and being here, but I'm sure
22 that just the same as some of the folks who are on

1 today's call, some of your plans may have been
2 interrupted, or you may have had a change in your
3 schedule due to the winter storm, and so he's out
4 in Indian country just because of the impact of
5 the storm not able to be out right now. But, I
6 know he sends his greetings and rest assured that
7 any time we have meeting like this, that he drills
8 Kathryn and myself and he wants to know what is
9 said and what people are thinking. And, so, I
10 just want to welcome everybody and let -- let
11 everyone know that we are listening and that we
12 look forward to hearing everybody's ideas of the
13 spending of the Inflation Reduction Act funding
14 that Indian Affairs has received and thanks I'll
15 turn it over to Winnie.

16 MS. STACHELBERG: Thank you so much Wizi
17 and Kathryn, it's an honor to speak with you all
18 this afternoon. Secretary Holland Woods, we here
19 at the Department of Interior have a solid duty to
20 honor and strength the federal government's nation
21 to nation relationships with tribes. We
22 understand the weight of our responsibility

1 towards the tribal nations, and that consultation
2 has to be a two-way nation to nation exchange of
3 information. This gathering is an important,
4 entirely necessary step, to developing our
5 obligations to you all as leaders in your nation.
6 To that end, and in that sacred capacity, the
7 department is lucky to have leaders like Assistant
8 Secretary Newland, Wizzie Garriott, Secretary
9 Holland. My name is Winnie Stachelberg, and I am
10 senior advisor as well as the Infrastructure
11 Coordinator at the Department of the Interior.
12 From my vantage point, as Infrastructure
13 Coordinator at DOI and it's unique -- our work is
14 at the intersection of all the different bureaus
15 and offices, so I could tell you honestly and
16 frankly that the bipartisan infrastructure law in
17 the Inflation Reduction Act, had created for us
18 historic opportunities, transformative
19 opportunities which span the entirety of
20 government. As the bill coordinator for the
21 interior, we have a lot of lessons learned, from
22 our first year in infrastructure. One of our

1 major goals this week is to hear directly from you
2 all, how we can make these opportunities more
3 accessible, and I want to let you know that we
4 continue to integrate your feedback, as we
5 continue to implement the infrastructure law, and
6 begin to implement the Inflation Reduction Act.
7 For example, we continue work across interior and
8 with federal partners to increase technical
9 assistance. I am happy to announce that Indian
10 Affairs recently added Shawn Henderson as the
11 coordinator to support technical assistance and
12 partner building capacity and interagency action.
13 This position is critical to providing support to
14 tribes to access these critical programs and
15 implement them effectively. Our hope is that the
16 addition of more capacity on our end, will lead to
17 more positive outcomes across the board.
18 Additionally, for the White House Council and
19 Native American Affairs, the administration posted
20 the whole of government consultation on
21 implementation of buy American, building America
22 requirements to inform implementation. The

1 administration is planning to release an inflation
2 reduction act playbook, just like we did for the
3 bipartisan infrastructure law. The playbook will
4 facilitate your ability to access eligible
5 programs. I look forward to hearing from you and
6 figuring from the input on the Indian Affairs
7 program to be discussed today, I look forward to
8 our ongoing work together to implement these
9 programs. As President Biden has said, the
10 bipartisan infrastructure law and the inflation
11 reduction act, constitute a historic, once in a
12 generation investment in our nation's
13 infrastructure. Our whole team in support of the
14 world class team at the Bureau of Indian Affairs,
15 is at your disposal to ensure the spirit of those
16 initiatives is realized in your communities. We
17 are here to support you all, and with that, I'll
18 turn it back to Kathryn. Thank you.

19 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you so much
20 Winnie for those remarks, and before we jump into
21 the presentation, I would just like to recognize a
22 few more folks who are on the line with us. We

1 have from Indian Affairs and the Department, we
2 have Jason Freihage, Deputy Assistant Secretary
3 for Management, Onna LeBeau, who is the Director
4 of Office of Indian Economic Development, Trina
5 Locke, who is the Acting Deputy Bureau Director
6 for the Office of Trust Services, Crystal Keys,
7 Acting Director of Tribal Climate Resilience
8 Program, and David Wooten, Chief of the Office of
9 Trust Services Branch of Fisheries, Wildlife, and
10 Recreation. Also, joining us today is a critical
11 partner from the Department of Energy, Wahleah
12 Johns. We are very happy to have all of them here
13 with us today. And, at this point our first
14 presenter is Trina Locke, the Acting Director for
15 the Office of Trust Services, and she will address
16 the climate resilience and adaptation projects and
17 fish hatchery and programs. Let's turn it over to
18 you Trina.

19 MS. LOCKE: Okay, and hello everybody,
20 and again my name is Trina Locke and I'm the new
21 board member, the Yakama (phonetic) nation, and
22 I'm serving as the acting deputy bureau director,

1 for the office of Trust Services. I'm excited to
2 discuss some of the new opportunities brought
3 forth under Inflation Reduction Act, otherwise
4 known as the IRA. The IRA provides \$385 million
5 in infrastructure, investment for climate
6 resilience, and adaptations. Fish hatcheries and
7 a no trouble electrification program. This is in
8 addition to the \$130 million in funding from the
9 bipartisan infrastructure loan investments for
10 tribal climate resilience projects. The climate
11 resilience and adaption portion of the IRA
12 funding, calls for \$220 million dedicated to
13 community directed relocation projects, and the
14 annual tribal climate resilience awards programs.
15 One-hundred and twenty million, which is \$64
16 million per year, in both likewise 2023 and 2024
17 to support tribes, tribal consortia, and authorize
18 tribal organizations to plan for climate
19 resilience through competitive awards. This
20 increases the award ceiling by additional \$14
21 million per year, in both 2023 and 2024.
22 Presently these awards include tribally designed

1 climate training, adaptation planning,
2 vulnerability assessments, supplemental monitoring,
3 capacity building, youth engagement and
4 implementation. The branch of tribal climate
5 resilience has examined opportunities to enhance
6 the current discretionary annual awards program by
7 offering additional flexibility to tribes based on
8 feedback and the DOI's equity action plan. The
9 proposed structure will condense all current
10 offerings into two overarching categories,
11 planning and implementation. To broaden the scope
12 of the price of proposals the tribe are eligible
13 to submit. The \$92 million for community driven
14 relocation projects will award \$46 million per
15 year in both FY 2023 and 2024, utilizing funding
16 providing by the bipartisan infrastructure law,
17 the BIA launched efforts to assist tribes with
18 community driven relocation efforts. By
19 establishing a White House community driven
20 subcommittee by allowing for relocation planning
21 and implementation proposals under the FY 2022
22 Indian Awards program, and most recently the

1 department announced the community driven
2 relocation pilot project, for both implementation
3 awards and planning preparation awards. Combined
4 with this funding, IRA funding has the potential
5 to expand these efforts. Next slide, as mentioned
6 on the previous slide, modifications to the
7 current annual award structure may allow for
8 planning and implementation criteria, to broaden
9 the focus of activities, eligible for funding. IRA
10 funding may add to current offerings, by
11 increasing funding caps currently in place,
12 provide greater flexibility to allow for tribal
13 projects that previously did not fit into the
14 narrowly defined categories, and add such
15 offerings, as habitat restoration and adaption.
16 Help communities prepare for, cope with, and
17 recover from disaster. Encourage tribal
18 communities to develop projects which draw on the
19 benefits of nature-based solutions. IRA funding
20 may also contribute to boosting tribal equity in
21 competitive rewards by proposing cost matching for
22 tribes seeking other federal agency funding

1 opportunities, encourage interagency
2 collaboration, increased capacity building
3 proposal options, and explore with other grant
4 providing funding agencies when they are
5 opportunities to adapt common application
6 standards, that are part of a government wide
7 effort to improve efficiency and award
8 applications processing. The criteria used for
9 selection of the so funded community driven
10 relocation of risk, community readiness, plans in
11 place, land identified, lessons learned. These
12 standards are anticipated to remain in place for
13 expansion under IRA funding. Additional criteria
14 for planning and preparation will include risk
15 diversity and geographic diversity. Next slide.
16 For the fish hatcheries, the IRA provides \$10
17 million to support expansion of the existing
18 construction maintenance program, including new
19 construction and retrofitting, which are not
20 funded through annual appropriation. The
21 expansion of this program allows DIA to address
22 outdated, undersized and inefficient hatchery

1 systems. Funding will support advanced production
2 goals and they will also address issues relating
3 to water quality, quantity and concerns regarding
4 fish disease and/or genetics. Next slide, Award
5 criteria will focus on new construction projects
6 at existing hatcheries to overcome bottlenecks in
7 production or construction of entirely new
8 hatcheries was strongly supported by the ranking
9 criteria. Criteria in annual programs considers
10 addressing economic value and rights protection,
11 tribal ability to enforce fish and gaming code
12 policies to ensure health, safety and security.
13 Compliance with the water quality standards,
14 incorporation of a tribal youth element, and I do
15 have technical staff available to answer any
16 questions you may have. Next slide. Today, we
17 are currently seeking feedback on whether the
18 criteria proposed reward funding for climate
19 resilience and fish hatcheries seems appropriate.
20 Or should other criteria be considered. And, are
21 the proposed funding categories for climate
22 resilience and adaptation appropriate? This

1 concludes my presentation. I will now turn it
2 over to Onna LeBeau, who is the Director of the
3 Indian Office of Economic Development to talk
4 about further electrification programs.

5 MS. LEBEAU: Good afternoon. I'm Onna
6 LeBeau, I'm a member of the Omaha tribe of
7 Nebraska, and Director of Economic Development.
8 I'm here to discuss tribal electrification
9 overview. We have been given \$150 million dollars
10 or \$150 million dollars is appropriated for
11 electrification related needs. The \$4.5 million
12 of the \$150 will be administration for the
13 administration of the program. The purpose is to
14 provide electricity to unelectrified tribal homes
15 through zero emissions energy systems. We
16 understand the need across Indian country is
17 significant, and each tribe has its own energy and
18 electrification related needs and implementation
19 capacity. We are designing this program to meet
20 the unique needs of individual tribal communities.
21 We will be awarding funding through a competitive
22 process. The program will coordinate financial

1 and technical assistance to tribes, to increase
2 the numbers of tribal homes with zero emission
3 electricity. One of the plans provided will be
4 subject to cost sharing or matching requirements.
5 Given that tribes are in various states of
6 planning and implementation, criteria to make
7 awards will vary based on the categories and
8 implement and parameters will be determined based
9 on need and project readiness. Next slide,
10 please. Again, criteria will be based on the
11 categories and capability to implement with each
12 category receiving no less than 15 percent of the
13 total funding available. Initial pilot studies
14 for tribes who are ready to implement, could
15 include the following criteria. Low levels of
16 households with electrification, community
17 readiness with existing plans or designs,
18 potential to yield lessons learned from other
19 tribes facing similar issue. Another criteria is
20 tribes with potential to implement community scale
21 projects such as those with low levels of
22 households with electricity, low levels of

1 household with zero emissions electricity, and the
2 committee is at high level risk from climate
3 change or actively planning community driven
4 relocation. The third criteria could be tribes
5 with less capacity and higher poverty to implement
6 projects at community or individual home levels,
7 low levels of households with electricity, low
8 levels of households with zero emission
9 electricity, and the community is at a high level
10 of risk from climate change or actively fighting
11 relocation with high levels of poverty. That is
12 all I have right now.

13 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you, Onna, so
14 that concludes our presentation portion. So, we'd
15 like to open it up at this time for comments. If
16 you could please raise your hand, then we will
17 know to call on you. Maria's hand function is in
18 reactions. All right, I see we have a question in
19 the chat. Is the additional hatchery funds going
20 to be awarded separate, other than annual BIA
21 hatcheries cyclical maintenance funds, or do you
22 want input on this, and when will the funds be

1 available? We have our team available. Go ahead,
2 Jason.

3 MR. FREIHAGE: Look's like David's on --
4 David do you want to address --

5 MR. WOOTEN: We don't have a firm --
6 this is David Wooten, Trust Services branch of
7 fisheries, wildlife and recreation manager at the
8 hatchery program. We don't have a firm timeline
9 of -- we didn't want to get ahead of the
10 consultation for one, that we having today, and
11 yes, exactly if we are going to roll it out fluid
12 with our existing program, or have like a stand
13 alone just for the new construction. Again,
14 partly the reason I am here today. So, nothing
15 firm on that I'm sorry.

16 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you and It looks
17 like we have a hand up from Willard Hand. Please
18 go ahead.

19 MR. HAND: Hi, thank you. I appreciate
20 the time. I serve as the tribal administrator for
21 a medium sized tribe in Alaska, but I also serve
22 on the National Tribal Caucus in partnership with

1 the EPA, and I just wanted mention that
2 competitive grants are oftentimes a negative for
3 our small capacity tribe, because we don't have
4 the staff or the resources a lot of times to
5 compete in this fast turnaround or in these
6 application processes, compared to these larger
7 tribes or large consortia. So, I think that has
8 to be considered and I think it is a little bit,
9 how do you say, it's -- we don't want to compete
10 against each other in the other tribes to get
11 funding that we all need. It's not in our -- it's
12 not at least in my perspective, I don't want to
13 compete against another tribe to take money away
14 from them. We all need money to work on these
15 issues. So, that's something for you to consider.
16 I don't work directly in the hatcheries, but I did
17 want to mention, once again, that's sounds like
18 competitive funding, and it also sounds like it
19 might have to do with the water codes and
20 ordinance and water quality standards, and I think
21 that the Alaska is being left out of that, at the
22 moment. I'd like to see some more going into it

1 -- and getting some of those authorities put into
2 Alaskan tribes hands, and I think that will affect
3 us getting the money for the hatchery type
4 programs, and also mentioned in the hatchery
5 programs, the ability to regulate our hunting and
6 fishing, that also excludes Alaska tribes, so I
7 think we want to be cognizant of that, and make
8 sure they -- they are considered. There's a lot
9 of fish and wildlife that can be happening in
10 Alaska and Alaskan tribal governments. There's a
11 lot of fish and wildlife activity happening and
12 Alaska tribal governments and don't always have a
13 say in how that's -- and don't really have a say
14 in how that happens, so please factor that in. I
15 appreciate your time. Thank you.

16 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you for those
17 comments. I see we have another hand up, let's go
18 to Grant Kirby. You can go ahead and unmute.

19 MR. KIRBY:: Yes, Okay, yes, I'm Grant
20 Kirby, fish program and manager for Sauk-Suiattle
21 Tribe, and I guess this is more, I asked a
22 question earlier and you kind of answered it, but

1 what -- I guess this is more input than a
2 question. It seems to me that there is one need
3 at least on -- the in Western Washington for
4 hatcheries that are the draft systems is
5 circulation. Whether improving existing systems
6 at hatcheries or putting the system in. It seems
7 to me that touches on all 3 categories, it touches
8 on climate change, because we need that because of
9 droughts that seem to be increasing seasonally,
10 and water issues, and that's only going to get
11 worse in the future. And, that will be a extra
12 operation expense, so you know combining solar to
13 those systems, seems to me, would be an added plus
14 too. So, it's kind of touching on all 3
15 categories. I don't know, and as far as creating
16 proposals, if it would be a bonus for putting a
17 proposal in like that. But, anyways, it's a
18 thought.

19 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you, and now
20 let's go to Jarred Erickson.

21 MR. ERICKSON: Hi, can you hear me?

22 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Yes, we can hear you.

1 MR. ERICKSON: Thank you. So, I
2 meantime it looks like the bill was written pretty
3 vague. In looking at -- I mean just some of the
4 bullet points, but the actual language, but when
5 it comes to the hatchery types of applied
6 resiliency, so we're working on a chief hatchery
7 which is EPA funded, although it's not a clear
8 water source, through our rapport with funding, I
9 guess maybe coming from multiple sources, but
10 would that be something that would be eligible for
11 this? If there are water -- current wells are too
12 hot, and the other water source is so -- we have a
13 lot of hidden, have a lot of problems with the
14 hatchery could do that. Could someone answer that
15 for me, would that be something that would be
16 eligible for this? For climate resiliency
17 purposes have the water cool enough so that it
18 doesn't die off?

19 MR. WOOTEN: This is David, if you know
20 considering this funding specifies that new
21 construction could occur, then I would guess that
22 a new well.

1 MR. ERICKSON: Yes, drilling into the
2 dams to get the third dam, certainly is new
3 construction, so yes.

4 MR. WOOTEN: Right.

5 MR. ERICKSON: Yes, thank you.

6 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Okay, so we have lots
7 of hands up, so just try to keep moving through
8 them quickly. Net we have Michael Crewson.

9 MR. CREWSON: Yes, I was going to
10 comment on what we just finished a project to put
11 in one of those water Reeves systems and it was
12 for -- the back part of the project was \$2.8
13 million dollars. So, looking at the \$10 million
14 for all the tribes for new construction, which I
15 don't know if anybody has tried to do any
16 construction lately, but it is ridiculously
17 expensive. But, anyway, I am just pointing that
18 out, like it's not a lot of new construction that
19 could occur at that kind of costs without figuring
20 out another additional funding sources, or more
21 money to put in for that type of stuff. I will
22 say on the habitat restoration under the

1 adaptation planning and vulnerability assessments,
2 you mentioned marine ecosystems or marine systems,
3 and besides restoration my input on that might be
4 that we have assessment or some monitoring or some
5 mention of that, because the tribe's perspective
6 of that Tulalip (phonetic) tribes, is that we
7 can't even address these problems, especially you
8 know substantially what is effected our salmon
9 returns as it's being effected by climate and the
10 ocean marine conditions, until we better
11 understand what is causing the problem. And, so
12 the monitoring right now every year done
13 consistently throughout Puget sound, is what we
14 are trying to get moving forward, but I strongly
15 recommend that we include some component like that
16 this is critically, like the first step we believe
17 we have to take before we can even effectively
18 address these problems, so thanks for listening.

19 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. Let's go
20 to Chairman Kat Brigham.

21 MS. BRIGHAM: First of all, I want to
22 thank -- because I think you know a lot of work

1 needs to be done and I appreciate all the federal
2 agencies stepping up to try to lead our
3 responsibilities. and man are we behind. In
4 looking at the fish hatchery funding that is being
5 made available, \$10 million quite frankly, is way
6 short. In the Columbia (phonetic) river we have
7 all those projects that are \$1 billion dollars
8 behind. And, so, I mean, like I said, we don't
9 want to compete with tribes, but at the same time
10 we want to get our hatcheries up to speed. And,
11 so figuring out how to spend that money, looks
12 like a lot, but actually it is not. And, then my
13 other question is, once we gotten things going,
14 the biggest problem for the Columbia River
15 hatcheries is that it's -- did not provide money
16 for upgrades and maintenance, and so that's why we
17 are in such -- in this condition right now. It is
18 that the federal agencies and the state agencies
19 did not provide money -- it was just for
20 operations. I'm at resiliency program -- in
21 looking at that, you know, that's a beginning as
22 well, but one of the things we also need to look

1 at, is getting the construction people, and
2 designers, engineers, how to build a home that's
3 built for conservation for water, electricity,
4 because we are going to be in that situation in
5 the future, where we are going to be telling
6 people to cut down on your water, cut down on your
7 electricity use, because we are trying to protect
8 our environment, and so, you know clean energy is
9 great, but, at the same time, it's expensive and
10 so, figuring out how to have homes and facilities
11 that are zero energy is going to be a -- is very
12 important right now, because right now, if we were
13 to do something, there's a 25 percent increase in
14 costs to get a green facility and we need help.
15 Because we are planning for the future. Thank
16 you.

17 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. Let's now
18 to go Mervin Wright, Jr. Go ahead, sir, when you
19 are ready. I think we may have lost him. Okay,
20 so we'll return to him if he joins back, but in
21 the meantime let's go to Aurora Taylor. Ms.
22 Taylor, just go ahead, and unmute when you are

1 ready.

2 MS. TAYLOR: Hi and thank you for
3 hosting us and for letting us speak. I'm with the
4 Sitka Tribe of Southeast Alaska, and I think
5 something that is worth considering for the
6 habitat planning and restoration funding is food
7 security and subsistence practices, and that is
8 something we would like to see included. Out of
9 the criteria when it comes to evaluated, these
10 comparative proposals because so much of what we
11 do, even dealing with the environment and the food
12 security and the subsistence resources, so that's
13 just something that I'd like to put for
14 consideration in the case log.

15 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. I see
16 Mervin Wright, Jr. joined us back. Do you want to
17 go ahead now, I think we lost you briefly earlier.

18 MR. WRIGHT: Okay, can you hear me now?

19 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Yes, I can hear you.

20 MR. WRIGHT: My name is Mervin Wright,
21 Jr, I am the Executive Director of Pyramid Lake
22 Fisheries in Pyramid Lake, Nevada. I was

1 interested in the language in the presentation
2 where it talked about overcoming bottlenecks in
3 production. And, then in the letter it makes
4 references to actually the development of
5 restrictions related to water quality and quantity
6 or consequences and concerns, regarding that these
7 fish genetics will be noticed and you know the
8 constant bottlenecks, I'm assuming it's with --
9 it's making reference to genetics, and what can go
10 on in a small system. I would say that, when it
11 comes to climate change environmental restrictions
12 related to weather quality, there are a number of
13 what the EPA refers to as emergent contaminants,
14 and seen as unregulated contaminants, but the list
15 is growing. There are a lot of chemicals that are
16 being produced, that are not regulated, that are
17 being discharged onto the ground and certainly
18 into drainages and into river systems, so when we
19 look at development restrictions, and see that
20 there are contaminants that need to be regulated,
21 or contaminants that need to be studied for
22 further research. Is this part of what we are

1 talking about here when it comes to environmental
2 restrictions, because when you start looking at
3 wanting to utilize funding, such as these
4 opportunities to do research and study the
5 contaminants in waterways, you tend to get denied.
6 And, so whatever part of this, I know a portion of
7 this funding is for construction, and this other
8 part of this are codes and policies, and so when
9 we look at the lower Truckee (phonetic) river, you
10 know on the reservation, we see that it's not
11 designated critical habitat. When you start
12 talking about critical habitat, they get nervous,
13 and I know that there is a lot of folks in the
14 region, and in states, and that can start becoming
15 agitated by these types of designations. Sorry,
16 that inalienable correspondence from the White
17 House, that habitat -- that critical habitat was a
18 part of some of the initiatives coming out of the
19 White House. When you start looking at the lower
20 Truckee river and knowing that we have both a list
21 of endangered and most important new species in
22 our system, and the habitat has not been

1 designated as critical. It makes you wonder
2 really, what are the controls and would this
3 funding -- could be used to assist our critical
4 fisheries effort to designate critical habitat.
5 Thank you.

6 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you for your
7 comments. Councilman Garcia, I see your hand up.

8 MR. GARCIA: Yes, can you hear me?

9 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Yes, we can.

10 MR. GARCIA: Okay, and thank you for the
11 opportunity and so I noted - my role went from a
12 panelist to a tribal input provider, and that's
13 what I am doing right now. This comment on the
14 electrification process but as well, I think it
15 applies to the other areas of funding, and I bring
16 to light a situation that we face, which really
17 kind of showed that the funding level, the funding
18 amount is not even close to what the needs of
19 Indian country are, and that has to be, the
20 example I bring to light, is the broadband project
21 that the initial dollars that were available were
22 one billions dollars actually it was.9 billion

1 dollars. But, when the applications went in, we
2 were looking at about \$6 billion dollars of
3 projects for maybe 350 tribes, that includes all
4 the tribes. So, 350 tribes requesting at least \$6
5 billion dollars, and so when you look at the
6 dollars that are available for this portion, this
7 consultation section, about electrification
8 process, there's are some elements that are
9 completely, I think assumed by the funding source,
10 and let me bring a little bit of light to that.
11 That is the most tribes are not working on plans
12 or even doing assessments of what their electrical
13 or technical needs are because it takes money and
14 it takes expertise, and knowledge based on what it
15 is that the tribes may need in terms of technology
16 and electricity is one of them. So, unless you
17 have taken the time and you have funding to do a
18 study, you don't really know what you needs are
19 until you invoke a plan to do that, and most
20 tribes do not have resources to even do that. So,
21 when funding is made available, the assumption is
22 that, tribes have already done assessment to what

1 their needs are, and so all you are looking for is
2 a construction element and that's the farthest
3 thing from the truth. So, you know it's got a bit
4 a lot more preliminary work in determining what
5 kinds of needs are available throughout Indian
6 country, and I bring to light some places in
7 Alaska that are small tribes, small villages and
8 though I see some of the needs that they have, but
9 they don't have the resources to even put a study
10 together to see what would be the technical need
11 in terms of making sure that electricity is
12 provided and in the broadband case, broadband be
13 provided. It's like that say, in North Dakota,
14 where every year the winter storms and the crude
15 temperature changes up there, people are suffering
16 from power outages. and so a quick fix and a good
17 fix might be broadband or generators for every
18 home or block of homes, and those are doable
19 things so that when power goes out the electrical
20 energy is made available to these devices, but
21 things like that, it takes money to plan all that
22 out, and as I said, the assumption is that tribes

1 are already doing this, and that's the farthest
2 thing from the truth, so when a few tribes can go
3 out and fight for these \$150 or \$200 million
4 dollars, that's not even close to what the needs
5 of Indian country are, so I wanted to bring that
6 to light, so thank you.

7 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you councilman,
8 and let's go to Willow Hetrick next.

9 MS. HETRICK: Yes, good morning, almost
10 afternoon, from Anchorage, Alaska. Thanks for
11 having us here today. I wanted to speak to the
12 tribal hatchery, the tribal fish hatchery
13 maintenance program, and just let the bureau know
14 that would be very, very helpful is to consider
15 all tribal hatcheries eligible for the funding.
16 Currently, how the lbIA administers that program,
17 and I put emphasis onto that word administer,
18 because it's actually not, from our research, it's
19 not congressionally appropriated, that the money
20 given from the fish hatchery maintenance program
21 is only for hatcheries that on tribal trust lands
22 or owned by the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Our

1 organization, the Chugach regional resources
2 commission, we have been operating a shellfish,
3 skin fish, mariculture, aqua culture research
4 center and hatchery, for over 25 years on the land
5 that we lease from the city. But, it is our
6 hatchery and it services our tribes just like a
7 hatchery does on tribal trust land. So, my
8 request is that, you know, through this Inflation
9 Reduction Act the bureau reconsider how they
10 administer that program to consider all tribes --
11 tribal hatcheries, whether on trust land or off
12 trust land, whether owned or leased, be eligible
13 for that funding. Thank you.

14 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. Let's go
15 onto Bob Marquez.

16 MR. MARQUEZ: Thank you and good
17 afternoon. Thank you for Mr. Garcia those are
18 really good comments about this electrification
19 program and our readiness here in Alaska to even
20 apply for that, and maybe taking another approach
21 with reducing our carbon footprint, if that's the
22 focus of this funding or providing backup systems

1 like he mentioned with generators, or just helping
2 the organizations that are doing these eminent
3 threat retreat efforts for climate change, and
4 there is never enough funding for these. Help
5 these villages that are either have fallen into
6 the ocean or the river, retrieve the funding for
7 new homes and replacement homes and energy
8 efficient, lower carbon footprint homes, would
9 make for us would make a lot more sense and better
10 use of those funds. Thank you.

11 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. So, I see
12 we have several folks also joining us by phone.
13 If you would like to make a comment, and you've
14 joined us by phone, please hit *9 to raise your
15 virtual hand, and then *6 to unmute yourself.
16 Again, that's start 9 to raise your hand and star
17 6 to unmute. That's only for folks dialing in by
18 phone. I don't see any hands whether you have
19 joined by phone or by computer. But, please go
20 ahead and raise your hand if you would like to
21 make a comment at this time. Mr. Willard Hand, I
22 see your hands up, go ahead.

1 MR. HAND: Here I find unmute.
2 Appreciate it, I know I spoke once, but I just
3 wanted to recognize and thank the other tribal
4 leaders for bringing up the specific points about
5 Alaska and making that evident to you folks in
6 Washington. So, per the chat the difference in
7 time zones may seem simple or a small thing, but
8 it does effect in how we negotiate, and how we
9 consult on baring 4 hours different from DC, but
10 as you develop these programs, please think about
11 that competitive piece. That is a really hard
12 thing for smaller tribes to overcome, and that's
13 been brought up repeatedly and I want -- I just
14 want to thank my fellow tribal leaders for
15 thinking about Alaskan tribes and bringing that
16 stuff up and bringing it to your attention. It's
17 real -- we are 20 years into this climate
18 resilience fight right now, in Alaska and time is
19 of the essence to save our small tribes and
20 fulfill these trust responsibilities, that we are
21 working so hard to achieve. So, thank you again
22 for your time and I appreciate your listening to

1 us and consulting with our tribes.

2 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you sir. Just
3 also just also to remind folks that if you want to
4 provide written input, we encourage you to.
5 Please send that to consultation@bia.gov by
6 January 17. And, please include consultation on
7 inflation reduction act on the subject line. All
8 right, and now let's go to Bill Tracey, Sr.

9 MR. TRACEY: Thank you and greetings
10 from Point Lay, Alaska. I'm a member of the native
11 village of Point Lay, and joining me here is my
12 wife Marie Tracey, the Vice President of the
13 Native Village of Point lay. She's a lifelong
14 member, I've been here for about 50 years, and
15 I've been involved with the relocating of Point
16 Lay, we are in our third location right now, and
17 we hope to stay, but due to circumstances we are
18 losing the ground from under our feet. I'll
19 combine a few questions that I have. The BIA
20 declined the village of point Lay, 2022 trial
21 climate resilience grant for community wide
22 permafrost, vulnerability assessment, yet a month

1 later we learned that our community was selected
2 to receive \$5 million as a demonstration project.
3 However, we do not know how that funding can be
4 used, will it come to our tribe, can it be used
5 for the project BIA did not fund in the grant
6 program. We want to know how the existing funding
7 can be used. Also, on page 4 of the Dear
8 (phonetic) Tribal letter, permafrost is not
9 included in the list of risk types for funding.
10 It is critical that the BIA invest in communities
11 threatened by permafrost degradation. And, I
12 might add, that Point Lay is ground zero for the
13 Murcell Burr (phonetic) area for permafrost
14 degradation. It is critical that the BIA tribal
15 climate resilience, have a transparent method to
16 invest in tribes across the country based on need.
17 Funding should be allocated based on the urgency
18 of the need, so that tribes like Point Lay, and
19 many other Alaskan communities, are supported
20 before the communities that face urgent threats.
21 Five million dollars is not much funding to
22 address the threats to our community. We need much

1 more, and I can described some of the paths that
2 are damaged that we've seen. So, we have a
3 multimillion dollar direct water sewer project, we
4 are having to abandon that, and install holding
5 tanks, both for sewage and for water. Our homes
6 are extremely small, so you put in 250-gallon
7 water holding tanks for our overcrowded. Homes,
8 that lasts a day and the service is every other
9 day at best. It's just costing the North Slope
10 Borough, the borough government, a ridiculous of
11 money to upkeep damage control, when they've got 8
12 communities to consider for capital projects, so
13 any BIA funding for our disasters, and I really
14 heavily consider the permafrost degradation a slow
15 moving disaster that has accelerated in the last
16 couple of years and it has become quite the
17 problem. We are losing our roads, we are losing
18 our driveways, we are losing our foundations to
19 our homes, doors don't close, window are cracking,
20 walls are cracking. So, it's really impotent that
21 BIA consider permafrost degradation. Thank you.

22 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you and Crystal

1 would you like to address some of those comments?

2 MS. KEYS: Thank you Mr. Tracey. My
3 name is Crystal Keys. I am the Acting Director
4 for Tribal Climate Resilience, and I understand
5 your concerns about the permafrost needing to be
6 in that criteria. We will examine that, and for
7 the demonstration project in the announcement, you
8 will be getting more direction on that and
9 clarification within the next week or so. We
10 would like to reach out and discuss with you
11 further so that way we can clear up any confusion.

12 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you.

13 MR. TRACEY: Thank you, thank you for
14 that.

15 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Great, and let's go to
16 Willard Hetrick again.

17 MS. HETRICK: Yes, we are almost done
18 with the hour, thanks for letting me entertain one
19 more comment, I just wanted to say I can't see who
20 is on the call or monitor the chat, but we
21 received this year's tribal letter yesterday, for
22 consultation, a very, very important consultation

1 today. In the future, I would greatly appreciate
2 a little more heads up so that we can prepare --
3 better prepare not only ourselves, but our tribes
4 to attend this important consultations. Thanks.

5 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Of COURSE, and that's
6 - they are posted on our website, but you know, it
7 should have reached you sooner, so I apologize for
8 that. Let's move on. Great -- I see there is a
9 comment user. A new comment -- User 1 is the name
10 I am seeing. Are you able to unmute?

11 MS. GILLIAM: Hi, this is Nancy Gilliam,
12 can you hear me?

13 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Yes, we can hear you.

14 MS. GILLIAM: Thank you just one second,
15 quick question. We are a nonprofit that helps
16 tribes build the capacity to do this kind of work.
17 We are non --

18 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: I'm sorry to
19 interrupt, but this consultation is just for
20 tribal leader comments.

21 MS. GILLIAM: Okay, thank you.

22 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. Okay.

1 MS. GILLIAM: Thanks.

2 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you, and let's
3 go to Jarred Erickson.

4 MR. ERICKSON: Thank you so, looking at
5 the registration an adoption fund we are looking
6 at a project to removal of unload a dam on the
7 Spokane (phonetic) river, it's in the Okanoguin
8 (phonetic) basin, and it is restoring (inaudible).
9 Would the work associated with that be eligible
10 for some staffing and more studies that need to go
11 on and removal of the dam. If you could answer
12 that for me. I know when - not all funding might
13 not be necessary for it but the nonfunctioning dam
14 - and does not function.

15 MS. KEYS: Hello Jerrard, so criteria
16 for that habitat restoration is still under
17 development, but if you have comments that you
18 would like to put forward, we welcome those so
19 that way we can consider all options.

20 MR. ERICKSON: Okay, well, those are my
21 comments. Are those to be eligible for the
22 studying/funding for staff to work any of those

1 and the removal of the structure -- habitat those
2 were -- used to be, thank you.

3 MS. KEYS: Thank you.

4 MR. WEYLOUANNA: Good afternoon, can you
5 hear me okay?

6 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Yes, we can hear you.

7 MR. WEYLOUANA: Okay, my name is Troy
8 Weylouanna, I am from the native village of
9 Shishmaref.

10 MR. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you sir, go
11 ahead.

12 MR. WEYLOUANA: And, this message to
13 Bryan Newl and we are a coastal village in Alaska.
14 And, our island is three miles long and about half
15 mile wide and we've been moving land every fall
16 due to erosion, and I was wondering if Mr. Newland
17 would have received a letter from the native
18 village of Schishmaref requesting some funding
19 that can be used to protect our shore line with
20 some seawalls funneled through the Schishmaref
21 Commission, and this would be from the Brazilian
22 infrastructure B-R-I-C BRIC grant, and we are

1 currently expecting an immediate response. Are
2 you still there, can you hear me still?

3 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Yes, I thought I heard
4 a voice in the background, okay. Do you know if
5 that is a FEMA grant you are referring to?

6 MR. WEYLOUANA: That is a TCR grant.

7 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Well, I think I'd like
8 to ask if we can follow up with you individually,
9 so we can check if we have gotten that request and
10 see if our staff may be able to help.

11 MR. WEYLOUANA: Yes, I'll turn it over
12 to our local coordinator. He knows more about
13 this.

14 MR. IYATUNGUUK: Hello, my name is
15 Michael Iyatunguk and I'm the local coordinator
16 working on this project for the native village of
17 Shishmaref. Apparently, we are losing our road --
18 sanitation road to the only dump and sanitation
19 site that we utilize year-round and evidently,
20 when we are done working on the patch that has
21 been eroded, it gets hit with another storm. So,
22 this design is rather patch and I think this would

1 kind of fix the issue, but then again we are still
2 minimized on funding because of the process that
3 we have to go through, and work the match with the
4 -- with other agencies. We are always facing a
5 shortfall of matching funds that is required
6 through the BIA along with FEMA, and it is a
7 lengthy process we've been fighting this for 25
8 years, and hopefully we can start closing the door
9 on losing the coastline to our communities, and
10 you know we either -- we are in the process of
11 getting waste and sewer, but we need that
12 protection to keep the water and sewer, so we
13 can't have -- we have to have both in order for us
14 to have the water and sewer, which we don't have
15 currently. I appreciate it, thanks.

16 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. I see
17 Chair Brigham has her hand up, go ahead.

18 MS. BRIGHAM: I have two questions. One
19 is that you know many times when we apply for
20 grants or private funding, it is very cumbersome.
21 So, I guess, you know, streamlining the process so
22 it would make it a lot easier, quicker for us to

1 go through, and I know you stated that there is
2 going to be an IRE policy that is going to be
3 coming out, and I'm hoping that it is really going
4 to streamline the process, so that we know -- not
5 the next day, but you know, but within a certain
6 timeframe. A day on when the funds -- that would
7 be a great thing to do with streamlining the
8 process. And, then, the other question I have is
9 the BIA \$10 million dollars for hatchery upgrades.
10 Is that going to be different or in addition to
11 the federal - for, you know, US Fish and Wildlife
12 Service -- funding obligations to upgrade their
13 hatcheries.

14 MR. WOOTEN: This is David again, yes,
15 that would be in addition. Ours is separate from
16 other bureaus.

17 MS. BRIGHAM: Okay, I just wanted to
18 make certain because sometimes, you know, they say
19 BIA's got it covered. That's not necessarily
20 true. So, it is in addition, okay, thank you.

21 MS. KEYS: Hello, Kat, this is also
22 Crystal Keys, and we are working on streamlining

1 our tribal application process. I know you
2 mentioned the difficulty application process, and
3 hopefully we can address some of those issues in
4 our next announcement.

5 MS. BRIGHAM: Okay, thank you very much.

6 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you and I don't
7 see any other hands right now. The folks from the
8 native village of Shishmaref are still on. We can
9 talk with you a little bit more right now, but we
10 are also happy to follow up with you afterwards
11 and that might be easier. Also, just noting that
12 you do not have cost sharing requirements, so
13 speaking to the last comment.

14 MR. WEYLOUANNA: I'm sorry this is Troy
15 Weyiouanna, the native village of Shshmaref, can
16 you please repeat that?

17 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: The cost sharing, I
18 think was to the last comment, but we just wanted
19 to see if you were still there because we didn't
20 have any other comments right now, so Crystal?

21 MS. KEYS: Yes, I can jump in here. So,
22 hi this is Crystal Keys, you have comments

1 regarding cost share requirements, BIA Tribal
2 Climate Resilience does not have a cost-share
3 requirement for our award process. So, I was
4 trying to understand what application you were
5 referring to for that sea wall. Was that
6 application to a FEMA BRIC award that were
7 requesting cost share from BIA?

8 MR. WEYLOUANNA: Well, there is a letter
9 that was sent to Mr. Bryan Newland, October 27,
10 2022. And, this is the information that we are
11 talking about.

12 MR. KEYS: Okay, so this was a letter to
13 Bryan Newland, this was not a proposal to tribal
14 climate resilience?

15 MR. WEYLOUANNA: I think the letter will
16 explain the urgency.

17 MR. KEYS: Okay, we will do our best to
18 find that letter.

19 MR. WEYLOUANNA: Okay, I appreciate it,
20 thank you.

21 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you, we will
22 check on that letter to make sure we get follow

1 up. Okay, looking for other hands now, if you'd
2 like to make a comment, please go ahead and raise
3 your hand. Just one more reminder that to raise
4 your hand you go to the reactions button, and
5 there is a raise hand button there. Or, if you
6 are calling in by phone, please hit *9 to raise
7 your hand virtually, and of course you can submit
8 your written comments to consultation@bia.gov by
9 January 17 of next year. I will just also note
10 that we have another session planned on December
11 15 in 2 days, that one is targeted to east and
12 central time zones, but of course everyone is
13 always welcome to join. That's December 15 - 1-3
14 pm eastern time. So, I'm not seeing any more
15 hands, I'll just give it a couple of more minutes,
16 if you would like to make a comment. All right,
17 and we have not yet heard from our DOI colleague,
18 Ms. Wahleah Johns. Would you like to make a
19 comment or go through anything on the DOI -- okay,
20 please go ahead.

21 MS. JOHNS: Thank you Kathryn, and good
22 afternoon, good evening, or good morning. My name

1 is Wahleah Johns and I'm with the Department of
2 Energy, Office of Indian Energy, and I just wanted
3 to let you all know that at the Department of
4 Energy, we are really excited about working the
5 Department of Interior on the Electrification
6 Program, this is really geared toward communities
7 or families who are having a hard time with
8 electricity, don't have access, and at the
9 Department of Energy, at our office we have a
10 current funding opportunity for \$15 million for
11 homes that don't have access to electricity, and I
12 can send the information in the link and also that
13 -- in the Bipartisan Infrastructure law, there is
14 the grid resilience formula that many of you, and
15 your nation and tribes and communities are
16 eligible for, and each village or each nation
17 tribe, has been allocated money from that funding
18 -- formula funding. So, I'm happy to follow up on
19 that because that could help support some of the
20 challenges with energy in rural remote areas right
21 now. The other opportunity is there is -- right
22 now -- we are taking comments around a rule in

1 remote funding opportunity that DOE will be coming
2 out with, specifically geared to again,
3 communities that haven't had the basic
4 infrastructure to power themselves, and I hear
5 comments around that today, and with, you know,
6 clean power, or just sustained power, for the
7 rural remoteness of many of you have spoke up
8 today, there is an RFI that is currently open, and
9 again I'll put that in the chat. But, I just
10 wanted to make sure that you all know that the
11 price of clean energy is coming down every day,
12 and so I think this is -- I know there was a
13 comment around clean energy being expensive, it
14 depends what type, but I know for solar, battery
15 storage, wind, that is coming down in price, and
16 so it is definitely I think for me, it's an
17 exciting moment in the bipartisan infrastructure
18 law and IRA, and I am just really grateful for
19 your comments today.

20 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you, and I
21 really appreciate the opportunity to work with you
22 on this. I see we have a couple of more hands in

1 the meantime, we'll go to Mr. Crewson.

2 MR. CREWSON: Thank you, and just a real
3 quick clarification question, but the \$10 million
4 for new hatchery construction that is, is that
5 over the next 10 years, I think I read that
6 somewhere? And the, the other part was, that
7 would be, I guess you haven't decided how you are
8 going to combine or not the other existing
9 hatchery maintenance funding, but that funding was
10 limited to not for new construction, so I am
11 assuming that this would stay the way it was,
12 while this additional funds is only -- the funds
13 you are talking about would be applicable only for
14 new hatchery construction. Thank you.

15 MR. WOOTEN: This is David again. That
16 is correct that is over 10 years they are
17 available. In an ideal world, we are still
18 exploring right now, but ideally, we'll be able to
19 somehow mix, thinking that all projects are not
20 going to have to totally rebuild, kind of like
21 putting a new heart in an existing body, but we
22 are hoping to stretch the funds over the funds

1 over the 10 years to make them go as far as
2 possible. We are still exploring exactly where
3 the definition of new construction, you know,
4 would end.

5 MR. CREWSON: Thank you.

6 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you and let's
7 now go to Mark McNeley, apologize if I
8 mispronounced that. Mr. McNeley, if you are able
9 to unmute please go ahead. Mark, if you are
10 speaking, we are not hearing you, so. If you
11 could unmute, we are ready for your comments.
12 Okay, I think we may be having a little bit of
13 technical difficulties there, apologies. Are you
14 ready? Are you able to unmute? Looks like you
15 are unmuted now, do you want to try speaking? Not
16 sure if anyone is able to help on our end, it
17 looks to me like you are off of mute, but you are
18 still not able to speak, at least we are not
19 hearing you.

20 MR. FREIHAGE: And, if you're on the
21 phone use *6, if you are using both, if you are on
22 screen, but also using the phone, *6 to unmute

1 that way. Or, you can put your question in the
2 chat if it is not too long and we can respond.
3 That's another back up.

4 MR. ISOM-CLAUSE: Okay, we see that
5 putting is *6 isn't working. Sorry about that.
6 If you are able to put it in the chat, or pass it
7 along to someone, we're happy to address it now,
8 if not, we're more than happy to follow up with
9 you later. Apologies for the difficulties in
10 speaking on this call. Are there any other
11 comments at this time, we certainly don't want to
12 cut off conversations, but also want to be mindful
13 of folks' times, if comments have concluded, we
14 can end early. Okay, thank you, Mark. So, I see
15 Mr. McNeley commented today, declined our grant,
16 and a month later they said they would be
17 providing funding. However, there are no details
18 on what we can use the money for. Is anyone on
19 our team familiar with that?

20 MS. KEYS: This is Crystal Keys. Mark,
21 which tribe are you with? I am assuming that is a
22 climate tribal resilience comment. It is, okay.

1 Mark, you will be getting more information on the
2 next steps for that contact for that pretty soon.
3 So, just hold tight and that notification will be
4 coming out of our office soon.

5 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you Crystal for
6 the clarification and again our apologies for the
7 emblematic difficulties here. It look like he has
8 a follow up or, also are the funds to be
9 distributed directly to the tribe?

10 MS. KEYS: This is Crystal, again.
11 Those funds will be going into a 638 contract,
12 again, so, yes.

13 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you. I see we
14 have another hand up, Bill Tracey, Sr.?

15 MR. TRACEY: Yes, thank you. Ms. Jones
16 from the Energy Department I found her
17 presentation short, but interesting. Most of the
18 Alaskan communities are very rural -- no roads in
19 and out, few roads within, everything pretty much
20 relies on air travel, and there is an annual barge
21 that brings in fuel and dry goods. We've tried
22 wind energy, way back in the early 70's, and

1 because the ground isn't always frozen, we lost
2 our wind towers. There is the absence of our sun
3 during several months of the winter. It is going
4 to be a humongous undertaking for so-called clean
5 energy to work up here. To work in many parts of
6 Alaska, we are going to be dependent on the
7 natural gas, diesel and gasoline, just to make our
8 state work. Jus to that we can fuel up our snow
9 machines, and hunt. We are using, you now, the
10 latest snow machine engines, outboard motors,
11 4-cycle that burn less fuel, burn it cleaner,
12 power plants have actual catalytic converters, we
13 are reburning the exhaust, we are doing everything
14 we can to make the fuel -- that we use as clean as
15 possible, but it doesn't seem to be recognized
16 longevity type of fuel for anybody in the United
17 States, and parts of the world. So, I'm concerned
18 that it's easy to talk about clean energy, wind
19 and solar, but that's the only thing that's easy.
20 Implementing it, is the hard part. So I, really,
21 and I think that most people that are in the state
22 of Alaska, would love to hear ideas on how that is

1 going to happen. And, it is something that is
2 kind of urgent because it's already being
3 implemented in many areas and we are not even
4 thinking about it yet because it just doesn't make
5 sense. Thank you.

6 MS. ISOM-CLAUDE: Thank you. Wahleah,
7 did you want to speak to any of those claims
8 further?

9 MS. JONES: Yes, absolutely. Thank you
10 for your comment, and yes, while it is still a
11 new, many of the technology is sort of new, and we
12 know that, and I think the rural remoteness I've
13 been to Alaska recently in August, and got to
14 visit some rural village and git understand -- the
15 yes, the -- being rural and remote, it is hard to
16 get equipment to a village and only during certain
17 times of the year and we have -- I can't exactly
18 say how many projects, but many projects that use
19 small hydro battery storage, wind, solar, in rural
20 remote villages. So happy to connect to some of
21 those places that are already using it and have
22 seen the reduction of their energy bill and saving

1 costs for villages that are subsistence villas, so
2 those are things that I have noticed in our, you
3 know, 10 years of supporting communities that with
4 this technology, and its mostly community
5 commercial scale technology, that I am happy to
6 sure and then we are planning to do an interagency
7 visit to Alaska in a few months, so that is
8 something that we want to better understand how we
9 can bring the skilled knowledge and people from
10 federal agencies to visit these rural remote areas
11 to understand better how to support the challenges
12 when it comes to energy burden, and that is a --
13 one of this administration's key priorities is to
14 address energy burden and communities that have
15 been struggling to, you know, with climate, but
16 also when it comes to high cost of power, and so
17 we want to make sure that we are doing our best to
18 understand and learn from you all, so thank you
19 for that comment.

20 MR. TRACEY: Thank you for that
21 feedback. I would like to learn from other
22 communities that are already working towards that

1 end, so thank you.

2 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: So, thank you both.
3 At this time, I don't see any more hands. Looks
4 like there is a question in the chat asking which
5 agencies will be coming to Alaska. I'm not sure
6 if you can share details about that yet, Wahleah?

7 MS. JONES: We are hoping to bring -- I
8 mean it is all open, the department of energy and,
9 of course, we will work with interior and BIA on
10 this. Because what we do notice is when we do go
11 to the regions, it is best to bring an interagency
12 team, so if there are issues around energy it
13 could be about water, or it could be around roads
14 or it could be about other topics that come up,
15 and want to make sure that we bring representation
16 from different agencies, so when we get more
17 information, we will share that with you.

18 MS. ISOM-CLAUSE: Thank you for the
19 preview. I look forward to sharing more on that
20 soon. I'm not seeing anymore hands right now, I'm
21 keeping an eye out for hands. This question about
22 the PL 102-477 process -- I don't think -- believe

1 we had planned to talk about that on this call,
2 but we are very happy to follow up. I can
3 personally follow up with you on that separately.
4 And, speaking of follow up if you have any
5 questions about the topics we discussed today,
6 please feel free to reach out to the points of
7 contact, on the additional resources slide in the
8 preentation. I have one final reminder that the
9 written comments are due January 17. Please send
10 those to consultation@bia.gov. Oh, sorry, thank
11 you for the clarification, the question is when
12 the agencies come to Alaska, will they talk about
13 PL 102-477? We will take that suggestion back,
14 and see if it will be incorporated in the agenda.
15 Thank you. Thanks for all of the helpful info in
16 the chat, I'm trying to monitor it, and I see
17 right now we have details for the next session on
18 December 15. And, we have everyone's comments and
19 I believe they are saved, and so we will also
20 reach out to folks if there is any individual
21 follow up that we see that our team can do. All
22 right, thank you everyone for being on with us

1 today, we had a lot of really great discussions
2 and really appreciate the very thoughtful comments
3 that everyone has brought to this, and we look
4 forward to continuing the conversation further.
5 Thank you all.

6 (Whereupon, at 4:32 p.m., the
7 PROCEEDINGS were adjourned.)

8 * * * * *

9

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

1 CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

2 DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

3 I, Peter Pantazopoulos, notary public in
4 and for the District of Columbia, do hereby certify
5 that the forgoing PROCEEDING was duly recorded and
6 thereafter reduced to print under my direction;
7 that the witnesses were sworn to tell the truth
8 under penalty of perjury; that said transcript is a
9 true record of the testimony given by witnesses;
10 that I am neither counsel for, related to, nor
11 employed by any of the parties to the action in
12 which this proceeding was called; and, furthermore,
13 that I am not a relative or employee of any
14 attorney or counsel employed by the parties hereto,
15 nor financially or otherwise interested in the
16 outcome of this action.

17

18 (Signature and Seal on File)

19 Notary Public, in and for the District of Columbia

20

21

22

