

Tribal Leader from 13 Arizona Indian Nations Gathered November 5, 2004

Tribal leaders from 13 Arizona Indian Nations gathered November 5 at the Prescott Resort Conference Center and Casino for a follow-up meeting to last summer's Governor's Tribal Energy Summit. The meeting was organized by the Arizona Department of Commerce and hosted by the Yavapai-Prescott Indian Tribe.

Among the topics discussed at the day-long meeting was the problem of rural electrification and the lack of electricity for a large number of tribal homes throughout Arizona. A panel of experts addressed the state representatives as well as the tribal leaders. The panel was comprised of Dean Smith, Northern Arizona University, Kris Mayes, Arizona Corporation Commission, Jamie Navema, Hopi Tribe, and Randy Medicine Bear, formerly of the Navajo Tribal Utility Authority.

Presently in Arizona between 12,000 and 18,000 residences on tribal lands are without electricity. Among tribes that lack full electrification are the Fort Apache, Navajo, Colorado River Indian Tribes, Gila River Indian Community, Hopi Tribe, Pascua Yaqui, Salt River Pima-Maricopa, San Carlos and Tohono O'odham tribes.

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