

COUNCIL OF ENERGY RESOURCE TRIBES
Final Report for DOE Cooperative Agreement DE-FC03-95SF20807
Period of September 1, 1995, to August 31, 1999

I. Projects funded by Department of Energy, Office of Environmental Management

There were three major projects undertaken at the outset of the DOE/EM 22 Cooperative Agreement back in September 1995. There was a project relating to Tribal oral histories. Another project of the Cooperative Agreement related to technology and Tribal values and needs. This project by analogy could apply to issues of technology, environmental cleanup and other indigenous peoples internationally. (How can Indian Tribes participate in defining the need for technology development rather than merely learning to adapt themselves and their situations and values to technology developed by others with differing needs, values and economic resources?) And the third project was the placement of a Tribal intern in EM-22.

The history of the Cooperative Agreement is not documented in this final report. But it should be noted at the outset of this report that the changes in management within CERT and the events leading up to the relocation of the administration from Oakland to Morgantown had a major impact on the course of the project. Although the goals and objectives were accomplished, they were done so not always as planned or anticipated. If the proof of the pudding is in tasting, then not only were the goals of the Cooperative Agreement between DOE and CERT achieved but the objectives of the projects as well. Perhaps of greater importance is the fact that the Cooperative Agreement became a vehicle for an even greater degree of cooperation between CERT, 50 energy Tribes, and the Department and the Administration for Native Americans.

Exploring the relatively uncharted waters of federal-Tribal relations in an era in which federal policy supports Tribal self-governance was one of the major reasons why DOE and CERT decided to enter into a Cooperative Agreement. The projects themselves have helped to map the terrain of federal-Tribal relations. But the experience of managing the Cooperative Agreement has deepened CERT's understanding of the challenges facing both parties to this unique American experiment, the challenge of intergovernmental relations in a system of shared governmental responsibility and authority.

A. History Project

1. Annotated Bibliography

a. Project Objective

To create a comprehensive bibliography that would support future research conducted by Tribes and other interested parties. Of particular importance to this project was to develop a resource that would complement the development of additional Tribal oral histories.