

# **Technical Progress Report**

## **Quarterly Report**

**Reporting Period Start Date:** January 1, 2003

**Reporting Period End Date:** March 31, 2003

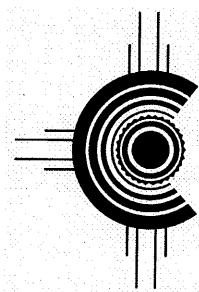
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**Report Approved by:** A. David Lester, Executive Director

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## **Abstract**

As of January 17, 2003, Lance M. Wyatt successfully completed his internship with the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice on the Task Force that specifically focuses their work on Tribal nations.

While working as an intern with the National Transportation Program, Albuquerque operations, Jacqueline Agnew received an offer to work for the Alaska Native Health Board in Anchorage, Alaska. This was an opportunity that Ms. Agnew did not feel she could afford to forego and she left her internship position in February 2003. At present, CERT is in the process of finding another qualified individual to replace the internship position vacated by Ms. Agnew.

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## **List of Graphical Materials**

Not applicable.

## **Executive Summary**

As of January 17, 2003, Lance Wyatt successfully completed his internship with the U.S. Department of Energy and the Environmental Protection Agency. Lance Wyatt worked closely with the Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice on the Task Force that specifically focuses their work on Tribal nations. During this reporting period Mr. Wyatt asked for and received vacation leave to visit his family in another state. Upon his return he finalized the projects he was working on during his internship and completed his final report.

During the period that Jacqueline Agnew was working at her position as an intern, most of the Tribal activities within the Department of Energy Transportation were curtailed. However, Ms. Agnew continued to work on several projects for the Council of Energy Resource Tribes as assigned.

While working as an intern with the National Transportation Program, Albuquerque operations, Jacqueline Agnew received an offer to work for the Alaska Native Health Board in Anchorage, Alaska. This was an opportunity that Ms. Agnew did not feel she could afford to forego and she left her internship position in February 2003.

A. David Lester, Executive Director of the Council of Energy Resource Tribes traveled to Albuquerque to meet with Judith Holme to discuss the criteria for a replacement for this internship vacancy. At present, CERT is in the process of finding another qualified individual to fill the internship position vacated by Ms. Agnew.

## **Experimental**

Not applicable.

## **Results and Discussion**

The CERT Tribal Internship Program is part of the education and training opportunities provided by CERT to accelerate the development of American Indian technical professionals available to serve Tribes and expand the pool of these professionals. Tribes are severely impacted by the inadequate number of Indian professionals available to serve and facilitate Tribal participation and support of the energy future of Tribes, and subsequently the energy future of the nation.

By providing interns with hands-on work experience in their field of study two goals are accomplished:

1. The intern is provided opportunities for professional enhancement.
2. The pool of Indian professionals available to meet the needs of Tribal government and Tribal communities in general is increased.

The internship program is a bridge enabling American Indian undergraduate and graduate students to transition into the technical and professional workforce. In crossing this bridge, Indian students have access to intensive professional training, mentorship and practical experience in a wide range of scientific, technical and policy areas.

## **Conclusion**

During their internship, both Lance Wyatt and Jacqueline Agnew gained extensive real world experience in professional fields of endeavor under the mentorship of experienced senior level professional practitioners.

## **References**

Not applicable.

## **Bibliography**

Not applicable.

## **List of Acronyms and Abbreviations**

Not applicable.

## **Appendices**

Final Report – Lance Wyatt

Weekly Reports – Jacqueline Agnew

Final Report – Jacqueline Agnew

## **Lance Wyatt – CERT Internship Final**

By the end of my internships, I fully understood the work that I was dealing with. I learned a great deal from the interactions, meetings and conferences at DOE and EPA. There is a lot more to learn and to deal with that I wish I had a chance to learn while I worked in DC.

My work helped me realize the heart that I have for this type of work and that I would very highly consider doing more work with tribes, environmental justice, and the energy needs. I have considered as well expanding my education to the possibility of law school, based upon my large interest in the practices of law surrounding the agencies' work.

I have learned many great things from both teaching by Brandt Petrasek and Daniel Gogal. They both treated me with the respect of an equal employee. I also made two new good friends.

There are a lot of people to thank for everything they've done. Most of all, I'd like to thank CERT for giving me such a great opportunity

**TO: Council of Energy Resource Tribes**

FROM: Jacqueline D. Agnew, DOE Intern

DATE: April 28, 2003

RE: Quarter Report and Intern Narrative

**December 2002**

Week #1- Research on Biomass technologies, etc. for BIA/CERT Biomass Demonstration project for the Southwest BIA region Tribes.

Week #2- Preparing Consultation and Tribal profiles for DOE's Civilian Waste Program, regarding transportation of radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain depository site in Nevada.

Week #3 – Vacation.

Week #4 - Follow-up calls to corridor Tribes, if they had any additional comments/questions regarding DOE transportation issues.

**January 2003**

Week #1- Compiling Biomass information.

Week #2- General Administration work for DOE transportation office.

Week #3- General Administration work of DOE transportation office.

Week #4- Site visit to Laguna Pueblo.

**February 2003**

Week #1 – Clearing files, projects and cleaning up workstation. This is my last week of the CERT internship. Accepted a position in Anchorage Alaska with the Alaska Native Health Board.

**Narrative:**

My internship with CERT was a very productive experience for my professional development objectives. My work with DOE awarded me the challenges with the interactions between Tribal Governments and the federal government in regards to radioactive transportation issues facing the Tribes across the country.

The most enjoyable aspect of working for CERT was that I was *working for CERT* and had the opportunity to help and represent the Tribes in a small way within a federal agency. CERT also provided me excellence and meaningful professional and personal guidance in protocol and methods in cross-cultural communicating between Tribes and non-tribal entities, which I will be able to carry within throughout my professional career. Mr. Lester and Mr. Fragua were always available and eager to give me sound advice and counsel, I will always be grateful that CERT is under such extraordinary leadership.

However, due to the federal continuing resolution situation earlier in the fiscal year, most of the Tribal activities within the DOE transportation office were put on “hold”, and many of my duties were abruptly halted. I became very dissatisfied with the lack of work DOE was offering me, and starting looking for permanent employment. I did find employment in my home State of Alaska. I now work for the Alaska Native Health as the Rural Alaska Sanitation Coalition and Solid Waste Management Grants Manager.

Besides the lack of “DOE work” my internship with CERT will always have a positive influence in my professional career. The CERT internship program is a useful and vital portion of any Native American Student/Graduate professional development phase. I hope and pray the program will continue to endure and provide young Native Americans a place to be challenged and grow within the complex world of ensuring that the Tribal Nations are being provided with all the rights, privileges, and even the luxuries they so very much deserve and are rightfully entitled to have.

**Quyana Cakneq, Tau-i.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Jacqueline D. Agnew