

Just Energy

Background History

- ◆ Identification of issue/injustice - March 2000
 - ◆ American Indian newspaper article
 - ◆ Founder of C.R.E.E. visited and talked with Pimicikamak Cree Nation
- ◆ Grass-roots Organizing meeting - November 2000
 - ◆ Environmental, social justice, human rights, and indigenous representatives
- ◆ C.R.E.E. established - December 2000

Current Situation

- ◆ Acquisition under way
 - ◆ ME 3 (Minnesota for an Energy Efficient Economy)
 - ◆ Michael Noble, Executive Director.
 - ◆ Indian sub-committee and Indian people on the advisory board.

Purpose

- ◆ Raise Awareness about environmental and social impact of energy consumption
- ◆ Integrate awareness of social and environmental consequences of energy consumption into public policy
- ◆ Stop the purchase of hydro-power from Manitoba Hydro

Goals

- ◆ Education
- ◆ American Indian Outreach
- ◆ \$5.00 Campaign
- ◆ Legal

Education Component

- ◆ *Down to the Wire*
 - ◆ Curriculum targeting 4th and 9th graders
- ◆ Focus on the creation of electricity, consumption and how it is used

American Indian Outreach

- ◆ Seeking Nation resolutions in support that Xcel not purchase Hydro electricity based on the devastating impact to the Boreal forest and the C.R.E.E nation.
- ◆ To date we have _____ resolutions from nations and _____ from Indian organizations.

\$5.00 Campaign

- ◆ Method for those who are energy conscious and social justice oriented to actively protest against Xcel's lack of attention to the impact on the environment and Indigenous people.

Legal

- ◆ Challenge the decisions made by Minnesota Public Utility Commission regarding the review of environmental and social impact of Hydro usage.

Historical Context of Energy

Environmental Issues and Indigenous
Communities

4 Reasons for Hydro Development

- ◆ Flooding
- ◆ Irrigation
- ◆ Electricity
- ◆ In US - tourism or recreation

Energy at Expense of Indian Nations in US

- ◆ Lakota Nation
 - ◆ Ohie Dam at Missouri
- ◆ Seneca Nation
 - ◆ Kinzua Dam on the Alagancy River
- ◆ Lac Courte Oreilles (L.O.C.) Commission
- ◆ Blackfeet Nation
- ◆ Prairie Island
 - ◆ Nuclear Plant
- ◆ Northern Cheyenne
 - ◆ Methane Plant
- ◆ Goshoot, Utah
 - ◆ Placement of spent nuclear plant fuel

Indigenous People of the World Impacted by Hydro Dam projects

- ◆ Malaysia
- ◆ China
- ◆ Philippines

Breaking the Iron Bonds: Indian Control of Energy Development

by Marjane Ambler

- ◆ According to government agencies
 - ◆ Indians own 30% of the coal west of the Mississippi River
 - ◆ 37% of potential uranium resources and
 - ◆ 3% of the nation's known oil and gas reserves

Breaking the Iron Bonds: Indian Control of Energy Development

by Marjane Ambler

- ◆ Uranium and coal mined on some of the following reservations:
 - ◆ Navajo – coal and uranium
 - ◆ Hopi – coal
 - ◆ Crow – coal
 - ◆ Cheyenne River Sioux – coal
 - ◆ Laguana Pueblo – uranium
 - ◆ Spokane – uranium

CROSS LAKE

General Background

- ◆ Population: 5704 as of July 1999
- ◆ Employment
 - ◆ 90% unemployment
 - ◆ Primary form of income is welfare (Canadian style) \$230.00 a month
 - ◆ Work for the tribe

General Background

- ◆ Health problems
 - ◆ There is no hospital only a nurse's station.
 - ◆ Anyone in need of medical attention must go to Winnipeg, which is expensive.
- diabetes
- heart problems
- cancer
- liver
- kidney
- birth defects
- skin disorder

General Background

- ◆ Suicide
 - ◆ effects all generations but primarily teens
 - ◆ high rates
- ◆ Birth Rate
 - ◆ %60 of the population is under 25.
 - ◆ High rates

General Background

- ◆ Environmental impact
- ◆ Impound area (large area that holds the water)
- ◆ Man has basically reversed the cycle of flow.
- ◆ Use of Indian land for energy in the U.S.

Reasons for Community Destruction

- ◆ Residential schools that impacted the community (sexual abuse of children)
- ◆ The bottom fell out of the fur market and the most recent and impacting factor
- ◆ The building of the hydro dam.
 - ◆ The community was uninformed.
 - ◆ Hydro was placed upon them without their consultation or input.

Hydro Impact on Cree Nation

- ◆ 5 Cree nations have been impacted
- ◆ 4 nations have chosen to work with Manitoba Hydro
- ◆ Cross Lake stands by the 1977 flood agreement wanting Manitoba to abide by the agreement

QUESTIONS

Thank You!