



## **Energy Improvements in Rural or Remote Areas (ERA) Program Selections for Award Negotiations**

### **Project Summary**

**\*\*\* Embargoed until 11am on February 27 \*\*\***

All project components and funding amounts are subject to change during award negotiations and as the project proceeds.

**Project Name:** Yakama Tribal Solar Canal & Hydro Energy Project

**Selectee Name:** The Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

**Location:** Yakama Indian Reservation (Washington)

**DOE Funding:** Up to \$32 million

**Total Project Cost:** \$40 million

**Project Summary:** This project aims to convert inefficient, open-water irrigation canals into a solar and micro-hydropower irrigation system. This cutting-edge system could conserve up to 20% more water and help energy-burdened residents save up to 15% on their utility bills. Additionally, the project team plans to build solar panels on land that the Tribe knows does not risk disturbing cultural resources, providing a replicable solution for responsible solar siting. It is anticipated that deploying solar technologies will increase the Yakama Nation's renewable power supply, while improving its energy resilience and reliability. Improvements in irrigation efficiency could also benefit grazing and irrigated agriculture, the area's key economic drivers.

As part of its Community Benefits Plan commitments, the project team plans to train and hire local Tribal members to ensure project dollars are reinvested and continue to circulate within the community. This project aims to create at least 10 full-time positions, leading to a stronger local economy and increased disposable income for the reservation. The engagement plan also incorporates local stakeholders, including local labor and community-based organizations in a manner that can impact project decisions.