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
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
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
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!