

# **ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

**For A Comprehensive Community  
Technology Center  
COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION**  
Keshena, Wisconsin  
March 21, 2011



Completed For the National Telecommunications and  
Information Administration (NTIA)  
Broadband Telecommunications Opportunities Program  
(BTOP)

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Center  
COLLEGE OF MENOMINEE NATION**

**March 21, 2011**

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## **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The College of Menominee Nation, which has its main campus located in Keshena, Wisconsin, primarily provides educational facilities for its students enrolled in their programs. Computer labs on the campus are for students and academic use only, and are not open to the general public. Currently there is no location in the community that offers any type of community computer access or technology. Constructing a Comprehensive Community Technology Center on the College of Menominee Nation campus will provide the general public a location to utilize much needed high-speed internet for access to community education.

The purpose of this report is to evaluate Alternatives to accommodate primarily the Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin needs for access to high-speed internet, as standard DSL is only available within very limited areas of the community and wireless internet is inaccessible to the region due to the dense forest covering the reservation. The proposed action would provide internet access to tribal members, most of whom live on or adjacent to the reservation, as well as allow the college to provide critical community support activities that increase the employability and job skills of local residents. The Menominee Tribe is currently contracting with Charter Communications to expand high-speed internet implementation on the reservation, which will play a key role in training community members in new developments of high-speed internet as the technology evolves.

Four Alternatives, including a No Action Alternative, are also discussed.

The summary table below outlines all impacts identified in this study. No major adverse environmental impacts were identified for the Proposed Action or Alternatives III and IV. Major socioeconomic impacts would result from the No Action Alternative due to the lack of technology access. Minor negative impacts identified in the study are small increases in storm water runoff and greenhouse gas emissions for the Proposed Action and Alternatives III and IV. There would be a slight decrease in woodland habitat under the Proposed Action and there would be loss of net classroom space under Alternative IV. A major positive impact of the proposed action would be the increase of availability of technology and computer resources for the benefit of Menominee County residents.

	<b>No Action Alternative (I)</b>	<b>Proposed Action (II)</b>	<b>Alternative III</b>	<b>Alternative IV</b>
<b>Noise</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Minor negative amounts during construction phase</i>	<i>Minor negative amounts during construction phase</i>	<i>Minor negative amounts during construction phase</i>
<b>Air Quality</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>Geology/ Soils</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>Water Resources</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>Biological Resources</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Minor negative loss of woodland habitat</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>Historic/Cultural Resources</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>Aesthetic/ Visual Resources</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Minor negative loss of existing green space</i>	<i>Minor positive replacing parking lot with new building</i>	<i>Minor positive replacing 2 older buildings with new building</i>
<b>Land Use</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>Negative impact loss of one class room building because no suitable alternative location</i>
<b>Infrastructure</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Positive addition of new infrastructure</i>	<i>Positive addition of new infrastructure</i>	<i>Positive addition of new infrastructure</i>
<b>Socioeconomic Resources</b>	<i>Major negative impact on employment/ technological education</i>	<i>Positive impact includes addition of new technology</i>	<i>Positive impact includes addition of new technology</i>	<i>Positive impact includes addition of new technology</i>
<b>Human Health and Safety</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>	<i>None</i>
<b>Climate/ Greenhouse Gases/ Global Warming</b>	<i>None</i>	<i>Minor negative addition of GHG during construction (and additional commuting)</i>	<i>Minor negative addition of GHG during construction (and additional commuting)</i>	<i>Minor negative addition of GHG during construction (and additional commuting)</i>