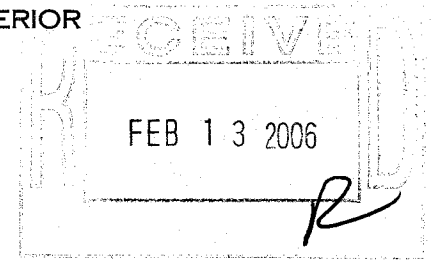




THE ASSOCIATE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

FEB 03 2006



Dear Tribal Leader,

The Department of the Interior has scheduled the first tribal consultation meeting as a part of the Regulatory Initiative for the following dates in Albuquerque, New Mexico:

Tuesday, February 14, 2006, 8:00AM – 5:00PM
Wednesday, February 15, 2006, 8:00AM – 5:00PM

These meetings will take place at the following location:

Hotel Albuquerque at Old Town
800 Rio Grande NW
Albuquerque, NM 87102

In order to facilitate this consultation process, we distributed drafts of the Indian Trust Management Reform regulations along with a tribal leader letter dated December 27, 2005. We are anxious to get feedback and input from Tribes, tribal leaders, trust beneficiaries and other individuals working with and on behalf of these groups before we publish proposed rules in the Federal Register. Please find enclosed short summaries of each regulatory package. We developed these as a tool to highlight the changes in the regulations.

We will begin the consultation meeting with an overview of the Regulatory Initiative. Additionally, leaders from within Interior and work group members will be on-hand to discuss the goals of developing the regulations and the changes that are being proposed. The second day of the consultation meeting will focus primarily on the following regulations:

- Probate of Indian Estates (25 CFR 15, 43 CFR 4)
- Tribal Probate Codes (25 CFR 18) (New)
- Life Estates and Future Interests (25 CFR 179)
- Land Records and Title Documents (25 CFR 150)
- Conveyances of Trust and Restricted Land (25 CFR 152)
- Fee for Service (New)
- Trust Fund Accounting and Appeals (New)
- Whereabouts Unknown and Unclaimed Moneys (New)

We continue to welcome any comments you may have on the draft regulations, and we look forward to a meaningful and productive consultation process.

Sincerely,

James E. Cason