



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

JUL 31 2015

Dear Petitioner:

On July 1, 2015, the Department of the Interior (Department) issued a final rule regarding Federal acknowledgment. This rule becomes effective on July 31, 2015. Enclosed please find a copy of the revised 25 C.F.R. Part 83 regulations entitled, "Federal Acknowledgment of American Indian Tribes; Final Rule."

Petitioners, such as your group, never submitted a complete petition under the previous regulations. Please note that the Department's new regulations provide:

Any petitioner who has not submitted a *complete* documented petition as of July 31, 2015, must proceed under these revised regulations. We will notify these petitioners and provide them with a copy of the revised regulations by July 31, 2015.

25 C.F.R. § 83.7(a). Accordingly, please be advised that your group should prepare its petition in accordance with the enclosed final rule. Under the new regulations, the regulatory process will begin when we receive a complete documented petition from your group.

As explained in Section 83.21 of the new rule, a complete documented petition requires: (1) a certification signed and dated by the governing body, (2) a concise written narrative with citations to supporting documentation thoroughly explaining how the petitioner meets each of the criteria listed in Section 83.11 of the rule, (3) supporting documentation, and (4) membership lists and explanations. In addition to the complete original petition, please also submit those pages where you redact or remove privacy material from your petition. As such, when we receive a complete petition from your group the petition will be reviewed under the new regulations.

Should you have any questions, please contact the Office of Federal Acknowledgment, 1951 Constitution Avenue, MS 34B-SIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, or by telephone at (202) 513-7650.

Sincerely,

Kevin K. Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure