



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

FEB 15 2011

Dear Tribal Leader:

Please find at <http://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/Consultation/index.htm>, for your review and input, draft regulations that would establish subparts to 25 CFR 162 (Leases and Permits) addressing residential leasing, business leasing, and wind and solar resource permitting and leasing. By providing transparent procedures for obtaining Secretarial approval of leasing documents, including specific procedures for wind and solar resource development, we hope to streamline and expedite the leasing process, advance economic development, and spur renewable energy development in Indian Country.

These drafts are a starting point for your review and input. We invite you and/or your staff to provide us with your comments either in writing or at one or more of the following scheduled consultation sessions:

Thursday, March 17, 2011

1:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Reservation Economic Summit (RES) 2011

Las Vegas Hilton, 3000 Paradise Road, Las Vegas, NV 89109

Thursday, March 31, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Bishop Henry Whipple Federal Bldg, One Federal Drive, Room G-110, Ft. Snelling, MN 55111

Wednesday, April 6, 2011

8:30 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

Indian Pueblo Cultural Center, 2401 12th Street, NW, Albuquerque, NM 87104

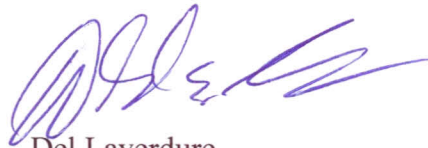
The draft regulations are lengthy and, as such, require some explanation. There is considerable repetition among the subparts because each subpart was written to be largely freestanding. Our intent is to make these regulations more “user friendly,” in part by reducing the need to flip back and forth to generally applicable sections.

We have enclosed a supplement to facilitate your review of the draft regulations. This supplement highlights some of the policy decisions incorporated into the draft regulations. It also presents some specific questions on which we would like your input.

Our goal is to have regulations addressing residential leasing, business leasing, and wind and solar resource permitting and leasing proposed in the Federal Register by late summer of 2011, and finalized and effective in 2012. Our ability to meet this objective is based upon your input regarding the need for, and content of, these regulations.

We look forward to receiving your comments and suggestions. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Bryan Newland at (202) 208-7163. Thank you, in advance, for your time.

Sincerely,



Del Laverdure
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—
Indian Affairs

Enclosure:
Supplement

Please send your input/suggested language by **April 18, 2011** to:

Del Laverdure
Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
MS 4141 - MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Or by email to: consultation@bia.gov