

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

\_\_\_\_\_) )  
ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, et al., )  
 ) No. 1:96CV01285 (RCL)  
 )  
Plaintiffs, )  
 )  
v. )  
 )  
GALE A. NORTON, Secretary of )  
the Interior, et al., )  
 )  
 )  
Defendants. )  
\_\_\_\_\_)

**NOTICE OF FILING OF FEBRUARY 2005 STATUS REPORT BY  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR OFFICE OF TRUST RECORDS**

The Department of the Interior Office of Trust Records hereby submits its status report for activity in February 2005. A copy of the report is attached hereto.

Dated: March 15, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on March 15, 2005 the foregoing *Notice of Filing of February 2005 Status Report by the Department of the Interior Office of Trust Records* was served by Electronic Case Filing, and on the following who is not registered for Electronic Case Filing, by facsimile:

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**Notices**

1:96-cv-01285-RCL COBELL, et al v. NORTON, et al

U.S. District Court

District of Columbia

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## Docket Text:

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**ACTIVITY REPORT**  
**OFFICE OF TRUST RECORDS**  
February 1 – 28,2005

**PROGRAMMATIC:**

- Labat-Anderson (Labat) Indexing Project

Labat reported that 4,919 boxes of inactive Indian records were completed in February 2005. The total number of boxes completed through February 2005 is 107,030.

The Office of Trust Records (OTR) and Labat staff completed the preparation of inactive records for shipment to Lenexa for the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Office of the Special Trustee offices located at the Southern Plains Regional Office (SPRO) and the Anadarko Agency. A total of 1,113 boxes were shipped from the two sites.

OTR and Labat staff began and completed the preparation of inactive records for shipment to Lenexa at the BIA Ft. Belknap Agency. 678 boxes of inactive records were shipped from Ft. Belknap.

- Movement of Records

OTR moved 1,709 boxes of indexed inactive records from Albuquerque storage facilities to the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR) for permanent storage. OTR, BIA and OST moved 2,426 boxes to Lenexa, Kansas for indexing and subsequent storage at AIRR. This includes the boxes shipped from SPRO and Ft. Belknap Agency.

Very few non-litigation hold boxes remain in Albuquerque. It is anticipated that these boxes will be shipped to Lenexa in March and only the litigation hold boxes will remain in Albuquerque. Once the litigation hold is lifted, OTR will ship the remaining boxes to Lenexa.

- Boxes Requiring Preservation and/or Remediation

Carino Conservation did not complete its report in February. However, the contractor completed and delivered the report to OTR on March 14,2005. OTR will review the report and consult with the National Archives and Records Administration (**NARA**) and the contractor about the procedures recommended for addressing affected records.

- Individual Files Requiring Preservation

As stated in the last monthly report, OTR and NARA continued to accession and shelve boxes sent to AIRR for permanent storage. OTR and NARA completed this activity as anticipated during February. As anticipated, NARA and OTR staff will be able to begin assessing the individual files in March.

- Bureau of Land Management (BLM) Certification of Indian Fiduciary Trust Records

On February 22, 2005, BLM provided its certification to the Associate Deputy Secretary that it has completed the identification of Indian Fiduciary Trust Records (IFTR) maintained by the BLM. BLM has designated the records series that may or do contain IFTR as permanent in its records retention schedule. This certification was provided pursuant to the October 2003 memorandum issued by the Assistant Deputy Secretary to all Bureau Directors, Office Heads and Solicitor to identify such records and to designate the records series containing IFTR as permanent within the agency or office records retention/disposition schedules.

- Site Assessments

Site assessment reports were forwarded to the BIA Chickasaw Agency and Okmulgee Agency. The Wewoka Agency report was forwarded to the agency in January 2005 and should have been included in the OTR January 2005 report but was inadvertently not reported. This is a correction to the January 2005 report. Site assessment reports were also forwarded to the OST field offices located at Eastern Oklahoma Regional Office and the Osage Agency. The Creek Nation site assessment report was completed and forwarded to the Office of Trust Review and Audit for transmission to the Nation in November 2004 and should have been included in the OTR November 2004 report but was inadvertently not reported. This is a correction to the OTR November 2004 report.

No site assessments were conducted this month. Site assessments are scheduled in March 2005 at six agencies in the Southwest Region.

- Records Training

OTR did not provide records management training in February.

- Equipment

87 pieces of fireproof filing equipment were delivered to BIA and OST offices.

- Litigation Support

OTR continued to provide litigation support in research of records for tribal trust litigation cases including: Jicarilla Apache, Pueblo of Laguna, Blackfeet, Osage, Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation of Oregon, and Shoshone-

Bannock Tribes of Ft. Hall. OTR continued to provide access to records to the Office of Historical Trust Accounting and OST offices.

- Records Evaluation – Accession #M0003-8001

The 31 boxes remain at OTR pursuant to a litigation hold by the Office of the Solicitor for the Jicarilla Apache and Pueblo of Laguna tribal trust litigation cases. Once the boxes are released, OST can carry out its plans to verify whether any potential records are also filed at the field office. They plan to do this by taking the boxes to the field office and comparing documents to documents maintained at the field office. As previously reported, this review is intended to determine whether the contents might be federal/trust records or whether the contents had been properly marked as non-record duplicates.

- Standing Rock Agency

OTR was not asked to and did not provide any further assistance during February 2005.

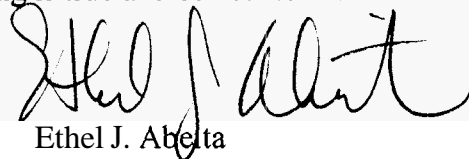
**ADMINISTRATIVE:**

Ordinary administrative activities continued.

**GENERAL OBSERVATIONS:**

Most research activity now occurs in AIRR.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.



Ethel J. Aberta