

Secretarial Commission on Indian Trust Administration and Reform
Proposed Guidance for Providing Input to the Commission
7-23-12

Overview

At its June 2012 Commission meeting, Commissioners discussed preparing guidance language to include in the Commission's outreach presentation and to post on the Commission's website to help focus comments and input directed to the Commission. A similar suggestion was made during the public comment portion of the March 2012 Commission meeting.

On the June 21 administrative call, Commissioners reviewed draft language (see below) prepared by the Interior team. The intention of the language was to be respectful of the importance of sharing tribe specific and substantive issues while ensuring the Commission is fulfilling its chartered duties. Commissioners provided comments on proposed language on its June 21 administrative call and the DOI team subsequently discussed the language in a conference call on June 24.

The topic was again raised on the July 9 administrative call by Chair Sharp, specifically with respect to what guidance the Commission can provide tribes, individual Indians, and organizations regarding input and how the Commission can be appropriately responsive to specific issues that are raised. Commissioners want to assist tribes in a manner that is consistent with its role as a FACA Committee.

Next Steps

The language below was circulated to the DFO to coordinate with the Solicitor's Office. From there the proposed revised language will be circulated to the Commission for review, discussion, refinement and finalization. The final language will be incorporated in the Commission's powerpoint presentation, talking points, and posted to the Commission's website.

Edits discussed during the June 21 ITC Administrative call and subsequent DOI team call are in red.

"The Commission recognizes that there are many important issues related to trust administration and management that impact tribes, individual Indians and tribal organizations.

The Commission welcomes your ideas, recommendations and possible solutions for trust management and administration to improve the delivery of trust services to Indian Country. To assist the Commission in its work, **in addition to describing any problem or issue**, we ask for your assistance by focusing your comments in the form of recommendations and solutions to improve **Department's** implementation of **the Federal trust responsibilities**. ~~in the context of the Commission's duties."~~