

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, et al.,)
)
 Plaintiffs,)
)
 v.) Case No. 1:96cv01285(JR)
)
 KEN SALAZAR, Secretary of the Interior,)
 et al.,)
)
 Defendants.)
 _____)

**NOTICE OF FILING OF MARCH 2009 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 March 2009. A copy of the report is attached hereto.

Dated: April 15, 2009

Respectfully submitted,

MICHAEL F. HERTZ
Deputy Assistant Attorney General
J. CHRISTOPHER KOHN
Director

/s/ Robert E. Kirschman, Jr.
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Deputy Director
(D.C. Bar No. 406635)
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that, on April 15, 2009 the foregoing *Notice of Filing of March 2009 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:

Earl Old Person (*Pro se*)
Blackfeet Tribe
P.O. Box 850
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Fax (406) 338-7530

/s/ Kevin P. Kingston
Kevin P. Kingston

ACTIVITY REPORT
OFFICE OF TRUST RECORDS
March 1-31, 2009

PROGRAMMATIC:

- Labat-Anderson (Labat Indexing Project)

Labat reported that indexing of 1,380 boxes of inactive Indian records was completed in March 2009. The total number of boxes completed through March 2009 is approximately 188,775. It was previously reported that OTR was expected to terminate its contractor relationship with Labat on May 31, 2009. OTR is now expected to terminate its contract on June 30, 2009. OTR will use federal employees to continue indexing records.

- Movement of Records

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) and Office of the Special Trustee (OST) moved 822 boxes of inactive records from various field locations to Lenexa, Kansas, for indexing and subsequent storage at the American Indian Records Repository (AIRR) during this reporting period.

- Site Assessments Statement

During the month of March, OTRA performed nine follow-up records assessments, one each at the following locations: Pawnee Agency BIA office; Southwest Region BIA office; Horton Agency BIA office; Yakama Agency BIA office; Office of Appraisal Services, Southwest Region BIA office; Pawnee Agency OST IIM field office; Horton Agency OST IIM field office; Yakama Agency OST IIM field office; and Southwest Region OST IIM field office. OTRA issued three records management assessment follow-up reports, one each at the following locations: Southwest Region OST IIM field office; Office of Appraisal Services, Southwest Region BIA office; and Yakama Agency OST IIM field office.

- Records Training

In March 2009, OTR provided records management training for 81 BIA/OST records contacts and 40 Tribal employees. OTR provided training on vital records for 14 BIA/OST and 15 Tribal employees.

- Litigation Support and Research Requests

OTR continued to provide significant support to the Office of the Solicitor, Office of Historical Trust Accounting and its contractors, the Department of Justice and

its contractors, and tribal attorneys and contractors on behalf of various Tribes. OTR continued to receive requests for information regarding litigation-related document requests. Many of these requests have very short deadlines.

During March 2009, AIRR staff provided responses to 405 non-litigation research requests from BIA, OST and other requesters.

ADMINISTRATIVE: General administrative activities continued.

GENERAL OBSERVATIONS: None.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I express no opinion on the content of the Site Assessments Statement described above.



Ethel J. Abeita

I declare under penalty of perjury that the content of the Site Assessments Statement described above is true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief. I express no opinion on the contents of other sections/subsections of the report.



Larry Morrin
Director, Office of Trust Review and Audit