

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460



Office of  
International and Tribal Affairs

Original dated April 23, 2014  
Corrected May 14, 2014

Re: Notification of Consultation and Coordination on the Revised Draft of the *EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples*

Dear Honorable Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA or Agency) is creating a policy to work collaboratively with tribes and indigenous peoples to address their environmental justice issues. This Revised Draft of the Policy incorporates the input the Agency received on the Working Draft of the Policy from tribes and the public during the November 2012 – February 2013 tribal consultation period and the separate public participation comment period. The interim response to comment document can be found on EPA's Tribal consultation page <http://www.epa.gov/tcots> with a posting date of May 12, 2014.

This consultation is intended to obtain input on the Revised Draft of the *EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples* and your recommendation on implementation.

This consultation and coordination process will be conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* ([www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm](http://www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm)). EPA invites you and your designated representative(s) to participate in this process. EPA's timeframe for the consultation and coordination is May 5, 2014 through June 5, 2014.

Enclosed are the revised draft and the consultation and coordination plan for this action that includes a description of the action under consultation, and information on how you can provide input on this action. This information is also available on EPA's Tribal Portal <http://www.epa.gov/tcots>.

The official EPA contact person for this consultation and coordination process is Dona Harris, American Indian Environmental Office. Please do not hesitate to contact Dona ([harris.dona@epa.gov](mailto:harris.dona@epa.gov), 202/564-6633) if you have any questions or would like to request alternative arrangements to the process outlined in the consultation and coordination plan.

We look forward to hearing from you on this important matter.

Sincerely,

/s/

JoAnn Chase, Director  
American Indian Environmental Office  
Office of International and Tribal Affairs

/s/

Matthew Tejada, Director  
Office of Environmental Justice  
Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance

Enclosures

## Substantive Changes from Working Draft

As you read this revised draft Policy, the formatting has been significantly revised. The Policy was reformatted to be more succinct in order to assist EPA staff in understanding the purpose, scope, and roles and responsibilities under this Policy. It now provides clarity on the tools EPA has to address environmental justice with federal recognized tribes and indigenous peoples. The principles articulated in the earlier working draft remain with some being consolidated and others modified for clarity. New sections were also added: policy statement, roles and responsibilities, definitions, and an appendix.

We believe a core component missing from the working draft version was the tangible linkages between the tribal and environmental justice programs in the form of informational and resource tools. The appendix is illustrative of the tools EPA has that can assist EPA management and staff to better understand and identify opportunities to address environmental justice concerns brought to their attention in Indian country and in other tribal areas.

## Input EPA is Seeking

As the Agency concludes the development of the *EPA Policy on Environmental Justice for Working with Federally Recognized Tribes and Indigenous Peoples*, the Agency would appreciate input from tribal governments on the revised draft and on the following question:

- How should EPA go about implementing this Policy?

## **Tribal Consultation and Coordination Process and Timeline**

Date	Event	Contact Information
May 19, 2014 Eastern, Central and Mountain Time Zones	National Tribal Government Consultation Call ( <b>open to <u>all</u> tribal government leaders and environmental staff</b> )	<b>Conference Number</b> 1-866-299-3188 <b>Access Code</b> 2025646633# <b>Meeting Time:</b> 1:00 - 3:00 PM- EST
May 22, 2014 Pacific and Alaska Time Zones	National Tribal Government Consultation Call ( <b>open to <u>all</u> tribal government leaders and environmental staff</b> )	<b>Conference Number</b> 1-866-299-3188 <b>Access Code</b> 2025646633# <b>Meeting Time:</b> 1:00 - 3:00 PM- PST
June 5, 2014	Comments Due Date	<b>Submit Written Comments at:</b> <a href="http://www.epa.gov/tp/consultation/comments-EJ.htm">www.epa.gov/tp/consultation/comments-EJ.htm</a>  <b>Submit Comments by Mail:</b> Dona Harris USEPA - American Indian Environmental Office, Mail Code 2690-R 1300 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W. Washington, DC 20004