

Gallagher, Carol

Subject:

FW: suggestions

Attachments:

I think it would be wise to include some treaties.docx

10/22/2012

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From: Jon Waterhouse [mailto:jwaterhouse@yritwc.org]

Sent: Tuesday, April 16, 2013 6:54 PM

To: McGrady-Finneran, Patricia

Subject: suggetions

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USNRC

Hi Patricia,

I think the manual is great!

I've attached a few small suggestions.

I look forward to its publication and official acceptance (are you going to have some sort of ceremony, I hope so, this is a big step for the NRC and Native People)

Feel free to contact me with any questions.

And, I so hope you and Richard will be able to attend the Summit this summer.

Best Regards,
Jon

SUNSI Review Complete

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Add= S. Eason (sbe)

P. McGrady-Finneran
(fxm)



Hello Patricia,

Thank you for allowing the YRITWC and I to participate in this review, it is an honor.

You and your team deserve great credit for what you have produced, it is a good document.

The suggestions I have made are small (and ramble a bit I think), but are given in the spirit of Friendship. I hope they are helpful.

I think it would be wise to include some treaties (chapter 1) that are closer to us in time. It would help non-native people and younger Natives to understand that this isn't ancient history. I've included a link to the Point No Point Treaty (1856), Hahdakus in S'Klallam. This treaty also helps with the understanding of how tied to the land Native People are with the documentation of some of the Chief's responses.

http://www.historylink.org/index.cfm?DisplayPage=output.cfm&File_Id=5637

Including the Point No Point Treaty (and outcome) would also spread the view across the U.S. to make it broader than just the east coast

It would also be worth researching and mentioning Amchitka Island and the nuclear testing performed there in the 50's along with doing the background research on the radioactive isotope studies conducted on Alaska Native People. The following websites are just the tip of the iceberg.

http://www.gwu.edu/~nsarchiv/radiation/dir/mstreet/commeet/meet12/brief12/tab_g/br12g1a.txt

<http://arcticcircle.uconn.edu/SEEJ/part2.html>

This will help folks at the NRC understand the general mistrust they experience when approaching the Native community especially here in Alaska and elsewhere.

THE POINT: The point of this is that people unfamiliar with the Native community, and that includes anyone that is non-Native or may be Native blood but hasn't lived in the Native community, cannot understand the mindset or the feeling of this community. The best they can do is admit that they "just don't understand". That is a better foundation for trust than coming to the People and saying "they get it". Because, through no fault of their own, they don't can't or won't because they have not been Native. As much as Native People have not been non-Native and truly don't understand that world.

Having said this, I commend your efforts and explanations in Section 2A, well done!

One of my humble suggestions to assist with finding the common ground to speak (consult) with one another is for there to be a section included in the NRC guidelines to require NRC personnel that will be part of the consultation process to attend cultural sensitivity training prior to the process beginning. There are a few Native groups that can assist with this.

For the Native People it would be helpful to develop a trustworthy resource for them to understand the NRC and the process.

My own experience, dating back to the Toshiba 4S Reactor, brings these thoughts forward.

When that issue was originally put on the table at the Council many of the Leadership viewed the NRC with suspicion and mistrust. There was a complete lack of understanding who and what the NRC was. Many Leaders "just knew" that the NRC was in the pocket of big business.

Fortunately cooler heads prevailed and we arrived at a place of friendship that was respectful and productive.

(after a tremendous amount of work that could have been avoided)

In Section 1B it would be helpful for the NRC to gain an understanding of the unique and difficult relationship the Alaska Native Tribes have with the State of Alaska.

While the Federal Government recognizes Tribes as sovereign, the State of Alaska does not. They have at times, but that is only at the direction of the sitting Governor. The last time that happened was 29SEP2000 by Administrative Order No. 186 signed by Governor Knowles. It was in effect until he left office and hasn't been recognized since.

Section 2C – there is the legal definition of “land” as described in the U.S. Code and there is the Native definition of land. I'm pretty sure that we all know there are differences in the definitions. Traditionally “land” was not “owned” by the private owner. For some I think this is still true. I've heard it said “the land is in your heart”. I think this is important to understand. Being aware of this is just a small tip from me.

Chapter 2 – Refreshments

It is the practice to provide food/refreshments at the meetings. It can help with community participation. It might be helpful to have the Office of General Counsel to work through whatever they need to preauthorize the expenditure for meeting food/refreshments and make this a practice. Of course, with the consent of whomever you're meeting with.

I like the part in Outcomes about hesitating on assessing the outcome. I think this is wise.

Section 2E – Well done

These are just some thoughts from me to you (NRC).

Overall, I like your manual. I think it will help.

Best Regards,

Jon Waterhouse

Executive Director

Yukon River Inter-Tribal Watershed Council