

January 16, 2014

Brian Cladoosby, President
National Congress of American Indians
1516 P Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20005

Dear President Cladoosby:

On behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), I wish to congratulate you on your recent election as President of the National Congress of American Indians (NCAI). I would like to take this opportunity to share with you information regarding the NRC's mission and our activities to foster the NRC's relations with Native Americans and Alaska Native people.

The NRC's mission is to license and regulate the Nation's civilian use of byproduct, source, and special nuclear materials in order to protect public health and safety, promote the common defense and security, and protect the environment. Our scope of responsibility includes the regulation of the Nation's commercial nuclear power plants; research, test, and training reactors; nuclear fuel cycle facilities; medical, academic, and industrial uses of radioactive materials; and the transport, storage, and disposal of radioactive materials and wastes.

The NRC's mission extends to the protection of Native American and Alaska Native people and their lands. The NRC recognizes the rights of Federally-recognized Tribes to self-government and sovereignty, and affirms and commits to work with Native American Tribal Governments on a government-to-government basis through consultation and cooperation, consistent with the spirit and intent of Executive Order 13175, "Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments." The NRC staff often engages with Tribal representatives to establish and maintain dialogue on various issues including: 1) reactor licensing, renewal, and inspection activities; 2) nuclear waste disposal and transport; and 3) uranium recovery licensing and the safe management of mill tailings. The NRC supports the fulfillment of Executive Order 13270, "Tribal Colleges and Universities," and has implemented a Minority Serving Institutions Program that provides financial assistance to support a range of services, programs, and activities that address the needs of Native American and other Minority Serving Institutions and their students and faculty. Since the program's inception in 2006, the NRC has awarded \$2 million in grants to Tribal Colleges and Universities.

The NRC is committed to meaningful government-to-government interactions with Tribes and informing Native American communities of the nature of the NRC's regulatory activities. The NRC is developing an agency-wide Tribal policy statement and will publish a draft for public comment in 2014. The NRC staff has collaborated with the NCAI to reach out to Federally-recognized Tribes on this subject and looks forward to further collaboration with the NCAI through periodic meetings with its Deputy Director Robert Holden.

If you wish to obtain additional information about the NRC's activities, please contact Michael Weber, Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste, Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs by phone at (301) 415-1705, or by e-mail at Michael.Weber@nrc.gov.

On behalf of the NRC, I again congratulate you on your election as President of the National Congress of American Indians. The agency looks forward to continuing an excellent relationship with your organization.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Allison M. Macfarlane