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NRC Seeks Comment on Draft Policy Statement, Tribal Manual

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is asking for public comments on two draft documents intended to encourage and facilitate involvement by Native American tribes in areas of NRC jurisdiction. The proposed [Tribal Policy Statement](#) and draft [guidance](#) to the staff on interacting with federally-recognized tribes are the next steps in the agency's effort to formalize the process for engaging with tribal governments. The NRC published *Federal Register* notices outlining the documents Dec. 1 and asking for comments by March 31, 2015.

The NRC produced the draft policy statement and manual in response to direction from the Commission in January 2012 following an increase in the number and complexity of consultations between the NRC and Native American tribes. The drafts are based on input the NRC received after publishing later that year the first draft of a Tribal Protocol Manual outlining staff guidance for consulting with tribal governments. At that time, the NRC also asked for input on how to strengthen government-to-government relationships and make them most effective.

More information on the NRC's interactions with tribes can be found on the agency's [website](#).