



NOAA OFFICE OF LEGISLATIVE AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION

June 21, 2013

Dear Tribal Leaders:

I would like to introduce myself to your government as the NOAA Tribal Liaison. As NOAA Tribal Liaison, my duties will include:

- Developing and issuing guidance on tribal consultation (including guidelines, handbooks, and procedures);
- Ensuring availability of online training and other resources for NOAA personnel assisting with tribal consultations;
- Maintaining documentation of tribal consultations conducted by NOAA Line Offices, and;
- Meeting reporting requirements established by the Department of Commerce Tribal Liaison and the Office of Management and Budget.

It is important to note that my designation as the NOAA Tribal Liaison will not alter or change your existing relationships and operating procedures with NOAA regional offices regarding communications and outreach to tribes and tribal leaders. Direct communications and consultations with NOAA line offices will continue.

Today, NOAA submitted to the Federal Register a document entitled "NOAA Procedures for Government-to-Government Consultation with Federally Recognized Indian Tribes and Alaska Natives" for 60-day review for comments from the general public. These procedures –for government-to-government consultation as well as routine communications with Tribal governments responds to President Obama's 2009 White House Memorandum and the 2000 Executive Order 13175 by reaffirming the unique trust relationship between the Federal Government and Indian tribal governments. The purpose of the handbook is to formalize a process that ensures accountable, meaningful and timely input from tribal officials when communicating with federal officials and reaffirm NOAA's commitment to work collaboratively and cooperatively with federally recognized Tribes.

As a part of continued outreach efforts to Tribes, NOAA is conducting two webinars to discuss the policy and gather input and comments from tribal leaders. The two webinars are scheduled on Wednesday, July 17 and Tuesday, August 13 from 3:00pm – 4:00pm EST. Please note that registration is required for the webinars. I hope that you will review the handbook, participate in the webinars and provide NOAA with your views and evaluation of the proposed procedures in the Handbook.

The two national webinars will be held according to the following schedule:

Wednesday, July 17, 2013 3:00 – 4:00 EST
2:00 – 3:00 CT
1:00 – 2:00 MT
12:00 – 1:00 PT
11:00 – 12:00 AKT

Registration for the July 17th webinar may be accessed directly via the following URL:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW1496093&p=5272360&t=c>

Tuesday, August 13, 2013 3:00 – 4:00 ET
2:00 – 3:00 CT
1:00 – 2:00 MT
12:00 – 1:00 PT
11:00 – 12:00 AKT

Registration for the August 13th webinar may be accessed directly via the following URL:

<https://www.mymeetings.com/nc/join.php?i=PW1496113&p=5272360&t=c>

A copy of the NOAA Handbook and links to registration for the webinars may also be found on NOAA Office of Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs website at:

www.legislative.noaa.gov.

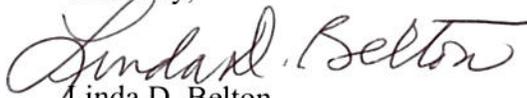
If you would like to submit written comments on handbook, please submit your comments to:

Heather Sagar, Department of Commerce (DOC)
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
14th and Constitution Avenue, NW
Room 51027
Washington, DC 20230.
Mark the outside of the envelope “Draft NOAA Tribal Handbook”

You may also send comments via email to noaa.tribalhandbook@noaa.gov. If you have questions, please contact (202) 482-1568.

Please extend this invitation to other key tribal officials and I look forward to your tribe’s participation and input.

Sincerely,



Linda D. Belton

Senior Advisor on Intergovernmental Affairs
and NOAA Tribal Liaison