



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

JUN 2 2011

OFFICE OF
ENVIRONMENTAL INFORMATION

Dear Honorable Leader:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) is initiating consultation and coordination with federally recognized Indian Tribes on the Office of Environmental Information's (OEI) draft *Tribal Strategy: Partnership to Improve Environmental Information and Decision-Making in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages* (OEI's Tribal Strategy). OEI's Tribal Strategy is enclosed within this package for your review and consideration.

Over the past two years, OEI has coordinated with EPA staff, the National Tribal Caucus and a small group of tribal environmental staff familiar with OEI's programs to develop a Tribal Strategy consistent with the federal trust responsibility. OEI's Tribal Strategy represents a commitment to demonstrate OEI's long-range plan to collaborate, coordinate, and consult with tribal officials when developing policies that have tribal implications. The purpose of OEI's Tribal Strategy is to maximize the quality and utility of information and analytical tools available for making well-informed decisions in Indian country and other tribal lands.

Additionally, OEI's Tribal Strategy is intended to support the Agency's mission to protect human health and the environment, while recognizing the unique cultural assets and needs on tribal lands. OEI's Tribal Strategy describes the vision statement for the Strategy, the desired outcomes OEI plans to achieve, and the goals and objectives which form the backbone of the strategy. OEI also will report annually on progress made toward achieving the goals and objectives set forth in the Tribal Strategy.

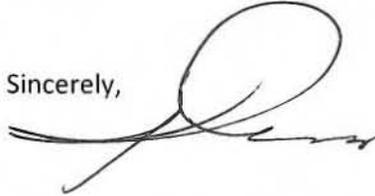
This consultation and coordination process will be conducted in accordance with the *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes* (www.epa.gov/tribal/consultation/consult-policy.htm). EPA invites you and your designated consultation representative(s) to participate in the process. EPA's anticipated timeline for the consultation and coordination period is expected to extend from June 2 to August 3, 2011.

Enclosed is a consultation and coordination plan for this action that includes a description of the action under consultation and the process EPA intends to follow, including a timeline for the consultation and coordination period 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/tribal/consultation>.*

The official EPA contact person for this consultation and coordination process is Beth Jackson, OEI Tribal Coordinator. Please do not hesitate to contact Beth Jackson at jackson.elizabeth@epa.gov and (202) 566-0626 should you have any questions about this action.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Robin L. Gonzalez', with a large, stylized loop at the end.

Robin L. Gonzalez, Acting Director
Office of Information Analysis and Access

cc: Tribal Environmental Directors
US EPA Regional Indian Program Coordinators
US EPA American Indian Environmental Office

Enclosures: OEI's Tribal Strategy: Partnership to Improve Environmental Information and Decision-Making in Indian Country and Alaska Native Villages
Tribal Consultation and Coordination Process and Timeline