



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

OFFICE OF
SOLID WASTE AND EMERGENCY
RESPONSE

NOV 13 2006

OSWER-9200.3-42

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Transmittal of *Consulting with Indian Tribal Governments at Superfund Sites: A Beginner's Booklet*

FROM: Barnes Johnson, Acting Director 
Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation

TO: Superfund National Policy Managers, Regions 1 - 10

Purpose

Early and meaningful tribal involvement at Superfund sites of tribal interest is consistent with the federal trust responsibility to tribes and furthers EPA's overall goal of protecting human health and the environment.

This memorandum transmits the attached booklet, *Consulting with Indian Tribal Governments at Superfund Sites: A Beginner's Booklet*, which is intended to introduce EPA staff and managers to the basics of government-to-government consultation with Indian tribal governments within the context of Superfund. It provides a beginner's background to a subject matter that involves many important, nuanced, historical, complex, and challenging issues. This booklet, then, is not intended to be exhaustive in scope; rather, it is a starting point.

Background

The September 30, 2004, Office of the Inspector General report, "Tribal Superfund Program Needs Clear Direction and Actions to Improve Effectiveness" (2004-P-00035), included a recommendation for EPA to provide guidance on consultation with Indian tribal governments and the government-to-government relationship within the context of Superfund. The Office of Superfund Remediation and Technology Innovation agrees with the recommendation, and the attached booklet fulfills this need for guidance.



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Implementation

Superfund employees should consider the attached booklet as a starting point for broadening their Superfund knowledge regarding Indian tribal governments. Incorporating the views and concerns of Indian tribal governments throughout the Superfund response process may help to bring about more effective implementation and collaboration on actions that are beneficial to public health and the environment in Indian country and elsewhere.

Contact

For additional information or questions concerning this booklet, please contact me or have your staff contact Nick Rebeck, State, Tribe, and Site Identification Branch, at (703) 603-8811.

Attachment.

cc: OSRTI Managers
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