§ 137.1 Authority, purpose and scope

(a) Authority. These regulations are prepared, issued and maintained with the active participation and representation of Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations and inter-Tribal consortia pursuant to the guidance of the negotiated rulemaking procedures required by section 517 of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–16].

(b) Purpose. The purpose of this subpart is to provide regulations for appeals of the Secretary’s decisions regarding certain matters under Title V.

(1) This subpart establishes procedures for appeals of the Secretary’s decisions regarding certain matters under Title V.

(2) The procedures established in this subpart are intended to provide a fair and efficient means for resolving disputes arising from decisions of the Secretary regarding certain matters under Title V.

(3) The procedures established in this subpart are intended to ensure that the Secretary’s decisions regarding certain matters under Title V are based on a fair and thorough consideration of the evidence.

(4) The procedures established in this subpart are intended to provide a means for Indian Tribes to seek correction of errors in the Secretary’s decisions regarding certain matters under Title V.

§ 137.2 Definitions

For the purposes of this subpart, the following definitions apply:

(a) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Health and Human Services.

(b) “Indian Tribe” means a tribe recognized by Federal law.

(c) “Title V” means the Health and Human Services Act, title V, section 450m–1.

(d) “Contract” means a compact, funding agreement, or construction project agreement entered into under Title V.

§ 137.3 Scope

This subpart applies to appeals of the Secretary’s decisions regarding certain matters under Title V.
(b) Purpose. These regulations codify rules for self-governance compacts, funding agreements, and construction project agreements between the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) and Self-Governance Tribes to implement sections 2, 3, and 4 of Pub. L. 106–260.

(c) Scope. These regulations are binding on the Secretary and on Indian Tribes carrying out programs, services, functions, and activities (or portions thereof) (PSFAs) under Title V except as otherwise specifically authorized by a waiver under section 512(b) of the Act [25 U.S.C. 458aaa–11(b)].

(d) Information collection. The information collection requirements have been submitted to the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and are pending OMB approval.

§ 137.2 Congressional policy.

(a) According to section 2 of Pub. L. 106–260, Congress has declared that:

(1) The Tribal right of self-governance flows from the inherent sovereignty of Indian Tribes and nations;

(2) The United States recognizes a special government-to-government relationship with Indian Tribes, including the right of the Indian Tribes to self-governance, as reflected in the Constitution, treaties, Federal statutes, and the course of dealings of the United States with Indian Tribes;

(3) Although progress has been made, the Federal bureaucracy, with its centralized rules and regulations, has eroded Tribal Self-Governance and dominates Tribal affairs.

(4) The Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project, established under title III of the Indian Self-Determination Act (ISDA) [25 U.S.C. 450f note] was designed to improve and perpetuate the government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the United States and to strengthen Tribal control over Federal funding and program management;

(5) Although the Federal Government has made considerable strides in improving Indian health care, it has failed to fully meet its trust responsibilities and to satisfy its obligations to the Indian Tribes under treaties and other laws; and

(6) Congress has reviewed the results of the Tribal Self-Governance Demonstration Project and finds that transferring full control and funding to Tribal governments, upon Tribal request, over decision making for Federal PSFAs:

(i) Is an appropriate and effective means of implementing the Federal policy of government-to-government relations with Indian Tribes; and

(ii) Strengthens the Federal policy of Indian self-determination.

(b) According to section 3 of Pub. L. 106–260, Congress has declared its policy to:

(1) Permanently establish and implement Tribal Self-Governance within the DHHS;

(2) Call for full cooperation from the DHHS and its constituent agencies in the implementation of Tribal Self-Governance to—

(i) Enable the United States to maintain and improve its unique and continuing relationship with, and responsibility to, Indian Tribes;

(ii) Permit each Indian Tribe to choose the extent of its participation in self-governance in accordance with the provisions of the ISDA relating to the provision of Federal services to Indian Tribes;

(iii) Ensure the continuation of the trust responsibility of the United States to Indian Tribes and Indians;

(iv) Affirm and enable the United States to fulfill its obligations to the Indian Tribes under treaties and other laws;

(v) Strengthen the government-to-government relationship between the United States and Indian Tribes through direct and meaningful consultation with all Tribes;

(vi) Permit an orderly transition from Federal domination of programs and services to provide Indian Tribes with meaningful authority, control, funding, and discretion to plan, conduct, redesign, and administer PSFAs that meet the needs of the individual Tribal communities;

(vii) Provide for a measurable parallel reduction in the Federal bureaucracy as programs, services, functions, and activities (or portions thereof) are assumed by Indian Tribes;