

(Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance Program Nos. 93.306, Comparative Medicine, 93.306; 93.333, Clinical Research, 93.333, 93.337, 93.393-93.396, 93.837-93.844, 93.846-93.878, 93.892, 93.893, National Institutes of Health, HHS)

Dated: November 3, 1999.

Anna Snouffer,

Acting Director, Office of Federal Advisory Committee Policy.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Notice of Deadline for Submitting Completed Applications to Begin Participation in the Tribal Self-Governance Program in Fiscal Year 2001 or Calendar Year 2001

AGENCY: Office of Self-Governance, Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of Application Deadline.

SUMMARY: In this notice, the Office of Self-Governance (OSG) establishes a March 1, 2000, deadline for tribes/consortia to submit completed applications to begin participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2001 or calendar year 2001.

DATES: Completed application packages must be received by the Director, Office of Self-Governance by March 1, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Application packages for inclusion in the applicant pool should be sent to the Director, Office of Self-Governance, U.S. Department of the Interior, Mail Stop 2542, 1849 C Street NW, Washington DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. Kenneth D. Reinfield, U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Self-Governance, 1849 C Street NW, Mail Shop 2548, Washington DC 20240, 202-208-5734.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

Under the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994 (Public Law 103-413), as amended by the Fiscal Year 1997 Omnibus Appropriations Bill (Public Law 104-208) the Director, Office of Self-Governance may select up to 50 additional participating tribes/consortia per year for the tribal self-governance program, and negotiate and enter into an annual written funding agreement with each participating tribe. The Act mandates that the Secretary submit copies of the funding agreements at least 90 days before the proposed effective date to the appropriate committees of the Congress and to each tribe that is served by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) agency that is serving the tribe

that is a party to the funding agreement. Initial negotiations with a tribe/consortium located in a BIA region and/or agency which has not previously been involved with self-governance negotiations, will take approximately two months from start to finish. Agreements for an October 1 to September 30 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by July 1. Agreements for a January 1 to December 31 fiscal year need to be signed and submitted by October 1.

Background

On February 15, 1995, an interim rule was published in the **Federal Register** announcing the criteria for tribes to be included in an applicant pool and the establishment of the selection process for tribes/consortia to negotiate agreements pursuant to the Tribal Self-Governance Act of 1994. This interim rule was added to Title 25 of Code of Federal Regulations at Part 1001 of Chapter VI. While it may be changed by later rulemaking, the Act stipulates that the lack of promulgated regulations will not limit its effect. It should be noted that a proposed rulemaking was negotiated between tribal and Federal members of a self-governance rulemaking committee and published in the **Federal Register** on February 12, 1998, for review and comment. Comments on the proposed rulemaking have been received. Final rules are being negotiated by the self-governance negotiated rulemaking committee and are not anticipated to be published until late Spring, 2000.

Purpose of Notice

The interim rules established at 25 CFR Parts 1001.1 to 1001.5 will be used to govern the application and selection process for tribes/consortia to begin their participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2000 and calendar year 2000. Applicants should be guided by the requirements in 25 CFR Parts 1001.1 to 1001.5 in preparing their applications. Copies of the interim rules published in the Federal Register on February 15, 1995, may be obtained from the information contact person identified in this notice.

Tribes/consortia wishing to be considered for participation in the tribal self-governance program in fiscal year 2001 or calendar year 2001 must respond to this notice, except for those which are (1) currently involved with negotiations with the Department; (2) one of the 74 tribal entities with signed agreements; or (3) one of the tribal entities already included in the applicant pool as of the date of this notice.

The Director's decision on the actual number of tribes that will enter negotiations will be made at a later date. Tribes already in the applicant pool will retain their existing ranking with tribes entering the applicant pool under these rules receiving a lower ranking. Being in the applicant pool will not guarantee that a tribe will actually be provided the opportunity to negotiate in any given year. However, it does mean that a tribe will not be passed over by a tribe with a lower ranking in the applicant pool or by a tribe not in the applicant pool, with the exception of a tribe already in the negotiation process.

For example, if the Department determines that five tribes will be afforded the opportunity to negotiate self-governance agreements for fiscal year 2001 and calendar year 2001, the five tribes with the highest rankings would be notified and negotiations would be scheduled. The tribe ranked sixth on the list would then have the highest ranking to negotiate a self-governance agreement for 2001 or might enter negotiations for 2001 if one of the first five tribes discontinued negotiations. In such a case, the tribe that discontinued negotiations would remain in the applicant pool with its original ranking and would be the first to be selected in 2001 for negotiating agreements commencing in 2002.

Dated: November 5, 1999.

William A. Sinclair,

Director, Office of Self-Governance.

[FR Doc. 99-29441 Filed 11-9-99; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Fish and Wildlife Service

Notice of Receipt of Application for Approval

The following applicant has applied for approval to conduct certain activities with birds that are protected in accordance with the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992. This notice is provided pursuant to Section 112(4) of the Wild Bird Conservation Act of 1992, 50 CFR 15.26(c).

Applicant: Michael Barrett, Finley, California. The applicant wishes to establish a cooperative breeding program for the Blue-crowned pigeon (*Goura cristata cristata*), the Lesser blue-crowned pigeon (*Goura cristata minor*), the Scheepmaker's crowned pigeon (*Goura scheepmakeri scheepmakeri*), the Sclater's crowned pigeon (*Goura scheepmakeri sclaterii*), the Victoria crowned pigeon (*Goura victoria victoria*), and the Beccari crowned