



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

JAN 27 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

In December 2016, Congress enacted and President Obama signed into law the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act (WIIN Act). Section 3101 of the WIIN Act established two Indian dam safety funds to address the deferred maintenance needs of Indian dams. Subject to appropriations, the “High-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund” will have \$22.75 million per year and the “Low-Hazard Indian Dam Safety Deferred Maintenance Fund” will have \$10 million per year over the next seven fiscal years (FY17 – FY23),

The WIIN Act also authorizes a new Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) program to address deferred maintenance needs through expenditures from the two Indian dam safety funds. Eligible high-hazard potential dams are those included in the Safety of Dams Program established under the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 that are either: (1) owned by the Federal Government and managed by BIA, or (2) have deferred maintenance documented by BIA. Eligible low-hazard potential dams are those covered under the Indian Dams Safety Act of 1994 and are either: (1) owned by the Federal Government and managed by BIA, or (2) have deferred maintenance documented by BIA.

We invite you to consult on the new program and funding prioritization criteria. We have scheduled the following sessions at centralized locations and have included two teleconferences for anyone unable to participate in one of the scheduled on-site sessions.

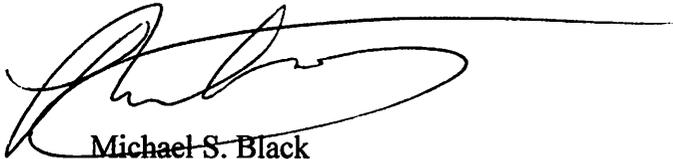
Date	Time	Location
Monday, February 6, 2017	1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Local Time	Bureau of Indian Affairs Medicine Wheel Room - Third Floor 2021 4th Avenue North Billings, MT 59101
Wednesday, February 8, 2017	1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Local Time	Indian Pueblo Cultural Center Silver / Turquoise Conference Room 2401 12th Street NW Albuquerque, NM 87104
Friday, February 10, 2017	1 p.m. – 5 p.m. Local Time	Bureau of Indian Affairs Federal Building Auditorium 911 NE 11th Avenue Portland, OR 97232
Monday, February 13, 2017	1 p.m. – 4 p.m.	Call-in number: (888) 810-4934

	Eastern Time	Passcode: 7199390
Wednesday, February 15, 2017	1 p.m. – 4 p.m. Eastern Time	Call-in number: (888) 810-4934 Passcode: 7199390

BIA is developing drafts of the programmatic goals and funding prioritization criteria for discussion at the consultation sessions. These documents are available at <https://www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/BIA/OTS/IPSOD/index.htm>. If after attending the sessions or reviewing the posted information, you would like to provide written comments, please direct them to consultation@bia.gov by March 3, 2017.

The WIIN Act represents an opportunity, if Congress appropriates authorized funding, to complete repairs, replacements, improvements, and maintenance on Indian dams as expeditiously as possible. BIA is committed to fulfilling this opportunity in a manner that both provides a sound base for greater economic development for affected Tribes and surrounding communities, and helps to address flood risks and other risks to safety and natural and cultural resources. If you would like additional information, please feel free to contact Yulan Jin, Division Chief, Water and Power, (202) 219-0941, yulan.jin@bia.gov.

Very Truly,



Michael S. Black
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs