

# Chickahominy Tribe

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## Tribal Council

*Stephen Adkins,  
Chief*

September 25, 2013

*Wayne Adkins,  
1<sup>st</sup> Asst. Chief*

Ms. Elizabeth Appel  
Office of Regulatory Affairs & Collaborative Action – Indian Affairs  
1849 C Street, NW

*Reggie Stewart,  
2<sup>nd</sup> Asst. Chief*

MS 4141-MIB  
Washington, DC 20240

*Martha Adkins,  
Secretary*

Emailed to: [consultation@bia.gov](mailto:consultation@bia.gov)

*Rhonda Canaday,  
Treasurer*

Dear Ms. Appel:

*Adam Adkins*

In addition to the comments I e-mailed on September 24, 2013, the Chickahominy Indian Tribe offers the following addendum:

*Ralph Adkins*

- A. The performance of the Office of Federal Acknowledgement (OFA) should be measured against a set of metrics or standards to ensure the office is meeting expectations. The metrics should be communicated with the OFA with a clear understanding of performance expectations. Penalties should be exacted if the performance expectations are not met. The metrics should include:

*Powhatan Owen*

1. Petition decision timelines. (Today's turnaround times are indefensible.)
2. Established communication frequencies between OFA and petitioner.

*Jessica Stewart*

- B. The OFA should be cast in an advocacy light versus the "perceived" adversarial light it casts today.

*Ross Stewart*

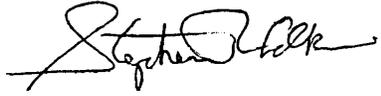
- C. OFA personnel should be provided Human Resource/Sensitivity training.

*Donovan Wynn*

- D. Consider reassigning OFA personnel who have managed petitions that have been in the process for over five years to other responsibilities within the Department of the Interior. In my view, those people have not demonstrated the knowledge, skills, and abilities required to do the job in a timely manner.

E. Finally, please be aware that the inordinate amount of time and energy associated with the unconscionable length of time it takes OFA to reach a final determination exacts a heavy financial toll on the petitioner. The costs associated with filing and following up on a petition can easily reach into the millions of dollars.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen R. Adkins". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with some loops and flourishes.

Stephen. R. Adkins