



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

MAR 10 2015

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) owns three electrical utilities that provide essential electrical power service to Tribal communities, reservation, and non-reservation customers. These utilities are vital components to their local economies. The BIA is in the process of updating regulations related to the management, operation, and maintenance of these three utilities: **San Carlos Irrigation Project-Power Division** and **Colorado River Agency-Power Division** in Arizona, and **Mission Valley Power** utility in northwestern Montana.

Over the past year, we collaborated with the local power utilities, including some tribal employees, to draft revisions to Title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, Part 175 "Electric Power Utilities" (25 CFR 175). Proposed changes primarily focus on improving readability by revising the regulations to be in "plain language." The results of that work are encapsulated in a draft proposed rule, which is available at the following website:

www.bia.gov/WhoWeAre/AS-IA/ORM/EPU/index.htm

We now request your formal input on the draft proposed rule. The BIA will be hosting the following tribal consultation sessions on the draft proposed rule:

Date	Time	Location
Thursday, April 14	2pm – 5pm	Mission Valley Power 36079 Pablo W. Road Pablo, MT 59855
Tuesday, April 19	10am – 3pm	Inter Tribal Council of Arizona, Inc. Conference Room #1 2214 N. Central Avenue Phoenix, AZ 85004

Please submit any comments you may have by May 20, 2016, via email at consultation@bia.gov, or via mail to Ms. Elizabeth Appel, Office of Regulatory Affairs and Collaborative Action, Office of the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street NW, MS 3623-MIB, Washington, DC 20240. We look forward to receiving your comments. Should you have any questions, please contact Mr. David Fisher, Chief, Branch of Irrigation and Power, at (303) 231-5225.

Sincerely,

Lawrence Roberts
Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs