Indian Affairs - Office of Public Affairs

Media Contact: Lovett 202 343-7445
For Immediate Release: June 3, 1977
Print PDF

Proposed regulations governing eligibility for preference in employment in the Bureau of Indian Affairs are being published in the Federal Register, Acting Deputy Commissioner of Indian Affairs Raymond V. Butler announced today.

The regulations define the term "Indian" for purposes of initial hire, promotions, transfers and all other appointments to vacancies in the Bureau.

Those persons entitled to Indian preference, according to the regulations are:

- Members of any recognized Indian tribe now under Federal jurisdiction;
- Descendants of such members who were, on June l, 1934, residing within the present boundaries of any Indian reservation;
- All others of one-half or more of Indian blood of tribes indigenous to the United States;
- Eskimos and other aboriginal people of Alaska; and
- For the next three years from the effective date of these regulations, a person of at least one-quarter degree Indian ancestry of a currently federally recognized tribe whose rolls have been closed by an Act of Congress.

The proposed regulations have a grandfather clause which protects all persons employed by the Bureau on the effective date of these regulations who received preference in any previous appointment. They will continue to be preference eligibles so long as they are continuously employed by the Bureau.

These regulations implement a long-standing Federal policy which was clarified and strengthened by a 1974 Supreme Court decision.

Comments should be sent within 45 days after publication to the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Personnel Management, Washington, D.C. 20245 .