To: Tara McLean Sweeney
Assistant Secretary, Indian Affair, Department of the Interior
Date: December 6, 2018

During the mid 80’s the registered voters of Akiachak voted to dissolve the municipality of Akiachak in favor of Tribal Government Akiachak Native Community. State of Alaska approved the dissolution of the municipality on January 31, 1990. And since there is no municipality in the village and the villagers believes that the municipality will not incorporate again in the future Akiachak Limited Corporation transfer land using quit claim deeds to Akiachak Native Community whenever the NAHASDA housing program have some land surveyed for houses to be built. The land stays with the Native Community of Akiachak and the title of the house is given to the new owner after the house is paid in full. This way the home owner will only sell the house if ( s )he decides to move to another village, not the land. This is sort of like the practice our ancestors practiced since the beginning of time and somehow replaced with the system of colonists after BLM survey the Village on May 28, 1968 and was approved on May 29, 1968. Therefore 14 (c) of ANCSA have not been executed until amendments are made or Tribe is added to 14 (c)(3).

BLM town site trustee transferred all vacant lots and reserves to Akiachak Native Community, at least the Tribe got some land but in fee simple title. During BIA providers the BLM surveyors tells us that the new houses on corporation land will be included if and when Akiachak Limited Corporation work on 14 (c) but until an amendment or addition being tribal government we are planning to wait.

Falmouth Inst. Instructor mentioned that Department of the Interior will not accept our application if lands applied for are contaminated. There are several spots that need to be cleaned up, being LKSD tank farm, BIA tank farm, and generator sites.

Akiachak Native Community supports H. R. 215 American Empowerment Act introduced by Rep. Don Young. It is regarding restricted fee lands which Tribe own and controls economic development on their villages. After hearing about what the lower 48 Tribe go through that whenever they submit a proposal of treatment to Native Tribes of America do not sound right therefore we want a better life for the members of our community.

Restricted fee land system is not a new form of land ownership in the United States three States New York, Oklahoma, and New Mexico tribes are using it and we are not hearing any complaints, must be working for them. Hoping the department of natural resources will vote in favor of this bill so we will not have to wait too long in working on ANCSA’s section 14 (c). Thank you very much for giving us an opportunity to make comments regarding applying for Trust Lands in Alaska.

Sincerely,