
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Proposed Findings Against Federal Acknowledgment of the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe—East of the Mississippi, Inc.**

The notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Pursuant to 25 CFR 54.9(f) notice is hereby given that the Assistant Secretary proposes to decline to acknowledge the Lower Muskogee Creek Tribe—East of the Mississippi, Inc., c/o Mr. Neal N. McCormick, Route 1, Tama Reservation, Cairo, Georgia 31728, exists as an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law. This notice is based on a determination that the group does not meet four of the criteria set forth in 25 CFR 54.7 and, therefore, does not meet the requirements necessary for a government-to-government relationship with the United States.

Under § 54.9(f) of the Federal regulations, a report summarizing the evidence for the proposed decision is available to the petitioner and interested parties upon written request.

Section 54.9(g) of the regulations provides that any individual or organization wishing to challenge the proposed findings may submit factual or legal arguments and evidence to rebut the evidence relied upon. This material must be submitted within 120 days of the publication of this notice. Comments and requests for a copy of the report should be addressed to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, 18th and C Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20242, Attention: Federal Acknowledgment Branch.

After consideration of the written arguments and evidence rebutting the proposed findings and within 60 days after the expiration of the response period, the Assistant Secretary will publish his determination regarding the petitioner's status in the Federal Register as provided in Section 54.9(h).

James F. Canan,

Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

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