



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

OCT - 6 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Bureau of Indian Education (BIE) is initiating Tribal consultation to seek your input on the replacement of the Cove Day School (Cove Day), which is operated by BIE and located on the Navajo Reservation, 14.2 miles from Red Rock Day School (Red Rock). Both schools serve four small communities: Cove, Red Valley, Mitten Rock, and Oak Springs.

Cove Day is currently approved for a replacement of a new school facility (new school project). The BIE's efforts to replace Cove Day's facility at the current location required environmental remediation activities and as a result delayed the work on the new school project.

Immediate concerns at Cove Day include but are not limited to:

- Age of Cove Day; the school was built in 1959 – 63 years ago.
- Reports revealed safety concerns about Cove Day's close proximity to a uranium mine, associated sources of gamma radiation, and natural background radiation levels in the area. Consequently, Cove Day was closed for the 2021-2022 school year.
- However, after radiological assessments and remediation activities were performed on the interior and exterior of the school, the USEPA and Navajo Nation Environmental Protection Agency approved the school to re-open for the 2022-2023 school year.

Consequently, BIE seeks your input on the following questions:

- (1) Is the **current location** of Cove Day **sufficient** to proceed with the new school project?
- (2) Should the new school be built at a **different location** and if so, what **alternative sites** are recommended?
- (3) Should Cove Day be **consolidated** with Red Rock Day, why, or why not?

The schedule of Tribal consultation is as follows:

HYBRID IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION SESSION COVE DAY SCHOOL REPLACEMENT	
DATE:	Tuesday, November 15, 2022
TIME:	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
ADDRESS:	Cove Day School – Gymnasium BIA Route 13, Route 33 Red Valley, AZ, 86544
REGISTRATION LINK:	https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_9jsZA15oQB6-J35oqWi2NQ

**HYBRID IN-PERSON & VIRTUAL TRIBAL CONSULTATION SESSION
COVE DAY REPLACEMENT**

DATE:	Wednesday, November 16, 2022
TIME:	12:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time
ADDRESS:	Cove Day School – Gymnasium BIA Route 13, Route 33 Red Valley, AZ, 86544
REGISTRATION LINK:	https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/webinar/register/WN_MO_qpuiJTgeVBbGw2YJojA

WRITTEN COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS: Please send written comments and recommendations on the Cove Day School replacement no later than 60 days from the date of this letter:

By email to: consultation@bia.gov

SUBJECT LINE: Tribal Consultation on Cove Day School Replacement

By Postal Mail to: Ms. Julie Lucero, Administrative Support, Bureau of Indian Education, 1011 Indian School Road NW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87104

ATTENTION: Tribal Consultation on Cove Day School Replacement

Questions regarding these Tribal consultations may be directed to Ms. Sharon Pinto, Deputy Bureau Director, BIE, by e-mail at sharon.pinto@bie.edu.

Thank you for your partnership in providing our students with the highest quality and safe learning environment free from environmental concerns and that meets the needs of students, staff, and communities. We look forward to your input on this consultation.

Sincerely,



Bryan Newland
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs