



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
Washington, DC 20240

January 18, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Orphaned Well Program Office (OWPO) and Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) — Bureau of Indian Affairs, on behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior (the Department), invites you to a series of listening sessions in late January during which we seek Tribal feedback on proposed enhancements and updates to application requirements for the second phase of assistance under the Tribal Orphaned Wells Program (OWP).

On November 15, 2021, President Biden signed the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117-58), also known as the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL), making a once-in-a-generation investment in the Nation's infrastructure and economic competitiveness. Section 40601 of the BIL marks a historic effort to confront the potent atmospheric pollution that orphaned oil and gas wells emit, while also accounting for the legacy impact that orphaned wells have on the environment and appropriates \$150 million for plugging, remediating, and reclaiming orphaned wells on Tribal lands through grants to Indian Tribes (Tribes) or In Lieu of Grant assistance.

The Department conducted Tribal consultations in 2022 to develop application requirements for the first phase of funding awarded under the Tribal OWP in 2023. Based on an evaluation of Phase 1 awards, the Department is proposing minor revisions to application requirements for Phase 2 Tribal OWP assistance (summary attached) and seeks Tribal comments on the proposed changes.

The IESC will facilitate one-hour listening sessions, including a brief overview of the proposed updates, at the following times:

**Wednesday, January 24, 1 p.m.-2 p.m. MT**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608735009?pwd=S0tqWmJqdXQ1WF1BbW1qa3pJSIRWUT09>

**Wednesday, January 31, 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. MT**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608735009?pwd=S0tqWmJqdXQ1WF1BbW1qa3pJSIRWUT09>

**Wednesday, February 7, 1 p.m.- 2 p.m. MT**

<https://www.zoomgov.com/j/1608735009?pwd=S0tqWmJqdXQ1WF1BbW1qa3pJSIRWUT09>

Each session will repeat the introductory presentation and invite participant comments. We invite Tribes to participate in whichever session is most convenient and request that you share this invitation with all relevant Tribal staff and partners.

OWPO and IESC also will post links to the listening sessions and summary documents on our organizational websites:

<https://www.bia.gov/bia/ots/iesc>

<https://www.doi.gov/tribal-orphaned-wells-program>

The Department also invites written comments on the proposed changes to Phase 2 Tribal OWP application requirements, submitted via email to [doi\\_orphanedwells\\_tribal@ios.doi.gov](mailto:doi_orphanedwells_tribal@ios.doi.gov), no later than February 9, 2024, so that we may consider and address Tribal feedback in Phase 2 announcements planned for early spring.

Please address any questions about the scheduled listening sessions or requests for accommodations during these events to [IndianEnergyServiceCenter@bia.gov](mailto:IndianEnergyServiceCenter@bia.gov).

Sincerely,

Kimbra Davis  
Director, Orphaned Wells Program Office