



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

Great Plains Regional Office
115 Fourth Avenue SE, Suite 400
Aberdeen, South Dakota 57401

IN REPLY REFER TO:
Tribal Government Services
MC-304

APR 29 2015

Vice Chairman Kevin Wright
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe
187 Oyata Circle
Lower Brule, SD 57548

RECEIVED
5/14/15

Dear Vice Chairman Wright:

This letter serves as acknowledgment that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Great Plains Regional Office has received a copy of your letter written to the Honorable Kevin Washburn, Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs, dated April 23, 2015. In your letter you are asking that federal funds provided to the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe (Tribe) be suspended due to concerns of misuse and mismanagement and that you and the tribal council are being obstructed by tribal employees in performing your oversight responsibilities.

The BIA is closely monitoring the events at the Tribe and we share your concerns. The BIA Regional Office has limited authority over tribal funding of its programs but has direct oversight authority over P.L. 93-638 program contracts and grants. Accordingly, the Great Plains Region Self Determination Office is requesting a monitoring site visit with the Tribe on May 27-29, 2015. We will conduct an entrance meeting at Tribal Headquarters at 9:00 am on Wednesday, May 27, 2015 and an exit meeting on Friday, May 29, 2015 at 2:00 pm.

As specified in all P.L. 93-638 Section 108 Model Contracts, the Lower Brule Sioux Tribe, as Contractor shall provide for *"not more than one performance monitoring visit for each Contract and/or Grant by the head of each operating division, departmental bureau, or departmental agency, or duly authorized representative of such head."*

We will conduct a monitoring session with the following programs:

A12AV00700 Post-Secondary Education
A14AV00411 JOM/Infant & Toddler
A12AV00770 ICWA
A14AV00428 Aid to Tribal Government
A13AV00700 Transportation Planning
A13AV00204 Road Maintenance
A10AV00033 Tribal Court
A10AV00034 Wildlife & Parks
A12AV00301 Social Services
A12AV00769 Facilities Management

A13AV00538 Education Administration
A14AV00714 Housing Improvement Program
A10AV00901 Endangered Species
A10AV00903 Water Resource Management
A12AV01181 Medicine Creek Bridge Replacement
A13AV00618 Loan Repayment (Farm Road Construction)
A13AV00621 Fire Management Hall Construction
Other Construction = Farm Road, Bike Path, BIA 10

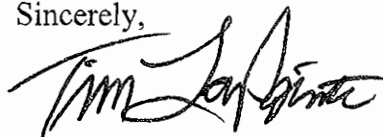
The BIA respectfully requests the presence of all tribal council members, tribal contract representatives and the Chief Finance Officer/Comptroller for the entrance and exit meetings. Tribal program directors and tribal finance staff should also be available for individual program/office visits.

Topics of discussion include performance related to the statement of work, finance, personnel, property (inventory), financial, narrative and/or statistical reports for each of the contracts and grants listed above. Please notify all staff that they should be prepared with updated financial printouts and all program data listed. All topics discussed apply to FY 2014 (October 1, 2013 to September 30, 2014). If you have any questions or if the above date(s) are not feasible please contact the Regional Self Determination Office at (605) 226-7426.

The BIA also has trust responsibility and oversight over other trust fund accounts administered by the BIA. The BIA will defer to the Tribe's requests on the disposition of such funds upon a proper request from the Tribe's governing body.

With regard to the recognition of tribal leadership the BIA hopes that any leadership disputes can be resolved internally in the Tribe's own dispute resolution forums. Absent some extraordinary need or special circumstances where the Tribe becomes incapable of conducting business combined with a time-sensitive matter which must be completed between the Tribe and the Bureau, the Bureau will not address recognition of a Tribal Chairman. Such interventions are rare and would be very premature in light of the present situation at the Tribe. If you have any other questions please do not hesitate in contacting our office.

Sincerely,



Regional Director

cc: Kevin K. Washburn, Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs
Michael S. Black, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs
James Two Bulls, Superintendent, Lower Brule Agency
Vincent G. Logan, Office of the Special Trustee for American Indians
Office of Inspector General