

Honorable Glenna J. Wallace, Chief
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
P.O. Box 350
Seneca, MO 64865

Dear Tribal Chief:

Executive Order 13275 was signed November 6, 2000, and establishes several provisions regarding consultation and coordination between Federal agencies undertaking actions that have tribal implications. Considering upcoming activities at the Tar Creek Superfund Site, you may be interested in consultation with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The Tribal Environmental Directors have worked with the EPA on the Site sampling events and investigation for Tar Creek Operable Unit 4. The EPA is now preparing a proposal for addressing mining wastes at the Tar Creek Superfund Site. Since this decision may directly affect Indian Tribes in the Tar Creek area, as part of the decision-making process we would like to consult with the duly-appointed representatives of the federally-recognized Cherokee Nation, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Miami Tribe of Oklahoma, Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma, Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma, Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, Quapaw Tribe of Oklahoma, Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma, Shawnee Tribe, Wyandotte Nation, and the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians. We are interested in a direct dialogue with all of the potentially affected Tribes on a government-to-government basis.

We suggest the consultation consist of the following steps: one or more meetings with the interested Tribes to first coordinate information on the upcoming EPA activities and initiate the consultation, to present the EPA's preferred cleanup proposal and consider tribal views, and a follow-up meeting to inform the Tribes of EPA's decision on the cleanup proposal prior to release of the plan to the public.

The coordination meeting has been scheduled for 12:00 – 3:30 p.m. on January 22, 2007, and the technical meeting has been scheduled on January 31, 2007, time to be determined. Both meetings will be held at the Quapaw Tribal complex, 5681 South 630 Road, Quapaw, Oklahoma. The EPA will be represented at these meetings by the Superfund Division Director, the Director of the Environmental Justice and Tribal Affairs Office, and various EPA staff. We will provide your Environmental Directors with an internet link for electronic copies of the pertinent Operable 4 documents prior to the first meeting.

It is very important that we get full participation in the consultation so that any decisions are made with the tribal perspective in mind. Thank you for your involvement in these discussions. If you have any questions, please contact me at (214) 665-6701, Jonathan Hook at (214) 665-8069, or Wren Stenger at (214) 665-6583.

Sincerely yours,

Samuel Coleman, P.E.
Director
Superfund Division

Enclosure

DISTRIBUTION LIST FOR TRIBAL CHIEFS AND CHAIRMEN

Honorable Chad Smith, Principal Chief
Cherokee Nation

Honorable John Froman, Chief
Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma

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Honorable Charles Todd, Chief
Ottawa Tribe of Oklahoma

Honorable Glenna J. Wallace, Chief
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Seneca-Cayuga Tribe of Oklahoma

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Shawnee Tribe

Honorable Leaford Bearskin, Chief
Wyandotte Nation

Honorable Bill G. Follis, Chief
Modoc Tribe of Oklahoma

Honorable George Wickliffe, Chief
United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians of Oklahoma