



ENERGY, INSTALLATIONS,
AND ENVIRONMENT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

3400 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-3400

CLEARED
For Open Publication

Aug 18, 2022

Department of Defense
OFFICE OF PREPUBLICATION AND SECURITY REVIEW

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the Secretary of the United States Department of Defense (DoD), I invite your participation in virtual, regional tribal consultations to discuss how the DoD can enhance government-to-government consultation with Federally recognized tribes through an update to its consultation policy, Department of Defense Instruction (DoDI) 4710.02: DoD Interactions With Federally Recognized Tribes.

The current DoDI 4710.02 is attached for your review and consideration; it is also available for review at www.denix.osd.mil/na/policy. The purpose of the virtual consultation sessions is to help ensure that consultation is regular, meaningful, and robust in all instances.

In particular, I respectfully seek your assistance to help the DoD improve its consultation policy and practices by considering the following questions about how to update DoDI 4710.02:

- **How could DoD refine the definition of consultation to address the aim of achieving mutual consensus when possible?**
- **What guidance would you provide DoD about how to conduct regular, meaningful, and robust consultation?**
- **What more could DoD do to protect tribal treaty and reserved rights?**
- **How should DoD work with tribes on mutual concerns regarding potential threats presented by climate change?**
- **How could DoD do more to coordinate with tribes about using traditional knowledge held by tribes to address issues of mutual concern?**
- **How could DoD improve communications with tribes regarding opportunities to consult?**
- **What should DoD do to measure the success of DoD's tribal consultations and nation-to-nation relationships?**

The virtual, regional consultation sessions are scheduled for the following dates:

REGION	DATE	TIME (Eastern)
Rocky Mountain/Southwest/West	Monday, September 19	1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.
Alaska/Pacific Northwest	Tuesday, September 20	3:00 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.
East/South/Midwest	Friday, September 23	9:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Please reply by Wednesday, September 14, 2022, to DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com, to indicate your intention to participate in a specific session or to share the designee who will participate on behalf of the tribe. At that point, DoD will share the log-in information. You are welcome to invite other tribal officials and staff to join the discussion. Please note each virtual consultation can accommodate a maximum of 250 participants.

If your tribe would like to submit written comments to the Department, I thank you in advance for taking the time and considerable effort. Please submit written comments to DoD_NativeAffairs@keresnm.com by October 28, 2022.

We hope that you join us for this very important discussion. If you have questions, please contact Ms. Alicia Sylvester, Senior Advisor and Liaison for Native American Affairs, at alicia.m.sylvester2.civ@mail.mil.

The Department continually strives to ensure we are good stewards and partners with tribal Nations to preserve vital natural and cultural resources. I welcome your input in preparing an updated consultation policy that will ensure we meet the challenges and opportunities of the future. I also look forward to working with Tribal Nations and to continually foster stronger nation-to-nation relationships. Thank you in advance for your recommendations. I know your input will lead to the success of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Richard G. Kidd IV
Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense
(Environment and Energy Resilience)

Attachment:
As indicated