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# United States Department of the Interior

PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE  
2800 COTTAGE WAY, ROOM W-2820  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95825

In Reply Refer To:  
Real Estate Services  
TR-4609-P5

MAR 02 2020

Case Number: 15073

Certified Mail - Return Receipt Requested 7019 0140 0000 7334 4548

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Honorable Kevin Day  
Chairperson, Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians  
P.O. Box 699  
Tuolumne, CA 95379

MAR 05 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

## NOTICE OF DECISION

Dear Chairman Day:

This decision is a result of our analysis of an application filed by Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California (Tribe) for trust acquisition of fee lands. The property is described as follows:

See "Exhibit A" for legal descriptions.

### Regulatory Authority

The applicable regulations are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Title 25, Part 151. The regulations specify that it is the Secretary's policy to accept lands "in trust" for the benefit of Tribes when such acquisition is authorized by an Act of Congress; and, (1) when such lands are within the exterior boundaries of the Tribe's reservation, or adjacent thereto, or within a Tribal consolidation area, or (2) when the Tribe already owns an interest in the land; or (3) when the Secretary determines that the land is necessary to facilitate Tribal self-determination, economic development, or Indian housing.

This acquisition facilitates Indian housing. Therefore, it is within the land acquisition policy as set forth by the Secretary of the Interior.

Pursuant to 25 CFR Part 151, the Secretary will consider the following requirements in evaluating tribal requests for the acquisition of lands in trust status, when the land is located within or contiguous to the tribe's reservation, and the acquisition is not mandated:

- (a) The existence of Statutory Authority for the acquisition and any limitations contained in such authority;
- (b) need of the individual Indian or the Tribe for additional land;
- (c) the purpose for which the land will be used;
- (d) if the land is to be acquired for an individual Indian, the amount of trust or restricted land already owned by or for that individual and the degree to which he needs assistance in handling his affairs;
- (e) impact on the State and its political subdivisions resulting from removal of the land from the tax rolls;
- (f) jurisdictional problems and potential conflict of land use which may

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arise; (g) whether the Bureau of Indian Affairs is equipped to discharge the additional responsibilities resulting from the acquisition of the land in trust status; and, (h) the extent to which the applicant has provided information that allows the Secretary to comply with 516 DM 6, appendix 4, National Environmental Policy Act Revised Implementing Procedures, and 602 DM 2, Land Acquisitions.

Our review of the requirements to evaluate this Tribal request as set forth in 25 Code of Federal Regulations, § 151.10 (a) through (h), determined the following:

**1. 25 CFR § 151.10 (a) Statutory authority for the acquisition of the property.**

25 U.S.C. 5108 INDIAN REORG ACT JUNE 18 1934 (48 STAT. 984)

**2. 25 CFR § 151.10 (b) – The need of the individual Indian or a Tribe for additional land.**

The acquisition of the Starr property in trust for the Tribe will help to further the Tribe's goals of restoring the Tribal land base, rebuilding the Tribe's economy, and establishing consistent tribal/federal ownership of all lands within the Tribe's Rancheria. The Tribe's current land base is largely comprised of hilly, remote land with hard soils which are not readily conducive for residential, governmental, and commercial development. Most of these sites lack water systems, waste disposal systems, telecommunications capability, and have limited access roads. As a result, the Tribe's ability to meet the housing needs of its members has been strained for some time, but now, because so many Tribal members are seeking or holding Tribal employment on the Rancheria, the Tribe's housing shortage has become acute. There are currently 80 on-Rancheria homes, which are fully occupied. Currently, there are adult Tribal members that were raised on the Rancheria who are unable to find on-Rancheria housing for themselves due to the housing shortage. In addition, many of the Tribe's off-Rancheria members also want to return to the Rancheria, but are unable. The Tribe is fully aware of the effect of conveying the subject parcels to the United States to be held in trust for the Tribe, including the significant degree of oversight that will be exercised by the Bureau of Indian Affairs once the property is accepted into trust.

**3. 25 CFR § 151.10 (c) – Purpose for which the property will be used.**

The subject property consists of one parcel of land totaling 6.52 acres, more or less, commonly referred to as Assessor's Parcel Number 088-100-004-000 (Starr property). The subject property is contiguous to lands held in trust for the Tuolumne Rancheria. The subject property is currently being used for residential purposes. There is one single family residence on the property that is in good condition which is currently occupied by a Tribal family. The Tribe will continue to use the subject property as a residential home site for a Tribal family and has no plans to change the use of the property.

**4. 25 CFR § 151.10 (d) – If the land is to be acquired for an individual Indian, the amount of trust or restricted land already owned by or for that individual and the degree to which he needs assistance in handling his affairs.**

N/A

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**5. 25 CFR § 151.10 (e) – Impact on State and its political subdivisions resulting from the removal of this property from the tax rolls.**

Parcels accepted into federal trust status are exempt from taxation and would be removed from the County's taxing jurisdiction. In the 2019-2020 tax years, the total tax assessed on the subject parcel was \$4,183.36. During the comment period, none of the solicited agencies indicated that any adverse impacts would result from the removal of the subject parcel from the tax rolls. Transferring the subject property into trust will not have a significant impact on the State of California or Tuolumne County's tax revenue given that the amount of property taxes assessed on the parcel is small in comparison to the County's annual property tax revenue. The Tribe has an excellent working relationship with Tuolumne County. The Tribe and the County have a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which provides a binding annual payment to the County in order to offset any costs or losses the County incurs from providing services to the Rancheria and tribally owned lands. Further, most of the on-Rancheria emergency patrols and initial emergency responses are provided by the Tribal Security Force. The Tribe also funds its own Tribal Fire department which responds to both wild land and residential fires on and off Rancheria lands under a mutual-aid assistance agreement with the County and State. The Starr property is already included in those agreements.

**6. 25 CFR § 151.10 (f) – Jurisdictional problems and potential conflicts of land use.**

The Tribe does not anticipate that any significant jurisdictional conflicts will occur as a result of transfer of the Starr property into trust. The subject property is contiguous to lands held in trust for the Tribe. Currently, the property is zoned residential. The Tribe has no plans to change the use of the property; therefore it is unlikely that any jurisdictional conflicts will arise. The land presently is subject to the full civil/regulatory and criminal/prohibitory jurisdiction of the State of California and Tuolumne County. Once the land is accepted into trust and becomes part of the Rancheria, the State of California will have the same territorial and adjudicatory jurisdiction over the land, persons and transactions on the land as the State has over other Indian country within the State. Under 18 U.S.C. § 1162 and 28 U.S.C. § 1360 (P.L. 83-280), except as otherwise expressly provided in those statutes, the State of California would retain jurisdiction to enforce its criminal/prohibitory law against all persons and conduct occurring on the land. Transfer of the Starr property into trust will not have an effect on Tuolumne County's regulatory jurisdiction or zoning over the subject property as the property will be subject to tribal, not County regulatory jurisdiction and zoning regulations.

**7. 25 CFR § 151.10 (g) – Whether the Bureau of Indian Affairs is equipped to discharge the additional responsibilities.**

Acceptance of the Starr property into Federal trust status should not impose any additional responsibilities or burdens on the BIA beyond those already inherent in the Federal trusteeship over the existing Tuolumne Rancheria. The Tribe currently funds many of its existing services with the Tribe's gaming and economic development revenue. This acquisition anticipates no change in land use on the Starr property; and therefore, any additional responsibilities resulting from this transaction will be minimal.



## **8. 25 CFR § 151.10 (h) – Environmental Compliance:**

### National Environmental Policy Act Compliance

The BIA's guidelines for National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) compliance are set forth in the Bureau of Indian Affairs Manual (59 IAM). The proposed action herein has been determined not to require the preparation of either an Environmental Assessment (EA) or an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). A Categorical Exclusion requires a qualifying action in this case, 516 DM 10.5.I, Land Conveyance and Other Transfers, where no change in land use is planned. A Categorical Exclusion for the acquisition of Starr property was approved by this Agency on May 2, 2017. Compliance with NEPA has been completed.

### National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Compliance

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to consider the effects of their land acquisition approvals with the potential to affect historic properties. No change in land use is planned for the Starr acquisition. Therefore, the BIA determined there is no potential to adversely affect historic properties on the Starr property.

### Endangered Species Act (ESA) Compliance

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires federal agencies to determine if its action may affect a threatened or endangered species. BIA reviews concluded no affects to endangered or threatened species would result from the Starr acquisition.

### Hazardous Substances Determination

In accordance with Interior Department Policy (602 DM 2), we are charged with the responsibility of conducting a site assessment for the purposes of determining the potential of, and extent of liability from hazardous substances or other environmental remediation or injury. Phase I Environmental Site Assessments (ESAs) was conducted for the Starr property on March 22, 2017. The ESA did not find any hazardous materials contamination rising to level of a "Recognized Environmental Condition." Thus, no further investigation or remediation is required. An updated Phase I ESA will be conducted within six months of the acceptance of title to ensure there are no significant changes to conditions on the property.

### **Conclusion**

Based on the foregoing, we at this time issue notice of our intent to accept the subject real property into trust. The subject acquisition will vest title in the United States of America in trust for the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians of the Tuolumne Rancheria of California in accordance with the Indian Reorganization Act (IRA) of June 18, 1934 (48 Stat. 984; 25 U.S.C. § 5108 (previously § 465)). The applicable regulations are set forth in the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 25, INDIANS, Part 151, as amended.

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## Notice of Appeal

Any party who wishes to seek judicial review of this decision must first exhaust administrative remedies. The Regional Director's decision may be appealed to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) in accordance with the regulations in 43 C.F.R. 4.310-4.340.

If you choose to appeal this decision, your notice of appeal to the IBIA must be signed by you or your attorney and **must be either postmarked and mailed (if you use mail) or delivered (if you use another means of physical delivery, such as FedEx or UPS) to the IBIA within 30 days from the date of receipt of this decision.** The regulations do not authorize filings by facsimile/fax or by electronic means. Your notice of appeal should clearly identify the decision being appealed. You must send your **original** notice of appeal to the IBIA at the following address: Interior Board of Indian Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Suite 300, Arlington, Virginia 22203. You must send **copies** of your notice of appeal to (1) the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs, U.S. Department of the Interior, MS-4141-MIB, 1849 C Street N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240; (2) each interested party known to you; and (3) the Regional Director. Your notice of appeal sent to the IBIA must include a statement certifying that you have sent copies to these officials and interested parties and should identify them by names or titles and addresses.

If you file a notice of appeal, the IBIA will notify you of further procedures. If no appeal is timely filed, this decision will become final for the Department of the Interior at the expiration of the appeal period. No extension of time may be granted for filing a notice of appeal.

Sincerely,



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REGIONAL DIRECTOR

Enclosure(s)

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cc:

**BY CERTIFIED MAIL:**

CALIFORNIA STATE CLEARINGHOUSE OFFICE OF PLANNING AND RESEARCH  
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
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UNITED STATES SENATOR DIANNE FEINSTEIN  
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WASHINGTON, DC 20510  
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SARA DRAKE, DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL  
STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE  
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TUOLUMNE COUNTY ASSESSOR'S OFFICE  
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SONORA, CA 95370  
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CHICKEN RANCH RANCHERIA  
P.O. BOX 1159  
JAMESTOWN, CA 95327  
Certified Mail ID: 7019 0140 0000 7334 4531

TUOLUMNE COUNTY SANITARY DISTRICT  
PO BOX 1238  
TUOLUMNE, CA 95379  
Certified Mail ID: 7019 0140 0000 7334 4524

**BY FIRST CLASS MAIL:**

CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AGENCY  
650 CAPITOL MALL, SUITE 8-500  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

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Applicant Name: Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk  
Indians of the Tuolumne  
Rancheria of California

## LEGAL DESCRIPTION EXHIBIT A

Tract ID:

Tract Name: STARR

<u>Land Area</u>	<u>Land Area Name</u>	<u>Tract Number</u>	<u>LTRO</u>	<u>Region</u>	<u>Agency</u>	<u>Resources</u>	
634	TUOLUMNE		SACRAMENTO, CA	PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE	CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AGENCY	Both (Mineral and Surface)	
<u>Section</u>	<u>Township</u>	<u>Range</u>	<u>State</u>	<u>County</u>	<u>Meridian</u>	<u>Legal Description</u>	<u>Acres</u>
32	002.00N	016.00E	CALIFORNIA	TUOLUMNE	Mount Diablo		6.520

METES AND BOUNDS: ALL THAT CERTAIN AND REAL PROPERTY IN THE UNINCORPORATED AREA OF THE COUNTY OF TUOLUMNE, STATE OF CALIFORNIA, DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: PARCEL ONE: A PORTION OF LOTS 41 AND 42 AS SAID LOTS ARE SHOWN UPON THE MAP OF THE RE-SURVEY OF MARSHALL TRACT FILED IN VOLUME 13 OF MAPS ON PAGES 85 AND 86 IN THE OFFICE OF THE RECORDER OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY, CALIFORNIA AND BEING MORE PARTICULARLY DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A 1 INCH IRON PIPE MONUMENT SET AT THE COMMON CORNER OF LOTS 42 AND 43 AND ON THE SOUTH BOUNDARY OF THE ABOVE MENTIONED MARSHALL TRACT RUNNING THENCE ON AND ALONG THE SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY NORTH 88° 14' 05" WEST 864.56 FEET TO A 1 INCH DRILL STEEL MONUMENT, SAID LAST NAMED MONUMENT BEING THE MOST SOUTHEASTERLY CORNER OF THE LANDS OF JAMES E. BACON AND LOIS V. BACON, AS DESCRIBED IN THE DEED FILED IN VOLUME 76 OF OFFICIAL RECORDS ON PAGE 402 IN THE OFFICE OF THE COUNTY RECORDER OF TUOLUMNE COUNTY; THENCE LEAVING THE SAID SOUTH BOUNDARY AND RUNNING ON AND ALONG THE EAST BOUNDARY OF THE SAID LANDS OF BACON, ET UX. NORTH 02° 04' 20" EAST 330.05 FEET TO A 1 INCH DRILL STEEL MONUMENT; THENCE LEAVING THE SAID EAST BOUNDARY OF THE LANDS OF BACON ET UX. AND RUNNING SOUTH 88° 03' 30" EAST 863.78 FEET TO A POINT; FROM SAID LAST NAMED POINT TO A 1 INCH DRILL STEEL MONUMENT BEARS NORTH 88° 03' 30" WEST 20.00 FEET, ALSO SAID LAST NAMED POINT IS ON THE COMMON BOUNDARY TO LOTS 42 AND 43 AS SAID LOTS APPEAR UPON THE MAP OF RE-SURVEY OF THE MARSHALL TRACT AS HEREINABOVE REFERRED TO; THENCE RUNNING ON AND ALONG THE SAID COMMON BOUNDARY TO LOTS 42 AND 43 SOUTH 01° 56' WEST 327.37 FEET TO THE POINT OF BEGINNING. PARCEL TWO: A RIGHT OF WAY FOR THE PURPOSES OF INGRESS AND EGRESS AND THE INSTALLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES OVER, ON OR UNDER A STRIP OF LAND FORTY FEET IN WIDTH THE CENTER LINE OF WHICH IS DESCRIBED AS FOLLOWS: BEGINNING AT A POINT THAT IS THE NORTHEAST CORNER OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED 6.52 ACRES PARCEL OF LAND SAID POINT OF BEGINNING ALSO ON THE COMMON BOUNDARY TO SAID LOTS 42 AND 43 AND RUNNING THENCE ON AND ALONG THE COMMON BOUNDARY TO LOTS 42 AND 43 NORTH 01° 56' EAST 1082.07 FEET TO A POINT BEING THE COMMON CORNER TO LOTS 25, 26, 42 AND 43, AS SAID LOTS ARE SHOWN UPON THE MAP HEREINABOVE REFERRED TO; THENCE RUNNING ON AND ALONG THE COMMON BOUNDARY TO SAID LOTS 25 AND 26 NORTH 5° 42' 20" WEST 358.56 FEET TO A POINT, SAID LAST NAMED POINT BEING THE COMMON CORNER TO LOTS 24 AND 25 AND ON THE EASTERLY BOUNDARY OF LOT 26 AS SAID LOTS ARE SHOWN UPON THE MAP HEREINABOVE REFERRED TO; THENCE RUNNING ON AND ALONG THE COMMON BOUNDARY TO SAID LOTS 24 AND 26 DUE NORTH 146.27 FEET TO THE NORTHERLY TERMINUS OF THE HEREIN DESCRIBED RIGHT OF WAY; SAID NORTHERLY TERMINUS BEING ON THE SOUTHEASTERLY RIGHT OF WAY LINE OF THE TUOLUMNE CONFIDENCE COUNTY ROAD.

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Office of the Secretary, Interior

§4.310

state specifically and concisely the grounds upon which it is based.

(b) *Notice; burden of proof.* The OHA deciding official will, upon receipt of a demand for hearing, set a time and place therefor and must mail notice thereof to all parties in interest not less than 30 days in advance; provided, however, that such date must be set after the expiration of the 60-day period fixed for the filing of the demand for hearing as provided in §4.305(a). At the hearing, each party challenging the tribe's claim to purchase the interests in question or the valuation of the interests as set forth in the valuation report will have the burden of proving his or her position.

(c) *Decision after hearing; appeal.* Upon conclusion of the hearing, the OHA deciding official will issue a decision which determines all of the issues including, but not limited to, a judgment establishing the fair market value of the interests purchased by the tribe, including any adjustment thereof made necessary by the surviving spouse's decision to reserve a life estate in one-half of the interests. The decision must specify the right of appeal to the Board of Indian Appeals within 60 days from the date of the decision in accordance with §§4.310 through 4.323. The OHA deciding official must lodge the complete record relating to the demand for hearing with the title plant as provided in §4.236(b), furnish a duplicate record thereof to the Superintendent, and mail a notice of such action together with a copy of the decision to each party in interest.

§4.306 Time for payment.

A tribe must pay the full fair market value of the interests purchased, as set forth in the valuation report or as determined after hearing in accordance with §4.305, whichever is applicable, within 2 years from the date of decedent's death or within 1 year from the date of notice of purchase, whichever comes later.

§4.307 Title.

Upon payment by the tribe of the interests purchased, the Superintendent must issue a certificate to the OHA deciding official that this has been done and file therewith such documents in

support thereof as the OHA deciding official may require. The OHA deciding official will then issue an order that the United States holds title to such interests in trust for the tribe, lodge the complete record, including the decision, with the title plant as provided in §4.236(b), furnish a duplicate record thereof to the Superintendent, and mail a notice of such action together with a copy of the decision to each party in interest.

§4.308 Disposition of income.

During the pendency of the probate and up to the date of transfer of title to the United States in trust for the tribe in accordance with §4.307, all income received or accrued from the land interests purchased by the tribe will be credited to the estate.

CROSS REFERENCE: See 25 CFR part 2 for procedures for appeals to Area Directors and to the Commissioner of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

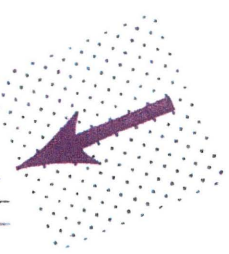
GENERAL RULES APPLICABLE TO PROCEEDINGS ON APPEAL BEFORE THE INTERIOR BOARD OF INDIAN APPEALS

SOURCE: 66 FR 67656, Dec. 31, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

§4.310 Documents.

(a) *Filing.* The effective date for filing a notice of appeal or other document with the Board during the course of an appeal is the date of mailing or the date of personal delivery, except that a motion for the Board to assume jurisdiction over an appeal under 25 CFR 2.20(e) will be effective the date it is received by the Board.

(b) *Service.* Notices of appeal and pleadings must be served on all parties in interest in any proceeding before the Interior Board of Indian Appeals by the party filing the notice or pleading with the Board. Service must be accomplished upon personal delivery or mailing. Where a party is represented in an appeal by an attorney or other representative authorized under 43 CFR 1.3, service of any document on the attorney or representative is service on the party. Where a party is represented by more than one attorney, service on any one attorney is sufficient. The certificate of service on an attorney or



#### §4.311

representative must include the name of the party whom the attorney or representative represents and indicate that service was made on the attorney or representative.

(c) *Computation of time for filing and service.* Except as otherwise provided by law, in computing any period of time prescribed for filing and serving a document, the day upon which the decision or document to be appealed or answered was served or the day of any other event after which a designated period of time begins to run is not to be included. The last day of the period so computed is to be included, unless it is a Saturday, Sunday, Federal legal holiday, or other nonbusiness day, in which event the period runs until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday, Sunday, Federal legal holiday, or other nonbusiness day. When the time prescribed or allowed is 7 days or less, intermediate Saturdays, Sundays, Federal legal holidays, and other nonbusiness days are excluded in the computation.

(d) *Extensions of time.* (1) The time for filing or serving any document except a notice of appeal may be extended by the Board.

(2) A request to the Board for an extension of time must be filed within the time originally allowed for filing.

(3) For good cause the Board may grant an extension of time on its own initiative.

(e) *Retention of documents.* All documents received in evidence at a hearing or submitted for the record in any proceeding before the Board will be retained with the official record of the proceeding. The Board, in its discretion, may permit the withdrawal of original documents while a case is pending or after a decision becomes final upon conditions as required by the Board.

#### §4.311 Briefs on appeal.

(a) The appellant may file an opening brief within 30 days after receipt of the notice of docketing. Appellant must serve copies of the opening brief upon all interested parties or counsel and file a certificate with the Board showing service upon the named parties. Opposing parties or counsel will have 30 days from receipt of appellant's brief

#### 43 CFR Subtitle A (10-1-03 Edition)

to file answer briefs, copies of which must be served upon the appellant or counsel and all other parties in interest. A certificate showing service of the answer brief upon all parties or counsel must be attached to the answer filed with the Board.

(b) Appellant may reply to an answering brief within 15 days from its receipt. A certificate showing service of the reply brief upon all parties or counsel must be attached to the reply filed with the Board. Except by special permission of the Board, no other briefs will be allowed on appeal.

(c) The BIA is considered an interested party in any proceeding before the Board. The Board may request that the BIA submit a brief in any case before the Board.

(d) An original only of each document should be filed with the Board. Documents should not be bound along the side.

(e) The Board may also specify a date on or before which a brief is due. Unless expedited briefing has been granted, such date may not be less than the appropriate period of time established in this section.

#### §4.312 Decisions.

Decisions of the Board will be made in writing and will set forth findings of fact and conclusions of law. The decision may adopt, modify, reverse or set aside any proposed finding, conclusion, or order of a BIA official or an OHA deciding official. Distribution of decisions must be made by the Board to all parties concerned. Unless otherwise stated in the decision, rulings by the Board are final for the Department and must be given immediate effect.

#### §4.313 Amicus Curiae; intervention; joinder motions.

(a) Any interested person or Indian tribe desiring to intervene or to join other parties or to appear as amicus curiae or to obtain an order in an appeal before the Board must apply in writing to the Board stating the grounds for the action sought. Permission to intervene, to join parties, to appear, or for other relief, may be granted for purposes and subject to limitations established by the Board. This section will be liberally construed.

(b) Motions to intervene, to appear as *amicus curiae*, to join additional parties, or to obtain an order in an appeal pending before the Board must be served in the same manner as appeal briefs.

#### § 4.314 Exhaustion of administrative remedies.

(a) No decision of an OHA deciding official or a BIA official, which at the time of its rendition is subject to appeal to the Board, will be considered final so as to constitute agency action subject to judicial review under 5 U.S.C. 704, unless made effective pending decision on appeal by order of the Board.

(b) No further appeal will lie within the Department from a decision of the Board.

(c) The filing of a petition for reconsideration is not required to exhaust administrative remedies.

#### § 4.315 Reconsideration.

(a) Reconsideration of a decision of the Board will be granted only in extraordinary circumstances. Any party to the decision may petition for reconsideration. The petition must be filed with the Board within 30 days from the date of the decision and must contain a detailed statement of the reasons why reconsideration should be granted.

(b) A party may file only one petition for reconsideration.

(c) The filing of a petition will not stay the effect of any decision or order and will not affect the finality of any decision or order for purposes of judicial review, unless so ordered by the Board.

#### § 4.316 Remands from courts.

Whenever any matter is remanded from any federal court to the Board for further proceedings, the Board will either remand the matter to an OHA deciding official or to the BIA, or to the extent the court's directive and time limitations will permit, the parties will be allowed an opportunity to submit to the Board a report recommending procedures for it to follow to comply with the court's order. The Board will enter special orders governing matters on remand.

#### § 4.317 Standards of conduct.

(a) *Inquiries about cases.* All inquiries with respect to any matter pending before the Board must be made to the Chief Administrative Judge of the Board or the administrative judge assigned the matter.

(b) *Disqualification.* An administrative judge may withdraw from a case in accordance with standards found in the recognized canons of judicial ethics if the judge deems such action appropriate. If, prior to a decision of the Board, a party files an affidavit of personal bias or disqualification with substantiating facts, and the administrative judge concerned does not withdraw, the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals will determine the matter of disqualification.

#### § 4.318 Scope of review.

An appeal will be limited to those issues which were before the OHA deciding official upon the petition for rehearing, reopening, or regarding tribal purchase of interests, or before the BIA official on review. However, except as specifically limited in this part or in title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations, the Board will not be limited in its scope of review and may exercise the inherent authority of the Secretary to correct a manifest injustice or error where appropriate.

#### APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF INDIAN APPEALS IN PROBATE MATTERS

SOURCE: 66 FR 67656, Dec. 31, 2001, unless otherwise noted.

#### § 4.320 Who may appeal.

(a) A party in interest has a right to appeal to the Board from an order of an OHA deciding official on a petition for rehearing, a petition for reopening, or regarding tribal purchase of interests in a deceased Indian's trust estate.

(b) Notice of appeal. Within 60 days from the date of the decision, an appellant must file a written notice of appeal signed by appellant, appellant's attorney, or other qualified representative as provided in 43 CFR 1.3, with the Board of Indian Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203. A

#### §4.321

statement of the errors of fact and law upon which the appeal is based must be included in either the notice of appeal or in any brief filed. The notice of appeal must include the names and addresses of parties served. A notice of appeal not timely filed will be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction.

(c) Service of copies of notice of appeal. The appellant must personally deliver or mail the original notice of appeal to the Board of Indian Appeals. A copy must be served upon the OHA deciding official whose decision is appealed as well as all interested parties. The notice of appeal filed with the Board must include a certification that service was made as required by this section.

(d) Action by the OHA deciding official; record inspection. The OHA deciding official, upon receiving a copy of the notice of appeal, must notify the Superintendent concerned to return the duplicate record filed under §§4.236(b) and 4.241(d), or under §4.242(f) of this part, to the Land Titles and Records Office designated under §4.236(b) of this part. The duplicate record must be conformed to the original by the Land Titles and Records Office and will thereafter be available for inspection either at the Land Titles and Records Office or at the office of the Superintendent. In those cases in which a transcript of the hearing was not prepared, the OHA deciding official will have a transcript prepared which must be forwarded to the Board within 30 days from receipt of a copy of the notice of appeal.

[66 FR 67656, Dec. 31, 2001, as amended at 67 FR 4368, Jan. 30, 2002]

#### §4.321 Notice of transmittal of record on appeal.

The original record on appeal must be forwarded by the Land Titles and Records Office to the Board by certified mail. Any objection to the record as constituted must be filed with the Board within 15 days of receipt of the notice of docketing issued under §4.332 of this part.

#### §4.322 Docketing.

The appeal will be docketed by the Board upon receipt of the administrative record from the Land Titles and

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Records Office. All interested parties as shown by the record on appeal must be notified of the docketing. The docketing notice must specify the time within which briefs may be filed and must cite the procedural regulations governing the appeal.

#### §4.323 Disposition of the record.

Subsequent to a decision of the Board, other than remands, the record filed with the Board and all documents added during the appeal proceedings, including any transcripts prepared because of the appeal and the Board's decision, must be forwarded by the Board to the Land Titles and Records Office designated under §4.236(b) of this part. Upon receipt of the record by the Land Titles and Records Office, the duplicate record required by §4.320(c) of this part must be conformed to the original and forwarded to the Superintendent concerned.

#### APPEALS TO THE BOARD OF INDIAN APPEALS FROM ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS OF OFFICIALS OF THE BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS: ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW IN OTHER INDIAN MATTERS NOT RELATING TO PROBATE PROCEEDINGS

SOURCE: 54 FR 6487, Feb. 10, 1989, unless otherwise noted.

#### §4.330 Scope.

(a) The definitions set forth in 25 CFR 2.2 apply also to these special rules. These regulations apply to the practice and procedure for: (1) Appeals to the Board of Indian Appeals from administrative actions or decisions of officials of the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued under regulations in 25 CFR chapter 1, and (2) administrative review by the Board of Indian Appeals of other matters pertaining to Indians which are referred to it for exercise of review authority of the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

(b) Except as otherwise permitted by the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by special delegation or request, the Board shall not adjudicate:

(1) Tribal enrollment disputes;

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(2) Matters decided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs through exercise of its discretionary authority; or

(3) Appeals from decisions pertaining to final recommendations or actions by officials of the Minerals Management Service, unless the decision is based on an interpretation of Federal Indian law (decisions not so based which arise from determinations of the Minerals Management Service, are appealable to the Interior Board of Land Appeals in accordance with 43 CFR 4.410).

### § 4.331 Who may appeal.

Any interested party affected by a final administrative action or decision of an official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs issued under regulations in title 25 of the Code of Federal Regulations may appeal to the Board of Indian Appeals, except—

(a) To the extent that decisions which are subject to appeal to a higher official within the Bureau of Indian Affairs must first be appealed to that official;

(b) Where the decision has been approved in writing by the Secretary or Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs prior to promulgation; or

(c) Where otherwise provided by law or regulation.

### § 4.332 Appeal to the Board; how taken; mandatory time for filing; preparation assistance; requirement for bond.

(a) A notice of appeal shall be in writing, signed by the appellant or by his attorney of record or other qualified representative as provided by 43 CFR 1.3, and filed with the Board of Indian Appeals, Office of Hearings and Appeals, U.S. Department of the Interior, 801 North Quincy Street, Arlington, Virginia 22203, within 30 days after receipt by the appellant of the decision from which the appeal is taken. A copy of the notice of appeal shall simultaneously be filed with the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs. As required by § 4.333 of this part, the notice of appeal sent to the Board shall certify that a copy has been sent to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs. A notice of appeal not timely filed shall be dismissed for lack of jurisdiction. A notice of appeal shall include:

(1) A full identification of the case;

(2) A statement of the reasons for the appeal and of the relief sought; and

(3) The names and addresses of all additional interested parties, Indian tribes, tribal corporations, or groups having rights or privileges which may be affected by a change in the decision, whether or not they participated as interested parties in the earlier proceedings.

(b) In accordance with 25 CFR 2.20(c) a notice of appeal shall not be effective for 20 days from receipt by the Board, during which time the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs may decide to review the appeal. If the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs properly notifies the Board that he has decided to review the appeal, any documents concerning the case filed with the Board shall be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

(c) When the appellant is an Indian or Indian tribe not represented by counsel, the official who issued the decision appealed shall, upon request of the appellant, render such assistance as is appropriate in the preparation of the appeal.

(d) At any time during the pendency of an appeal, an appropriate bond may be required to protect the interest of any Indian, Indian tribe, or other parties involved.

[54 FR 6487, Feb. 10, 1989, as amended at 67 FR 4368, Jan. 30, 2002]

### § 4.333 Service of notice of appeal.

(a) On or before the date of filing of the notice of appeal the appellant shall serve a copy of the notice upon each known interested party, upon the official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs from whose decision the appeal is taken, and upon the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs. The notice of appeal filed with the Board shall certify that service was made as required by this section and shall show the names and addresses of all parties served. If the appellant is an Indian or an Indian tribe not represented by counsel, the appellant may request the official of the Bureau whose decision is appealed to assist in service of copies of the notice of appeal and any supporting documents.

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(b) The notice of appeal will be considered to have been served upon the date of personal service or mailing.

#### **§4.334 Extensions of time.**

Requests for extensions of time to file documents may be granted upon a showing of good cause, except for the time fixed for filing a notice of appeal which, as specified in §4.332 of this part, may not be extended.

#### **§4.335 Preparation and transmittal of record by official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs.**

(a) Within 20 days after receipt of a notice of appeal, or upon notice from the Board, the official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs whose decision is appealed shall assemble and transmit the record to the Board. The record on appeal shall include, without limitation, copies of transcripts of testimony taken; all original documents, petitions, or applications by which the proceeding was initiated; all supplemental documents which set forth claims of interested parties; and all documents upon which all previous decisions were based.

(b) The administrative record shall include a Table of Contents noting, at a minimum, inclusion of the following:

(1) The decision appealed from;

(2) The notice of appeal or copy thereof; and

(3) Certification that the record contains all information and documents utilized by the deciding official in rendering the decision appealed.

(c) If the deciding official receives notification that the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs has decided to review the appeal before the administrative record is transmitted to the Board, the administrative record shall be forwarded to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs rather than to the Board.

#### **§4.336 Docketing.**

An appeal shall be assigned a docket number by the Board 20 days after receipt of the notice of appeal unless the Board has been properly notified that the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs has assumed jurisdiction over the appeal. A notice of docketing shall be sent to all interested parties as shown

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by the record on appeal upon receipt of the administrative record. Any objection to the record as constituted shall be filed with the Board within 15 days of receipt of the notice of docketing. The docketing notice shall specify the time within which briefs shall be filed, cite the procedural regulations governing the appeal and include a copy of the Table of Contents furnished by the deciding official.

#### **§4.337 Action by the Board.**

(a) The Board may make a final decision, or where the record indicates a need for further inquiry to resolve a genuine issue of material fact, the Board may require a hearing. All hearings shall be conducted by an administrative law judge of the Office of Hearings and Appeals. The Board may, in its discretion, grant oral argument before the Board.

(b) Where the Board finds that one or more issues involved in an appeal or a matter referred to it were decided by the Bureau of Indian Affairs based upon the exercise of discretionary authority committed to the Bureau, and the Board has not otherwise been permitted to adjudicate the issue(s) pursuant to §4.330(b) of this part, the Board shall dismiss the appeal as to the issue(s) or refer the issue(s) to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs for further consideration.

#### **§4.338 Submission by administrative law judge of proposed findings, conclusions and recommended decision.**

(a) When an evidentiary hearing pursuant to §4.337(a) of this part is concluded, the administrative law judge shall recommend findings of fact and conclusions of law, stating the reasons for such recommendations. A copy of the recommended decision shall be sent to each party to the proceeding, the Bureau official involved, and the Board. Simultaneously, the entire record of the proceedings, including the transcript of the hearing before the administrative law judge, shall be forwarded to the Board.

(b) The administrative law judge shall advise the parties at the conclusion of the recommended decision of their right to file exceptions or other

comments regarding the recommended decision with the Board in accordance with §4.339 of this part.

**§4.339 Exceptions or comments regarding recommended decision by administrative law judge.**

Within 30 days after receipt of the recommended decision of the administrative law judge, any party may file exceptions to or other comments on the decision with the Board.

**§4.340 Disposition of the record.**

Subsequent to a decision by the Board, the record filed with the Board and all documents added during the appeal proceedings, including the Board's decision, shall be forwarded to the official of the Bureau of Indian Affairs whose decision was appealed for proper disposition in accordance with rules and regulations concerning treatment of Federal records.

**WHITE EARTH RESERVATION LAND SETTLEMENT ACT OF 1985; AUTHORITY OF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGES; DETERMINATIONS OF THE HEIRS OF PERSONS WHO DIED ENTITLED TO COMPENSATION**

SOURCE: 56 FR 61383, Dec. 3, 1991, unless otherwise noted.

**§4.350 Authority and scope.**

(a) The rules and procedures set forth in §§4.350 through 4.357 apply only to the determination through intestate succession of the heirs of persons who died entitled to receive compensation under the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act of 1985, Public Law 99-264 (100 Stat. 61), amended by Public Law 100-153 (101 Stat. 886) and Public Law 100-212 (101 Stat. 1433).

(b) Whenever requested to do so by the Project Director, an administrative judge shall determine such heirs by applying inheritance laws in accordance with the White Earth Reservation Settlement Act of 1985 as amended, notwithstanding the decedent may have died testate.

(c) As used herein, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) The term *Act* means the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Act of 1985 as amended.

(2) The term *Board* means the Board of Indian Appeals in the Office of Hearings and Appeals, Office of the Secretary.

(3) The term *Project Director* means the Superintendent of the Minnesota Agency, Bureau of Indian Affairs, or other Bureau of Indian Affairs official with delegated authority from the Minneapolis Area Director to serve as the federal officer in charge of the White Earth Reservation Land Settlement Project.

(4) The term *party (parties) in interest* means the Project Director and any presumptive or actual heirs of the decedent, or of any issue of any subsequently deceased presumptive or actual heir of the decedent.

(5) The term *compensation* means a monetary sum, as determined by the Project Director, pursuant to section 8(c) of the Act.

(6) The term *administrative judge* means an administrative judge or an administrative law judge, attorney-advisor, or other appropriate official of the Office of Hearings and Appeals to whom the Director of the Office of Hearings and Appeals has redelegated his authority, as designee of the Secretary, for making heirship determinations as provided for in these regulations.

(7) The term *appellant* means a party aggrieved by a final order or final order upon reconsideration issued by an administrative judge who files an appeal with the Board.

[56 FR 61383, Dec. 3, 1991; 56 FR 65782, Dec. 18, 1991, as amended at 64 FR 13363, Mar. 18, 1999]

**§4.351 Commencement of the determination process.**

(a) Unless an heirship determination which is recognized by the Act already exists, the Project Director shall commence the determination of the heirs of those persons who died entitled to receive compensation by filing with the administrative judge all data, identifying the purpose for which they are being submitted, shown in the records relative to the family of the decedent.

(b) The data shall include but are not limited to: