

INDIAN AFFAIRS MANUAL

Part: 59

Environmental Management

Chapter: 1

Policy, Requirements and Responsibilities

Page 1

1.1 Purpose. The purpose of this Chapter is to establish the basic policies, requirements and responsibilities that apply to environmental management for Indian Affairs. Environmental management includes environmental compliance (Chapter 2) and environmental analysis and review activities, including those required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (Chapter 3).

1.2 Policy. It is the policy of Indian Affairs to:

- A. Comply** with applicable environmental management requirements;
- B. Integrate** environmental considerations into the initial stage of planning for all activities with a potential impact on the quality of the land, water, or air;
- C. Ensure** that all Indian Affairs work places and quarters are protective of the environment and the health of employees, students, and visitors;
- D. Seek** collaborative tribal participation in Indian Affairs environmental decision-making;
- E. Provide** advice and support to tribes and tribal organizations in complying with environmental statutes and regulations;
- F. Include** in environmental analyses the cultural values of the affected tribe and the relationship between the environment and culture; and
- G. Assist** other governmental agencies in their environmental management activities affecting Native Americans and tribal environments and resources.

1.3 Requirements. The following Executive Orders impose general requirements on Indian Affairs environmental management. Additional requirements are enumerated in Chapter 2 and Chapter 3.

- A. Executive Order 12898**, Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations, February 11, 1994; and
- B. Executive Order 13007**, Indian Sacred Sites, May 24, 1996.

1.4 Tribal Environmental Laws. Tribes may establish codes and set standards for regulating activities that affect tribal environments and resources either under federal statutes or under inherent tribal authority. In programs or activities affecting any reservation or Tribal resource, Indian Affairs will comply with all applicable tribal environmental, cultural, and natural resources codes or standards, unless compliance is prohibited by some other legal requirement or preempted by Federal law.

1.5 Responsibilities.

A. All Indian Affairs Managers.

(1) Ensure that all facilities and activities under their supervision comply with the environmental requirements, policy and guidance referenced in Sections 1.2, 1.3 and 1.4 of this Chapter; Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of Chapter 2 and Sections 3.3 and 3.4 of Chapter 3 of this Part; and other Departmental and Indian Affairs environmental management policies; and

(2) Ensure that appropriate Indian Affairs staff have environmental management training in line with their positions and in accordance with a curriculum developed by the Chief, Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management, Office of Trust Responsibilities.

B. Director, Office of Trust Responsibilities. Coordinates with Regional Directors and other Office Directors to ensure that required environmental management activities occur.

C. Chief, Division of Environmental and Cultural Resources Management, Office of Trust Responsibilities.

(1) Prepares policy, guidance, and standards for Indian Affairs personnel on compliance with the environmental requirements referenced in Sections 1.3 and 1.4 of this Chapter; Sections 2.3 and 2.4 of Chapter 2 and Section 3.3 and 3.4 of Chapter 3 of this Part; and other Departmental or Indian Affairs environmental management policies;

(2) Develops curriculum for environmental management training and provides training to Indian Affairs managers and staff;

(3) Provides training, technical expertise and support to tribal governments for environmental management activities; and

(4) Serves as a liaison with other federal, state, local, and tribal governments regarding environmental management programs.

D. Regional Directors. In consultation with the Director, Office of Trust Responsibilities:

(1) Select a Regional Environmental Scientist to take the lead on and coordinate all environmental management activities for Indian Affairs facilities and operations within the Region; and

(2) Select a NEPA Coordinator to coordinate environmental analysis and review activities.

E. Agency Superintendents. Where necessary, and in consultation with the Regional Director and the Environmental Scientist, select an Agency Environmental Specialist to coordinate day-to-day environmental management activities at the Agency.