COCONUT CREEK
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July 14, 2011

Delivered via email and Mail
http://www.consultation@doi.gov

Consultation Policy Comments
Department of the Interior
Room 5129 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

Re: Office of the Secretary's Policy on Consultation with Indian Tribes; Comments of the City of Coconut Creek, Florida on Proposed Policy Published May 17, 2011

Dear Secretary of the Interior:

The City of Coconut Creek, Florida, submits these comments on the proposed Department of the Interior tribal consultation policy. The Department published the policy in the Federal Register on May 17, 2011. 76 Fed Reg. 28446. The City bases its comments on its extensive experience with federal trust land acquisition actions of the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) involving land in Coconut Creek. This experience gives the City background information that bears on the proposed policy and identifies how the proposed policy can be improved.

In general, establishing clearly defined guidelines for tribal consultation purposes will reduce confusion and inefficiency for future federal actions involving recognized tribes. The policy suffers from a serious deficiency, however, because it fails to provide for the equally important role that consultation should play with other affected parties, especially local governments. This letter sets forth the City's recommendations for revising the proposed policy to remedy this deficiency.

The proposed policy has many important features to improve communication and consultation with tribes, both for purposes of fulfilling the federal trust responsibility and for considering tribal concerns with federal actions. As the City has learned, however, addressing the issues raised through tribal consultation often involve other parties. In these cases, and in circumstances where local governments or other parties will be affected by the federal action, broader consultation procedures to include other affected parties are necessary. Not expanding consultation in these situations could result in failing to achieve negotiated outcomes that are beneficial for the tribes and other affected parties and, instead, precipitating conflict and litigation. The Department will develop a much more effective policy if it amends the current proposal so that it is not an exclusively one-sided process that focuses only on tribal issues and concerns.

Coconut Creek's experience with BIA actions associated with the Seminole Tribe of Florida (STOF) is an excellent example of the need for a broader, more inclusive policy.

The City has an excellent relationship with the STOF. We work together on a regular basis on many issues. This relationship has been mutually beneficial. For example, in 1998, the City and the Tribe developed a contractual Municipal Service Provider Agreement (MSPA), that facilitated the acquisition of land in trust and casino resort development by the Tribe. The MSPA has worked well for both parties.

In 2006, however, with no advance notice, the City received a letter from BIA requesting information necessary to respond to the STOF application to have additional land taken into trust. Over the course of the next two years, BIA repeatedly ignored the concerns and inquiries from the City. As a result, the City had no choice other than to oppose the trust land request. It was not until the BIA Central Office intervened late in 2008 to require that Coconut Creek's issues be addressed, that the potential conflict receded and the City and Tribe began to work together. The result was the recently concluded Trust Lands Mitigation Agreement (TLMA) that, like the MSPA, helped resolve the potential conflict between the City and the STOF. BIA Regional Director Keel recently responded to the request from the Tribe to issue a determination whether the TLMA is subject to approval under 25 U.S.C. § 81. By confirming that it is not, and by assisting the City at these stages, BIA has positioned itself to make a better and more efficient decision or the underlying federal action while helping the City and STOF strengthen their working relationship. The proposed policy should be revised so that it can help achieve similar results in comparable situations.

Broadening and strengthening the proposed policy to take local governments into account will have the added benefit of ensuring better decisions that are not one-sided and that will meet the obligation to address the concerns and interests of non-tribal entities. Again, to use the trust land acquisition example, BIA's own regulations require the consideration of impacts on local communities, whether for on-reservation land, off-reservation land, or for gaming purposes. Making decisions that protect local community rights and issues will be greatly advanced under a balanced consultation process that is not limited to only tribes and BIA.

The City therefore recommends that the proposed policy be revised to include consultation with local governments and other affected parties in all relevant provisions. For example:

The definition of "collaboration" should be revised to read "The Department of the Interior working jointly with Indian Tribes *and, when affected local governments and other parties* to develop and implement positive solutions on Departmental Action with Tribal Implications."

The "accountability and reporting" section should cover not only tribal consultation but also the effectiveness of Bureaus and Offices in facilitating communications between local governments and tribes and the attainment of positive and constructive resolutions that help achieve consensus and avoid conflict, such as occurred in our TLMA.

"Training" should include the role of a facilitator to help resolve potential conflicts between local governments and tribes. Also, to help agency officials understand where such conflicts might arise so they can be avoided, the training should cover the rights of local governments in various decision-making procedures and the nature of the interests that are affected. Promoting "intergovernmental relationships," as discussed under this topic, should not be limited to the

relationship between tribes and the federal government, but also should include state and local governments as well. "Innovation and effective consultation practices" should acknowledge that some of the most serious "impediments" to effective consultation in the field of federal Indian law arise from the failure to encourage and support communication among the various parties involved in a particular decision. As a result, an example of "external" methods that could be promoted would be for BIA to support and accommodate, if not initiate and facilitate, early and open communication between tribes and other parties potentially affected by Departmental Action. For example, BIA should notify affected local governments as soon as a trust acquisition request is received rather than waiting until the form letter seeking information is sent out.

Finally, the "consultation guidelines" should include local governments and other affected parties at all appropriate points in the described process. It is especially important to do so under the "Initiating Consultation" procedure. Including local governments early in the consideration of a Departmental Action will have the greatest potential for identifying potential problems and achieving positive outcomes for all affected parties. Adequate notice must be provided to all interested parties, not just the tribe. Similarly, the roles of the Tribal Governance Officer and Tribal Liaison Officer should be expanded to include responsibility for reaching out to, and involving, local governments in the inter-governmental consultation procedures, and local governments should be able to request consultation.

Making changes of this nature to the proposed policy will greatly enhance its fairness, efficiency, and effectiveness. The City recognizes and fully supports the Department's trust responsibility to Indian Tribes and the value of this policy for that purpose. These comments are intended to improve the manner in which those duties are met, while at the same time ensuring fair and adequate consideration of the interests of local governments like the City of Coconut Creek.

Thank you for considering these comments.

Sincerely,

DAVID J. RIVERA
City Manager

cc: Don Baur, Esq.
Paul Stuart, City Attorney
Nancy Cousins, Assistant City Attorney
Mary C. Blasi, Deputy City Manager

requiring special services, such as an interpreter for the hearing impaired, should contact Ms. Shetler at (202) 527–0133 at least seven calendar days prior to the meeting.

Dated: May 11, 2011.

Roy Johnson,

Designated Federal Officer.

[FR Doc. 2011–12097 Filed 5–16–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–J4–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of the Secretary

Policy on Consultation With Indian Tribes

AGENCY: Office of the Secretary, Interior.

ACTION: Proposed policy: Request for comments.

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior seeks comments on a proposed policy on consultation with Indian tribes. This policy would establish standards for improved consultation with Indian Tribes to the extent that a conflict does not exist with laws or regulations. It would apply to any Department action that affects Indian tribes and would require that the Department's government-to-government consultation involve appropriate Tribal and Departmental officials.

DATES: We will consider all comments received by July 18, 2011.

ADDRESSES: Submit comments by e-mail to *consultation@doi.gov* or by US mail to: Consultation Policy Comments, Department of the Interior, Room 5129 MIB, Washington, DC 20240.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Kallie Hanley, Office of the Secretary, 202–208–5397 or *kallie_hanley@ios.doi.gov.*

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

The Department of the Interior proposed policy on consultation with tribes is set forth below.

Department of the Interior Policy on Consultation With Indian Tribes

I. Preamble

The obligation for Federal agencies to engage with Indian Tribes on a government-to-government basis is based on the U.S. Constitution, treaties, statutes, executive orders, and policies. Federal agencies meet that obligation through consultation with Indian Tribes. The Department of the Interior is committed to fulfilling its Tribal consultation obligations—whether directed by statute or administrative action such as Executive Order (EO) 13175 (Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments) or other applicable Secretarial Orders or policies—by adhering to the framework described in this Policy. This Policy reflects the Department's highest commitment to the principles embodied in this Policy and the Secretary's support of Tribal sovereignty.

The Department's Bureaus and Offices shall review their existing practices and revise them as needed to comply with the Department's Policy as described in this document. All Bureaus and Offices will report to the Secretary's designee on their efforts to comply with this Policy and as described in a companion Secretarial Order.

II. Guiding Principles

This Policy broadly defines provisions for improving the Department's consultation processes with Indian Tribes to the extent that a conflict does not exist with applicable law or regulations. The Department recognizes and respects the distinct, unique, and individual cultural traditions and values of each Tribe.

This Policy requires that the Department's government-to-government consultation involve the appropriate Tribal Officials and appropriate Departmental officials. The appropriate Departmental officials are knowledgeable about the matters at hand, are authorized to speak for Interior, and have delegated authority in the disposition and implementation of an action. The appropriate Departmental official will have an obligation to identify consulting parties early in the planning process and allow a reasonable opportunity for Indian Tribes to respond and participate as described in Section VII. Department officials will make the effort to fully participate in the consultation process, ensure continuity, and demonstrate commitment to the process. Communication will be open and transparent without compromising the rights of federally recognized Indian Tribes and the government-to-government consultation process.

Consultation is a deliberative process that aims to create effective collaboration and informed Federal decision-making where all parties share a goal of reaching a decision together and it creates an opportunity for equal input from all affected tribal governments. Consultation promotes an enhanced form of communication that emphasizes trust, respect, and shared responsibility and should be an open and free exchange of information. Federal consultation that is meaningful, effective, and conducted in good faith makes the Department's operation and governance practices more efficient. To that end, Bureaus or Offices will seek and promote cooperation and participation between agencies with overlapping jurisdiction, special expertise, or related responsibilities regarding a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. Efficiencies that derive from including Indian Tribes in all stages of the Tribal consultation process and decision-making process help to ensure that future Federal action is achievable, comprehensive, long-lasting, and reflective of Tribal input.

The United States has a long-standing and inter-governmental relationship with Indian Tribes. Appropriate consultation practices will honor the government-to-government relationship between Indian Tribes and the United States; and will comply with the Presidential Memorandum of November 5, 2009 that affirms this relationship and obligates the Department of the Interior to meet the spirit and intent of EO 13175.

The Policy creates a framework for synchronizing the Department's consultation practices with its Bureaus and Offices.

III. Definitions

Bureau or Office—As defined in the Department of the Interior Manual.

Collaboration—The Department of the Interior working jointly with Indian Tribes to develop and implement positive solutions on Departmental Action with Tribal Implications.

Consultation Policies—Those institutionalized policies established to comply with the procedures described in Section VII of this document.

Departmental Action With Tribal Implications—Any Departmental regulation, rulemaking, policy, guidance, legislative proposal, grant funding formula changes, or operational activity that may have a substantial direct effect on an Indian Tribe, including but not limited to:

1. Tribal cultural practices, lands, resources, or access to traditional areas of cultural or religious importance on Federally managed lands;

2. The ability of an Indian Tribe to govern or provide services to its members; an Indian Tribe's relationship with the Department; or

3. The distribution of responsibilities between the Department and Indian Tribes.

This term does not include matters that are the subject of litigation or in settlement negotiations, or matters undertaken in accordance with an administrative or judicial order where the Department has no discretion with respect to consultation.

Indian Tribe or Tribe—Any Indian or Alaska Native Tribe, band, nation, pueblo, village, or community that the Secretary of the Interior acknowledges to exist as an Indian Tribe pursuant to the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994, 25 U.S.C. 479a.

Tribal Consultation Team—The Secretary's designee has established and may develop a plan of action for the continued involvement of a joint Federal-Tribal Team including making recommendations on the implementation of this Policy.

Tribal Governance Officer (TGO)—An individual designated by the Department to carry out responsibilities defined in this Policy.

Tribal Liaison Officer (TLO)—One or more individuals designated by their Bureaus or Offices to carry out responsibilities defined in this Policy.

Tribal Official—An Elected or appointed Tribal leader or official delegate designated in writing by an Indian Tribe.

IV. Accountability and Reporting

Methods that ensure accountability and reporting are essential to regular and meaningful consultation. The heads of Bureaus and Offices will include in future annual performance plans of their employees appropriate performance measures consistent with this Policy.

On an annual basis, Bureaus and Offices shall report to the Secretary the results of their efforts to promote consultation with Indian Tribes. Reporting is intended to be comprehensive and may include, but is not limited to, the scope of consultation efforts, the cost of these efforts, and the effectiveness of consultation activities. Bureaus and Offices should provide a comprehensive listing of the topics on which consultations were held, training, innovations, and the engagement of senior leadership in these efforts. Such reports should include feedback from Tribes with whom the Bureau or Office has consulted. Reports will account for the documents and correspondence with Indian Tribes to satisfy the Implementation of the Final Federal Action Stage described in Section VII or alternatively, summaries of such documents and correspondence with information concerning how the complete documents might be obtained. Methods of reporting may be a description of budget expenditures in the execution of consultation efforts, narratives describing significant consultation efforts, and anticipation of forthcoming consultation opportunities.

The Secretary of the Interior will provide an annual report to Indian Tribes and may use the Department's website to share the reporting information, where appropriate.

For Federal block grants that only Indian Tribes are eligible to receive and in compliance with Federal statutes, a Bureau or Office will take special care to disclose actions it has taken to consult with Indian Tribes in the development of formulas to administer the block grants.

V. Training

Training will aim to improve the Department's capacity for promoting collaboration with Tribes and executing the consultation provisions of Section VII.

The training will:

A. Promote consultation, communication, collaboration, and other interaction with Tribes;

B. Outline and reinforce the Department's duties concerning tribal interests;

C. Describe the legal trust obligation of the Federal-Tribal relationship; and

D. Transfer the knowledge, skills, and tools necessary for collaborative engagement to Tribal and Departmental staff engaged in the consultative process.

The Department, through the Department of the Interior University (DOIU), in collaboration with Bureaus, Offices, Tribal colleges and universities, and other entities with Indian expertise, will develop and deliver training. The Department, through the DOIU, will develop required core competencies, which Bureaus and Offices may enhance through other appropriate sources of tribal expertise.

This training will seek to enhance mutual understanding of cultural perspectives and administrative requirements between Tribal and Federal officials and to promote inter-governmental relationships. Tribal representatives are encouraged to participate in training along with federal employees.

VI. Innovative and Effective Consultation Practices

The Department's leadership will strive to advance Federal consultation practices and to offer examples for innovation across the Administration. The Department will identify and seek to address impediments, both external and internal, to improving its consultation processes.

In consultation with Tribes, the Department will develop a plan of action for the continued improvement of this policy and its implementation. This plan may include:

A. Annual meetings between the Secretary and Tribes;

B. Communicating through a regular gathering of Tribes to discuss improving consultation practices and procedures;

C. Institutionalizing a joint Tribal-Federal consultation team that would meet periodically to identify improvements;

D. Soliciting Tribes' evaluation of consultation practices and procedures.

VII. Consultation Guidelines

Consultation guidelines are meant to establish uniform practices and common standards, which all Bureaus and Offices will use except when otherwise agreed to in writing by a Bureau or Office and Indian Tribe through an individual protocol conforming, to the extent possible, to the guidelines in this Section. Consultation and individual protocols will provide greater efficiency and transparency in Department practices in order to maximize Indian Tribes' participation. Departmental Actions with Tribal Implications that are regional or impact a limited number of Indian Tribes should be carried out in a manner consistent with this Policy while allowing discretion to employ only appropriate parts of this Section.

A. *Initiating Consultation.* A Bureau or Office must notify the appropriate Indian Tribe(s) of the opportunity to consult when considering a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. The Bureau or Office will strive to ensure that a notice is given at least 30 days prior to a scheduled consultation. If exceptional circumstances prevent notice within 30 days of the consultation, explanation for the abbreviated notification will be provided in the invitation letter. An Indian Tribe may request an extension for timelines associated with this Policy.

Adequate notice entails providing a description of the topic(s) to be discussed, a timeline of the process, and possible outcomes. Notification of a consultation should include sufficient detail of the topic to be discussed to allow Tribal leaders an opportunity to fully engage in the consultation.

Beginning at the Initial Planning Stage, see Section VII, Part E, Subsection 1, a Bureau or Office will consult with Indian Tribes on a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications.

An Indian Tribe may request that the Department initiate consultation when the Tribe believes that a Bureau or Office is considering a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. Requests should be made in writing to the Department's TGO and describe the specific Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. However, the fact

that an Indian Tribe may choose not to engage the TGO does not relieve a Bureau or Office of its obligation to engage in consultation as described by this Policy. In the event that the Bureau or Office makes an attempt to initiate consultation and does not receive a response, the Bureau or Office should make reasonable and periodic efforts throughout the process to repeat the invitation. Reasonable efforts should be made to adequately document or memorialize these communications.

B. *Role of Tribal Governance Officer and Tribal Liaison Officer in Consultation Process.*

1. The Department will designate a TGO who will be located within the Department so that the position shall be accessible to Tribal Officials and so that the TGO will have access to the Secretary or Deputy Secretary to carry out the responsibilities defined in this Policy. These responsibilities shall include:

a. Monitoring compliance with this Policy, EO 13175, and other Consultation Policies pertaining to government-to-government consultation;

b. Serving as the Secretary's representative when requested to do so in matters pertaining to consultation;

c. Promoting government-to-government consultation;

d. Communicating and coordinating with TLOs concerning Bureau and Office compliance with this Policy;

e. Encouraging Indian Tribes to request consultation directly with the appropriate Bureau or Office representative or the TLO, and helping to ensure the resolution of all requests;

f. Implementing, in coordination with the TLOs, a reporting system to ensure that consultation efforts are documented and reported to the Secretary and to the Department's TGO for EO 13175; and

g. Facilitating a government-to-government relationship that is honored by all parties in tribal consultations of national significance or involving multiple Bureaus or Offices.

2. Each Bureau or Office will designate one or more TLOs whose responsibilities shall include:

a. Working with their Bureaus or Offices to achieve compliance with this Policy, the Consultation Policies of their Bureaus or Offices, and any future policies related to EO 13175 or other government-to-government consultation policies;

b. Promoting and facilitating consultation and collaboration between Tribes and the TLOs' Bureau or Office;

c. Advocating for opportunities for and consideration of positions of Indian Tribes, consistent with Bureau and Office missions;

d. Serving as the principal point of contact for the TGO concerning compliance with this Policy, including Bureau and Office reporting requirements;

e. Striving to enhance trusting and on-going relationships with Tribes, consistent with applicable law and executive orders;

f. Serving as an initial contact for Tribes requesting or inquiring about consultation when it is unclear whom to contact for the Bureau or Office; and

g. Carrying out other responsibilities as assigned by Bureau or Office Consultation Policies.

3. Publicize TLOs and TGO—Each Bureau or Office shall take appropriate measures to publicize the name of the TGO and the names and contact information of their TLO(s) to facilitate contacts by tribal officials.

C. *Guidelines for Response to Request for Consultation.* The TGO or appropriate representative will confirm receipt of a request for consultation from a Tribal Official. When the request is directed to the TGO, the request is to be forwarded to the appropriate Bureau or Office. The TGO or appropriate representative will treat an official request for consultation in an expedited fashion and respond in writing, using the most expedient methods to communicate to the Tribe, that the Department has received their request.

D. *Consultation Process Support.* The Office of Collaborative Action and Dispute Resolution can assist in planning or facilitating an effective consultation process, negotiated rulemaking or other collaborative approach to decision-making. In planning consultation processes as outlined below in Paragraph E, Bureaus and Offices are encouraged to consider best practices for engagement, including but not limited to the use of neutral facilitation and other collaborative problem-solving approaches to promote effective dialogue and conflict resolution.

E. *Stages of Consultation.* Bureaus and Offices will carry out the stages described below in order to satisfy consultation for a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications.

1. Initial Planning Stage.

Each Bureau or Office will consult as early as possible when considering a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. A Bureau or Office may conduct a meeting or other forms of interaction with Indian Tribes in order to receive and evaluate comments received as part of the Initial Planning Stage.

2. Proposal Development Stage.

The Proposal Development Stage begins once the Department discloses the scope of a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. Indian Tribes should be considered as appropriate collaborative partners, particularly where negotiated rulemaking or a Tribal Leader Task Force is created.

The Bureau or Office will select a process for the Proposal Development Stage that maximizes the opportunity for timely input by Tribes and is consistent with both Tribal and Bureau schedules. The Bureau or Office should work with Indian Tribes to structure a process, which to the extent feasible, considers specific Indian Tribal structures, traditional needs, and schedules of the Tribes and may proceed with the expectation that interested Indian Tribes will respond within a reasonable time period. If litigation or legal requirements impact a Bureau's or Office's schedule for conducting consultation, then the Bureau or Office should explain these constraints to the Indian Tribe.

Examples of appropriate processes for the Proposal Development Stage include but are not limited to the following:

- *Negotiated Rulemaking.* Where appropriate, the Bureau or Office should consider using negotiated rulemaking for developing significant regulations or other formal policies in accordance with the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA) and the Negotiated Rulemaking Act.
- *Tribal Leader Task Force.* A Tribal Leader Task Force may be used, in appropriate circumstances, on regional or issue-specific (*e.g.*, timber) matters. In each instance, the composition of the Task Force shall be collaboratively determined by the Tribes, provided that the Task Force shall be a process open to all Tribes and, to the extent possible, represent a cross-section of Tribal interests with respect to the matter at issue. The location and number of meetings to be held will conform to the expressed views of the Tribes, to the extent practicable and permitted by law and in accordance with FACA.
- *Series of Open Tribal Meetings.* The Bureau or Office may provide open invitations to Tribal leaders as part of a series of open meetings to consider action(s). Open meetings can be used for national, regional or subject-matter-specific issues.
- *Single Meetings.* The Bureau or Office may host Tribal Officials in a single meeting to discuss a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications under consideration. Single meetings are particularly

appropriate for local, regional, or single Tribe issues.

The Bureau or Office will solicit the views of affected Tribes regarding the process timeline to meaningfully consider a Departmental Action with Tribal Implications. The Bureau or Office should make all reasonable efforts to comply with the expressed views of the affected Tribes regarding the process timeline at this Stage, taking into account the level of impact, the scope, and the complexity of the issues involved in the Departmental Action with Tribal Implications, along with the other factors driving the schedule. The process will be open and transparent.

If the Bureau or Office determines that the Administrative Procedure Act or other Federal law or regulation expressly prohibits continued discussion at a specified point in the decision-making process, the Bureau or Office should so inform the Tribes at the outset of this Stage in the process.

3. *Implementation of Final Federal Action Stage.*

In addition to any formal notice required by law or regulation, final decisions on Departmental Action with Tribal Implications should be communicated in writing to affected Tribes, with a summarized explanation of the final decision.

A Bureau or Office may consider implementing a post-consultation review process where it is consistent with law, regulations, and EO 13175. Any review process shall not limit the Department's deliberative process privilege regarding internal considerations or any other applicable privilege. The Bureau or Office at this Stage will consider the need for training or technical assistance.

F. *Impact of Consultation Guidelines.* Consultation as described in this Section is not a basis for the Department to preclude requests or recommendations by Bureaus, Offices, or Indian Tribes to collaborate and foster trusting relationships between the Department and Indian Tribes outside of the processes described in this Section. Exigent circumstances may allow the Department to take measures that deviate from this Policy, but the Department should make every effort to comply and should explain to Indian Tribes as soon as exigent circumstances arise.

VIII. Supplemental Policies

Bureaus and Offices, in collaboration with the TGO, are to review existing policies that may be impacted by this Policy. All Bureau and Office policies are to conform to this Policy. Where necessary, a Bureau or Office may develop a new policy in order to conform to this Policy.

Consistent with Federal appropriations law, the Department shall develop a policy for consultation with Alaska Native Corporations. The Policy will address when a Department action impacts an Alaska Native Corporation's interest. The Policy will not conflict with the requirements of this document. The Secretary's designee will provide a Plan of Action for developing the Alaska Native Corporation consultation policy. Other entities that are not Bureaus or Offices as defined in this Policy may develop policies that conform to this Policy. Other entities may develop such policies in coordination with the TGO.

IX. Disclaimer

Except to the extent already established by law, this Policy is intended only to improve the internal management of the Department, and is not intended to create any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law by a party against the Department or any person. The Department also does not waive any applicable privilege that it may hold by virtue of this Policy.

Dated: May 11, 2011.

Laura Daniel Davis,

Chief of Staff.

[FR Doc. 2011–11971 Filed 5–16–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–10–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement (BOEMRE)

Notice on Outer Continental Shelf Oil and Gas Lease Sales

AGENCY: Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement, Interior.

ACTION: List of restricted joint bidders.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the authority vested in the Director of the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement by the joint bidding provisions of 30 CFR 256.41, each entity within one of the following groups shall be restricted from bidding with any entity in any other of the following groups at Outer Continental Shelf oil and gas lease sales to be held during the bidding period May 1, 2011, through October 31, 2011. The List of Restricted Joint Bidders published in the **Federal Register** on January 24, 2011, covered the period November 1, 2010, through April 30, 2011.

Group I.
Exxon Mobil Corporation,
ExxonMobil Exploration Company.

Group II.
Shell Oil Company,
Shell Offshore Inc.,
SWEPI LP,
Shell Frontier Oil & Gas Inc.,
SOI Finance Inc.,
Shell Gulf of Mexico Inc.

Group III.
BP America Production Company,
BP Exploration & Production Inc.,
BP Exploration (Alaska) Inc.,

Group IV.
Chevron Corporation,
Chevron U.S.A. Inc.,
Chevron Midcontinent, L.P.,
Unocal Corporation,
Union Oil Company of California,
Pure Partners, L.P.

Group V.
ConocoPhillips Company,
ConocoPhillips Alaska, Inc.,
Phillips Pt. Arguello Production Company,
Burlington Resources Oil & Gas Company LP,
Burlington Resources Offshore Inc.,
The Louisiana Land and Exploration Company,
Inexeco Oil Company.

Group VI.
Eni Petroleum Co. Inc.,
Eni Petroleum US LLC,
Eni Oil US LLC,
Eni Marketing Inc.,
Eni BB Petroleum Inc.,
Eni US Operating Co. Inc.,
Eni BB Pipeline LLC.

Group VII.
Petrobras America Inc.,
Petroleo Brasileiro S.A.

Group VIII.
Statoil ASA,
Statoil Gulf of Mexico LLC,
Statoil USA E&P Inc.,
Statoil Gulf Properties Inc.

Group IX.
Total E&P, Inc.

Dated: April 27, 2011.

Michael R. Bromwich,

Director, Bureau of Ocean Energy Management, Regulation and Enforcement.

[FR Doc. 2011–12023 Filed 5–16–11; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–MR–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Geological Survey

Announcement of National Geospatial Advisory Committee Meeting

AGENCY: U.S. Geological Survey, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.