

ORDER NO. 3235

SIGNATURE DATE: November 20, 2001

Subject: Establishment of the Office of Indian Trust Transition

Sec. 1 Purpose. The purpose of this Order is to establish a temporary office in the immediate Office of the Secretary that will be responsible for planning and implementing the transition of the Department's Indian trust functions, currently located in various units of the Department of the Interior (Department), to a new entity within the Department.

Sec. 2 Authority. This Order is issued in accordance with the American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994, Public Law 103-412, codified as 25 U.S.C. " 161a, 162a and 4001, et seq.; and Section 2 of Reorganization Plan No. 3 of 1950, as amended (64 Stat. 1262), 5 U.S.C. App.

Sec. 3 Definitions.

a. Indian trust. For the purposes of this Order, Indian trust means lands, natural resources, money, or other assets held by the Federal government in trust, or that are restricted against alienation, for Indian tribes and individual Indians. Indian trust includes trust reform, as set forth in b., below.

b. Trust reform. For the purposes of this Order, trust reform, which is part of Indian trust, means all activities associated with the subprojects identified in the February 29, 2000, Revised and Updated High Level Implementation Plan (HLIP) and the plans that address the following four breaches of trust identified in Cobell v. Norton: Computer and Business Systems Architecture Framework; Collection of Missing Information from Outside Sources; Retention of IIM - Related Trust Documents; and Workforce Planning. Trust reform also includes all activities associated with subsequent additions or revisions to the HLIP or breaches plans and all other reforms necessary for the proper discharge of the Secretary's trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and individual Indians.

Sec. 4 Establishment of the Office of Indian Trust Transition.

a. The Office of Indian Trust Transition (Office) is hereby established as a temporary office in the immediate Office of the Secretary. It will be headed by a Director, who will report to the Deputy Secretary.

b. The Office will be responsible for planning and implementing the process for transferring program responsibilities for Indian trust (including trust reform) from the bureaus and offices of the Department to a new entity within the Department. The Office's responsibilities will include, but will not be limited to:

- (i) consulting with Indian tribes, Congress, employees, and others as appropriate;

(ii) providing guidance on Indian trust reform and Indian trust activities as the Director determines to be necessary;

(iii) supervising the staff of the Office and coordinating the activities of those employees responsible for trust reform;

(iv) evaluating and recommending organizational structures for effective and efficient Indian trust efforts;

(v) evaluating consultants' reports and recommendations;

(vi) reviewing human resources and budgetary needs and recommending personnel reassignments, budgetary proposals, and plans for appropriations transfers;

(vii) developing and awarding contracts for planning activities and computer servicing initiatives;

(viii) reviewing current Indian trust policies and procedures;

(ix) entering into appropriate memoranda of understanding and cooperative agreements;

(x) identifying Indian trust functions within the Department that will transfer to the new entity.

Sec. 5 Delegations of Authority. The Director of the Office is delegated, through the Deputy Secretary, all the authority of the Secretary necessary to carry out the functions of the Office. This authority may be redelegated.

Sec. 6 Administrative Provisions. The Assistant Secretary - Policy, Management and Budget will take appropriate steps to effect the transfer of the functions and resources necessary to establish the Office.

Sec. 7 Expiration Date. This Order is effective immediately. It will remain in effect until the provisions are converted to the Departmental Manual, or until it is amended, superseded, or revoked, whichever occurs first. In the absence of any of the foregoing actions, the provisions of this Order will terminate and be considered obsolete on December 31, 2002.

/s/ Gale A. Norton
Secretary of the Interior

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