



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

July 25, 2022

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Department of the Interior has launched an interagency working group on reforming hardrock mining laws, regulations, and permitting policies in the United States. The group will help support President Biden's vision for a whole-of-government effort to promote the sustainable and responsible domestic production of critical minerals. At each step, the group is committed to hearing from Tribal governments. Considering the legacy of the impacts of mining on many Tribal communities, and impacts anticipated from new mining, the protection of treaty rights, sacred sites, and upholding the trust responsibility are important parts of this work.

Hardrock mining on public lands — which includes gold, silver, copper, uranium, lithium, and nearly all critical minerals — is still governed by the General Mining Law of 1872. The working group will make recommendations for updates and reforms necessary to ensure that new exploration and production meets strong environmental and Tribal engagement standards during all stages of mine development, from initial exploration through reclamation, while improving the efficiency and outcomes of the permitting process, consistent with the newly released Biden-Harris Administration's Fundamental Principles for Domestic Mining Reform.

We are greatly interested in input from Tribal leaders and are hosting the following **listening sessions in August:**

Date	Time	Location
Tuesday, August 2, 2022	5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. EDT	https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1603128203 or Dial in #: # 1-669-254-5252 Meeting ID: 160 312 8203 Passcode: 633577
Wednesday, August 10, 2022	3:00 p.m. - 5:00 p.m. EDT	https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1603128203 or # 1-669-254-5252 Meeting ID: 160 601 1633 Passcode: 918825
Monday, August 15, 2022	11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. EDT	https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/j/1601658829 or Dial in #: 1-669-254-5252 Meeting ID: 160 165 8829 Passcode: 147194

We also are convening **formal Tribal consultations during the month of August:**

Alaska Time Zone

Thursday, August 25, 2022, 1:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m. AKDT

Please register in advance at:

<https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscO6prTguGqKtmC59OdFNasGneYAQUEg>

Eastern and Central Time Zones

Friday, August 26, 2022, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. EDT / 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m. CDT

Please register in advance at:

<https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlscuioqz4tEzc5ldP3vOZhHMzrwrOy5g>

Mountain Daylight Time Zone

Monday August 29, 2022, 11:30 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. MDT

Please register in advance at:

<https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJlsc6vrjwrHcnG1v3M9rxC9rWhBL9EMzA>

Pacific and Mountain Standard Time Zones

Tuesday, August 30, 2022, 11:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. PDT

Please register in advance at:

https://doitalent.zoomgov.com/meeting/register/vJltd-uqrzvwGzVtE_vxngyLrwojI44oKJM

If you have any written input you would like to provide, please send to MiningReform@ios.doi.gov, or submit comments to [Regulations.gov](https://www.regulations.gov) (Docket DOI-2022-0003) by September 15 to ensure timely consideration.

If you have any questions, please contact, Joaquin Gallegos, Special Assistant to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs at joaquin_gallegos@ios.doi.gov, or Alexandra Sanchez, Special Assistant, Office of the Assistant Secretary of Land and Minerals Management at Alexandra-Sanchez@ios.doi.gov.

Sincerely,

Steven
Feldgus

Digitally signed by
Steven Feldgus
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Steve Feldgus
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Land and Minerals Management