

INDIAN RESERVATION ROADS PROGRAM COORDINATING COMMITTEE

March 1, 2012

Mr. Larry Echo Hawk
Assistant Secretary Indian Affairs
Bureau of Indian Affairs
1849 C Street
Washington, DC 20240

Ms. Amy Lucero
Acting Associate Administrator
Federal Lands Highway
Federal Highway Administration
1200 New Jersey Avenue, S.E.
Washington, DC 20500

Re: Recommendations for Quality Assurance/Quality Control Team

Dear Mr. Echo Hawk and Ms. Lucero:

During the February 28-March 1, 2012 Indian Reservation Roads Program Coordinating Committee (IRRPCC) meeting in Sacramento, Mr. Gishi and Mr. Sparrow asked us to provide general recommendations for the composition of the new Quality Assurance/Quality Control (QA/QC) team. For many years, the IRRPCC has been on record supporting the creation of a QA/QC team to monitor the IRR Program inventory and data submission process and to make recommendations for improvements to the system. We offer these recommendations to assist you in this effort.

While the IRRPCC supports the QA/QC team and urges the BIA and FHWA to move forward with the prompt appointment and selection of team members, we wish to reiterate that the oversight and operation of the IRR Program inventory and RIFDS system remains an inherent federal function. This QA/QC team is intended to aid Tribes, the BIA and FHWA but it is not a substitute to the federal responsibility to improve the quality of the IRR Program inventory system.

Composition of QA/QC Team

We believe the QA/QC team should include two BIA members, two FHWA members and five tribal members drawn from the twelve BIA regions. Given the highly technical nature of this work, we believe the QA/QC team members must be well versed in the IRR Program regulations, the RIFDS system and other technical aspects of the IRR Program Inventory system. We also believe that it will be essential for the BIA and FHWA to retain a professional consultant to perform the data sampling and other technical reviews in support of the QA/QC team's efforts.

For the QA/QC team to operate most efficiently, we believe a professional consultant should be used to sample inventory data, identify problematic trends in various BIA regions and generally serve as a technical advisor to the federal and tribal team members.

The tribal team members should be selected for two or three year staggered terms and should be drawn from diverse BIA Regions. To ensure tribal member expertise, Tribes in each region should make nominations to their BIA Regional Director, who will select one recognized tribal expert on RIFDS and inventory systems for consideration and selection by the BIA Director of Transportation and FHWA IRR Program Manager of the final five tribal team members. Tribes making nominations must acknowledge and support their nominee for the time commitment members will need to participate on the team. Tribes may nominate tribal staff to serve as a tribal team member. In each subsequent selection, efforts should be made to select tribal experts from regions that have not recently been represented on the QA/QC team.

Although the QA/QC team should be kept small to improve its decision-making efficiency, the QA/QC team members should be instructed to consult with appropriate tribal and federal experts from BIA Regions that are not represented on the team. In addition to their other duties, the QA/QC team should regularly report to the IRRPCC on their recommendations to improve the IRR Program inventory system.

We ask that the BIA and FHWA expedite this matter and request that tribal team member nominations be submitted as soon as possible. We also request that the BIA and FHWA develop draft operating procedures, protocols and a scope of work to guide the QA/QC team for review at the next IRRPCC meeting.

Sincerely,

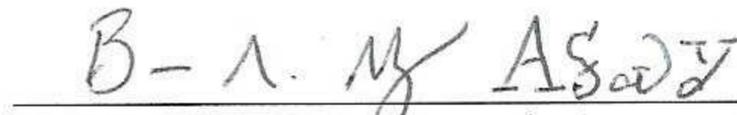
Thank you for affording us the opportunity to make known our recommendations regarding the IRR Program Recommendations for Quality Assurance/Quality Control Team.

Sincerely,

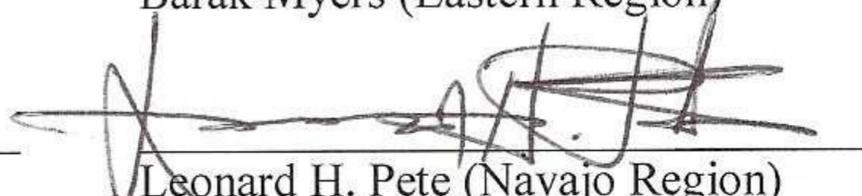

Raymond Concho, Jr., Chairman
(Southwest Region)


Edward K. "Sam" Thomas, Jr.
(Alaska Region)

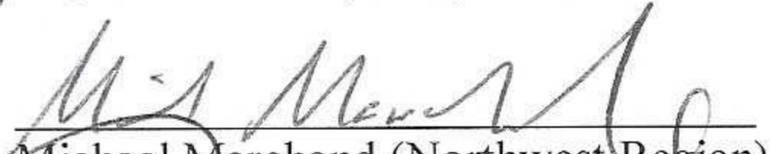

Wayne Wylie (Eastern Ok. Region)

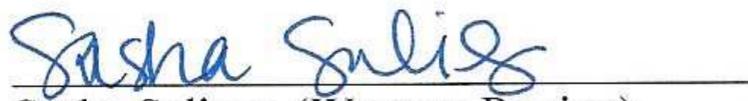

Barak Myers (Eastern Region)

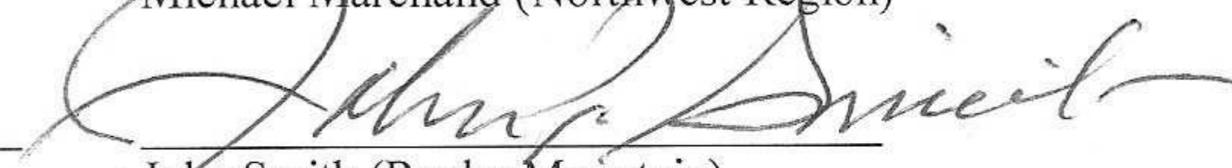

Mike Moilanen (Midwest Region)


Leonard H. Pete (Navajo Region)

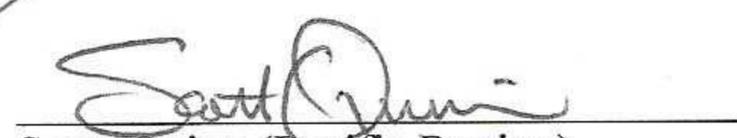

Pete Red Tomahawk (Great Plains)

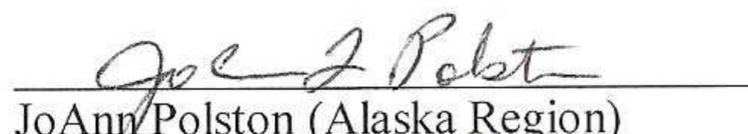

Michael Marchand (Northwest Region)


Sasha Saliego (Western Region)

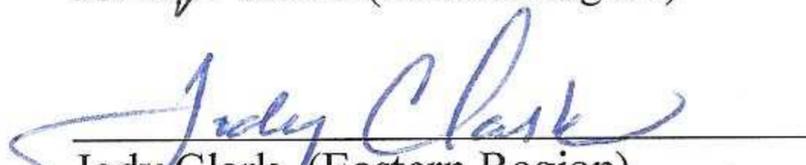

John Smith (Rocky Mountain)


Angela Blind (Southern Plains Region)


Scott Quinn (Pacific Region)


JoAnn Polston (Alaska Region)

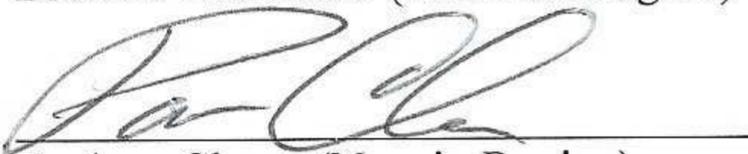

Isaac Hawkins (Eastern Oklahoma)

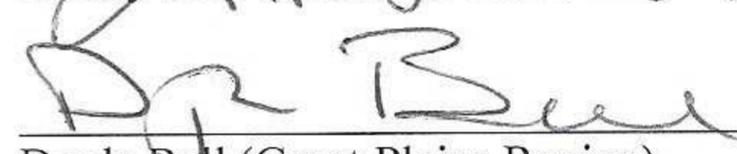

Jody Clark (Eastern Region)


Tim Rosette (Rocky Mountain)


Brett A. Blackdeer (Midwest Region)


Jeffery Lieb (Southern Plains Region)


Paulson Chaco (Navajo Region)


Doyle Bell (Great Plains Region)


Rick Galloway, Secretary
(Northwest Region)