

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Indian Entities Recognized and Eligible To Receive Services From The United States Bureau of Indian Affairs**

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Notice is hereby given of the current list of tribal entities recognized and eligible for funding and services from the Bureau of Indian Affairs by virtue of their status as Indian tribes. This notice is published pursuant to Section 104 of the Act of November 2, 1994 (Pub. L. 103-454; 108 Stat. 4791, 4792).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Patricia Simmons, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Division of Tribal Government Services, 1849 C Street N. W., Washington, DC 20240. Telephone number: (202) 208-7445.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs under 25 U.S.C. 2 and 9 and 209 DM 8.

Published below are lists of federally acknowledged tribes in the contiguous 48 states and in Alaska. The list is updated from the last such list published October 21, 1993 (58 FR 54364) to include tribes acknowledged through the Federal acknowledgment process and legislation. We have continued the practice of listing the Alaska Native entities separately solely for the purpose of facilitating identification of them and reference to them given the large number of unusual and complex Native names.

In October 1993, the Department published its most recent list in an effort to bring the list up to date as required by 25 CFR Part 83 and in an effort to clarify the legal status of Alaska Native villages. As described in the preamble to the October 1993 list, the first list of acknowledged tribes was published in 1979. 44 FR 7235 (Feb. 6, 1979). The list used the term "entities" in the preamble and elsewhere to refer to and include all the various anthropological organizations, such as bands, pueblos and villages, acknowledged by the Federal Government to constitute tribes with a government-to-government relationship with the United States. A footnote defined "entities" to include "Indian tribes, bands, villages, groups and pueblos as well as Eskimos and Aleuts." 44 FR 7235 n.1. The 1979 list did not, however, contain the names of any Alaska Native entities. The

preamble stated that: "[t]he list of eligible Alaskan entities will be published at a later date." 44 FR 7235.

Under the Department's acknowledgement regulations, publication of the list serves at least two functions. First, it gives notice as to which entities the Department of the Interior deals with as "Indian tribes" pursuant to Congress's general delegation of authority to the Secretary of the Interior to manage all public business relating to Indians under 43 U.S.C. 1457. Second, it identifies those entities which are considered "Indian tribes" as a matter of law by virtue of past practices and which, therefore, need not petition the Secretary for a determination that they now exist as Indian tribes. See 25 CFR 83.3 (a), (b) and 83.6(a) (1993 ed.); 25 CFR 83.3(a), (b) (1994 ed.). Because the Department did not include any Alaska entities in its initial publication and characterized its publication in 1982 of the Alaska entities as a "preliminary list" (47 FR 53133), the intended functions of the publication of the list were not fully implemented for Alaska until October 1993.

The entities listed on the 1982 "preliminary list" parallel the kinds of entities included on the list for the contiguous 48 states. The regional, village and urban corporations organized under state law in accordance with the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act (ANCSA) (43 U.S.C. 1601 et seq.) were not listed although they had been designated as "tribes" for the purposes of some Federal laws, primarily the Indian Self-Determination and Education Assistance Act (ISDA), 25 U.S.C. 450b(b). In addition, between 1982 and 1986, a number of Alaska Native entities complained that they had been wrongly omitted from the lists that were published in those years. Some groups in the contiguous 48 states have also complained that they had been wrongly left off the lists and should not have to go through the burdensome process of petitioning. While the Department had conceded that its 1982 list for Alaska was "preliminary," it had made no such concession with regard to groups in the contiguous 48 states. Therefore, the Department required all groups from the contiguous 48 states to petition in order to be placed on the list.

In 1988, in an effort to resolve all pending questions as to the Native entities to be listed and the eligibility of entities described as "tribes" by Congress in post-ANCSA legislation but not otherwise thought of as "Indian tribes," i.e., the state-chartered ANCSA Native corporations, the Department

published a new list of Alaska entities. The preamble to the list stated that the revised list responded to a "demand by the Bureau and other Federal agencies * * * for a list of organizations which are eligible for their funding and services based on their inclusion in categories frequently mentioned in statutes concerning Federal programs for Indians." 53 FR 52832.

Unfortunately, the 1988 revisions of the Alaska Native entities list appeared to create more questions than it resolved. The omission from the 1988 preamble of all references acknowledging the tribal status of the listed villages, and the inclusion of ANCSA corporations (which are formally state-chartered corporations rather than tribes in the conventional legal or political sense) generated questions as to the status of all the listed entities. Numerous Native villages, regional tribes and other Native organizations objected to the 1988 list on the grounds that it failed to distinguish between Native corporations and Native tribes and failed to unequivocally recognize the tribal status of the listed villages and regional tribes. That the Department had considered Alaska Native villages to possess tribal status is evident from the Solicitor's 1993 historical review of this matter.

In January 1993 the Solicitor of the Department of the Interior issued a comprehensive opinion analyzing the status of Alaska Native villages as "Indian tribes," as that term is commonly used to refer to Indian entities in the contiguous 48 states. After a lengthy historical review and legal analysis, the Solicitor concluded that:

For the last half century, Congress and the Department have dealt with Alaska Natives as though there were tribes in Alaska. The fact that the Congress and the Department may not have dealt with all Alaska Natives as tribes at all times prior to the 1930's did not preclude it from dealing with them as tribes subsequently.

Sol. Op. M-36975, at 46, 47-48 (Jan. 11, 1993).

Although the Solicitor found it unnecessary for the purposes of his opinion to identify specifically which villages were tribes, he observed that Congress' listing of specific villages in ANCSA and the repeated inclusion of such villages within the definition of "tribes" in post-ANCSA legislation arguably constituted a congressional determination that the villages found eligible for benefits under ANCSA, referred to as the "modified ANCSA list," were Indian tribes for purposes of Federal law. M-36975 at 58-59.