



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460
Office of International and Tribal Affairs

MAY 15 2011

Dear Tribal Leaders:

In the spirit of respect and cooperation with tribal governments, I am pleased to send this final *EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (Policy)*. Creation of a national consultation and coordination policy has been a high priority for EPA since the President's November 5, 2009, memorandum directing federal agencies to put into effect Executive Order 13175: *Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments*.

EPA received valuable input from tribes on earlier versions of the Policy during the tribal consultation phase, from January through September 2010, and the public comment phase, from December 2010 to February 2011. Thank you all for your participation in these important steps.

The Policy serves as the overarching framework for consultation across EPA. It seeks to establish consistent practices across the Agency while allowing flexibility for each program and regional office to determine the appropriate manner to consult given the specifics and tribal preferences for each situation. The Policy is intended to work with EPA regional and office consultation plans with which you may be familiar.

I encourage you and your staff to work with us at EPA to insure that the implementation of the Policy furthers our partnership for protection of human health and the environment. If you have any questions, please contact JoAnn Chase, Director, American Indian Environmental Office (AIEO), 202-564-1310, or David Guest, Senior Policy Advisor, AIEO, at 202-566-2872.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michelle DePass".

Michelle DePass
Assistant Administrator
Office of International and Tribal Affairs

Enclosure