



# Indian Country Update

FROM THE WHITE HOUSE

AUGUST 2006

## President Selects Nominee for Assistant Secretary of Indian Affairs

The President intends to nominate Carl Joseph Artman, of Colorado, to be Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs and to appoint him to be the Board of Trustees of the American Folklife Center for the remainder of a six-year term expiring June 1, 2010. Mr. Artman currently serves as Associate Solicitor for Indian Affairs at the Department of the Interior. Previously, he served as Chief Counsel of the Oneida Tribe of Indians of Wisconsin. Earlier in his career, he served as Legislative Counsel for Congressman Michael Oxley. Mr. Artman received his bachelor's degree from Columbia College and his JD from Washington University. He went on to receive his master's degree from the University of Wisconsin and his LLM from the University of Denver.

## Interior Department Awards Grant to Pueblo of Laguna for Tribal Utility Development

Interior Associate Deputy Secretary James E. Cason announced that the Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) has approved a \$140,000 grant to the Pueblo of Laguna Utility Authority (PLUA) to study the feasibility of providing affordable electricity service throughout Pueblo lands, located approximately 45 miles west of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The IEED was established to provide access to energy resources and help tribes stimulate job creation and economic development. The IEED sponsored a conference in March on tribal utility formation at Fort Mojave, Nevada. As a result of this conference, more tribes are showing an interest in establishing and improving their own utilities.

The Pueblo of Laguna study will establish electrical reliability standards, identify the type and cost of electrical distribution system improvements needed to meet those standards, and address the practicality of developing village-scale renewable energy projects. The PLUA also seeks to attract hi-tech businesses to the 533,000-acre reservation, which is traversed by Interstate 40, a major east-west thoroughfare spanning the state.

## Department of Defense Program Helps Restore Native Lands



Assistant Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Alex Beehler (second from right) and DoD Senior Tribal Liaison, Paul Lumley (far left) present the American flag to the Sitka Tribe of Alaska in recognition for hosting the NALEMP Annual Meeting in Sitka on April 25-27, 2006.

Earlier this year, the Sitka Tribe of Alaska hosted the annual meeting of the Department of Defense Native American Lands Environmental Mitigation Program (NALEMP). More than 50 tribal representatives and more than 30 federal and contractor personnel were in attendance. Among the federal attendees was Assistant Deputy Under-Secretary of Defense for Environment, Safety and Occupational Health, Alex Beehler, who delivered the keynote address and presented a flag flown over the Pentagon to the Sitka Tribe for their hospitality.

Using NALEMP funds, the Sitka Tribe has been salvaging underwater communications cable lying on the floor of Sitka Harbor installed during World War II when the Defense Department established Naval and Army bases in the area. This cable contains lead that was beginning to breakdown in the shellfish beds where the Sitka people harvested. Over the course of recovery, divers brought up sections of the cable which were later recycled.

Other NALEMP projects highlighted at the conference included the recovery of ordnance from the bottom of Pyramid Lake in northern Nevada.

The Pyramid Lake operation earned the 2005 Secretary of Defense Environmental Award for Environmental Restoration and in 2006 the Barrow, Alaska project was nominated for the Alaska Forum on the Environment's Outstanding Achievement Award.

## National Tribal Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Summit



Health and Human Services Secretary Mike O. Leavitt invited tribal leaders to a National Tribal Pandemic Influenza Preparedness Summit on May 18, 2006 in Washington, D.C.

Discussions by tribal experts and representatives from state and local health departments focused on how we will be able to work together to prepare and respond to threats to our communities.

Secretary Leavitt and Lt. Gov. Jefferson Keel, Chickasaw Nation.

### Interior Approves Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association Wind Energy Development Grant

The Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development (IEED) has approved a \$128,000 grant proposal submitted by the Aleutian/Pribilof Islands Association (APIA) to develop a deep penetration, hybrid wind/diesel electrical generating system. This grant will fund many of the technical steps necessary before wind turbines can be installed, enabling the APIA to continue its Alternative Energy Development Program.

Rising diesel fuel costs have made it necessary for APIA communities to pursue more affordable energy alternatives. Development of wind energy will supplement diesel-driven electrical generators, bringing these Alaskan communities new hope for the future.

### NTDA to Receive \$30 Million Allocation under New Markets Tax Credit Program

On June 1, 2006, it was announced that 63 organizations will be eligible for tax relief under the New Markets Tax Credit (NMTC) Program for investments in low-income communities.

One of these organizations was the National Tribal Development Association (NTDA), which received a \$30 million allocation for use in the recovery and redevelopment of the Hurricane Katrina Gulf Opportunity (GO) Zone. This GO Zone allocation will enable NTDA to attract needed capital for business development in Louisiana's Houma Nation and Mississippi's Choctaw communities. The NMTC proceeds will be used to provide equity investments and flexible debt products that will create tribal ownership opportunities, jobs and wealth creation for low-income Native American communities.

*Yes, I would like to become informed about White House activities...*



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Title \_\_\_\_\_

Organization \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address (required) \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_

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