

Unsuitable Properties*Buildings (by State)*

New Mexico

Bldg. 1, TA-8

Los Alamos National Lab

Los Alamos Co: NM 87545-

Landholding Agency: Energy

Property Number: 41200010029

Status: Unutilized

Reason: Secured Area.

Bldg. 2, TA-8

Los Alamos National Lab

Los Alamos Co: NM 87545-

Landholding Agency: Energy

Property Number: 41200010030

Status: Unutilized

Reasons: Secured Area; Extensive deterioration.

North Carolina

Bldg. TC-817

Camp Lejeune

Camp Lejeune Co: Onslow NC 28542-0004

Landholding Agency: Navy

Property Number: 77200010101

Status: Excess

Reason: Extensive deterioration.

Unsuitable Properties*Buildings (by State)*

Washington

Whitney Point Complex

Brinnon Co: Jefferson WA 98320-9899

Landholding Agency: Navy

Property Number: 77200010102

Status: Excess

Reason: Extensive deterioration.

Land (by State)

Washington

Tract B-201

Geiger Heights Lagoon

Spokane Co: WA 99210-

Landholding Agency: GSA

Property Number: 18199930014

Status: Excess

Reason: Within 2000 ft. of flammable or explosive material

GSA Number: 9-D-WA-1180.

[FR Doc. 00-7657 Filed 3-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4210-29-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR**Bureau of Indian Affairs****Proposed Agency Information Collection Activities; Comment Request****AGENCY:** Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.**ACTION:** Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice announces that the Information Collection Request for Documented Petitions for Federal Acknowledgment as an Indian Tribe will expire July 31, 2000. As required by the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, we are seeking comments on this

information collection before we seek extension from the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, Office of Management and Budget.

DATES: Submit comments on or before May 30, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Send your written comments to R. Lee Fleming, Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4660 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. If you wish to submit comments by facsimile, the number is (202) 219-3008. You may submit comments electronically by contacting R. Lee Fleming at (202) 208-3592. Please mention OMB Number 1076-0104.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Requests for additional information or copies of the information or copies of the information collection submission should be directed to R. Lee Fleming, Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, NW, MS-4660 MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240, or call (202) 208-3592.

All written comments will be available for public inspection in Room 4660 of the Main Interior Building, 1849 C Street, NW, Washington, D.C. from 9:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:**I. Abstract**

The information collection is needed to establish whether a petitioning group has the characteristics necessary to be acknowledged as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Federal recognition makes the group eligible for benefits from the Federal government.

II. Method of Collection

The acknowledgment regulations at 25 CFR Part 83 contain seven criteria (§ 83.7) which unrecognized groups seeking Federal acknowledgment as Indian tribes must demonstrate that they meet. Information collected from petitioning groups under these regulations provide anthropological, genealogical and historical data used by the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs to establish whether a petitioning group has the characteristics necessary to be acknowledged as having a government-to-government relationship with the United States. Respondents are not required to retain copies of information submitted to the Bureau of Indian Affairs but will probably maintain copies for their own use. No periodic

reports are required which would impose a record-keeping requirement.

III. Data

Title: Collection of Information for Federal Acknowledgment Under 25 CFR Part 83.

OMB Number: 1076-0104.

Expiration Date: July 31, 2000.

Type of Review: Extension of a currently approved collection.

Affected Entities: Groups petitioning for Federal acknowledgment as Indian tribes.

Estimated Number of Petitioners: 10.

Estimated Time per Petition: 2,075 hours.

Estimated Total Annual Burden Hours: 20,750.

Estimated Annual Costs: \$830,000 (2,075 hours × \$40.00 per hour).

IV. Request for Comments

You are invited to comment on:

(a) Whether the collection of information is necessary for the proper performance of the functions of the agency, including whether the information will have practical utility;

(b) The accuracy of the agency's estimate of the burden (including hours and cost) of the proposed collection of information, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used;

(c) Ways to enhance the quality, utility, and clarity of the information to be collected; and

(d) Ways to minimize the burden of the collection of information on those who are to respond, including through the use of appropriate automated, electronic, mechanical, or other collection techniques or the forms of information technology.

Burden means the total time, effort, or financial resources expended by persons to generate, maintain, retain, or disclose or provide information to or for a Federal agency. This includes the time needed to review instructions; to develop, acquire, install and utilize technology and systems for the purpose of collecting, validating, and verifying information, processing and maintaining information, and disclosing and providing information; to train personnel and to be able to respond to a collection of information, to search data sources, to complete and review the collection of information; and to transmit or otherwise disclose the information.

Comments submitted in response to this notice will be summarized and/or included in the request for OMB approval of this information collection; they also will become a matter of public record. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish to

request that we consider withholding your name, street address, and other contact information (such as Internet address, FAX, or phone number) from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make available for public inspection in their entirety all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses.

An agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Dated: March 24, 2000.

Kevin Gover.

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00-8042 Filed 3-30-00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-02-P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Proposed Finding for Federal Acknowledgment of the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to 25 CFR 83.10(h), notice is hereby given that the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs proposes to determine that the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut, c/o Ms. Agnes E. Cunha, P.O. Box 370, North Stonington, Connecticut 06359, exists as an Indian tribe within the meaning of Federal law. This notice is based on a determination that the historical Eastern Pequot tribe satisfies criteria 83(b) and 83.7(c) through 1973 and that the petitioner satisfies the remainder of the criteria set forth in 25 CFR 83.7 and, therefore, meets the requirements for a government-to-government relationship with the United States. A specific finding concerning whether one tribe or two tribes, as successors to the historical Eastern Pequot tribe, have occupied the reservation since 1973 will be made as part of the final determination, after receipt of comment on this proposed finding.

DATES: As provided by 25 CFR 83.10(i), any individual or organization wishing to challenge the proposed finding may submit factual or legal arguments and evidence to rebut the evidence relied upon. This material must be submitted within 180 calendar days from the date

of publication of this notice. As stated in the regulations, 25 CFR 83.10(i), interested and informed parties who submit arguments and evidence to the Assistant Secretary must also provide copies of their submissions to the petitioner.

ADDRESSES: Comments on the proposed finding and/or requests for a copy of the report of the summary evaluation of the evidence should be addressed to the Office of the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, 1849 C Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20240, Attention: Branch of Acknowledgment and Research. Mail Stop 4660—MIB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: R. Lee Fleming, Chief, Branch of Acknowledgment and Research, (202) 208-3592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: This notice is published in the exercise of authority delegated by the Secretary of the Interior to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Introduction

The Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut submitted a letter of intent to petition for Federal acknowledgment on June 20, 1989, and was assigned #113. Both the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut and another petitioner, the Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut, assert descent and tribal continuity from the historical Eastern Pequot tribe. Both petitioners are derived from families which have been associated with the Lantern Hill reservation since the 19th century.

The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs (AS-IA) had placed the Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut (EP, #35) petition on active consideration January 1, 1998. After consideration and notification of #35 and other petitioners on the "ready, waiting for active consideration" list, the AS-IA on April 2, 1998, waived the priority provisions of 25 CFR § 83.10(d) in order to consider the petition of the Paucatuck Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut (Petitioner #113) simultaneously with the petition of the Eastern Pequot Indians of Connecticut (Petitioner #35). This waiver was made under the authority granted to the Secretary in 25 CFR § 1.2, and delegated to the Assistant Secretary in 290 DM 8.1, based on a finding that the waiver was in the best interest of the Indians.

This finding has been completed under the terms of the AS-IA's directive of February 7, 2000, published in the **Federal Register** on February 11, 2000 (65 FR 7052). Under the terms of the directive, this finding focuses on

evaluating the specific conclusions and description of the group presented by the petitioner to show that it has met the seven mandatory criteria and maintained a tribal community up until the present. Because evaluation of this petition was begun under the previous internal procedures, this finding includes some analyses which go beyond evaluation of the specific positions of the petitioner. Consistent with the directive, draft technical reports, begun under previous internal procedures, were not finalized.

The evaluation of these petitions pertains to Indian groups which have had both continuous recognition by the State of Connecticut and continuous existence of a state reservation since the colonial period. These unique factors provide a defined thread of continuity through periods when other forms of documentation are sparse or do not pertain directly to a specific criterion. State recognition under these circumstances is more than the identification of an entity, because it reflects the existence of a tribe. The general body of evidence has been interpreted in the context of the tribe's relationship to the colony and state.

The Paucatuck Eastern Pequot and Eastern Pequot petitioners are the continuation of a historically state-recognized tribe whose relationship with the State of Connecticut goes back to the early 1600's, possessing a common reservation. Members of the tribe occupied a somewhat different status than non-Indians within Connecticut. This evidence provides a common backbone and consistent backdrop for interpreting the evidence of continued tribal existence. When weighed in combination with this historical and continuous existence, evidence on community and political influence carries greater weight that would be the case under circumstances where there was no evidence of a longstanding relationship with the state based on being a distinct community. The greater weight is assigned for the following reasons in combination:

The historical Eastern Pequot tribe has maintained a continuous historical government-to-government relationship with the State of Connecticut since colonial times;

The historical Eastern Pequot tribe had a state reservation established in colonial times, and has retained its land area under the protection and administration of the state to the present;

The historical Eastern Pequot tribe had members enumerated specifically as tribal members on the Federal Census,