



United States Department of the Interior  
OFFICE OF THE SPECIAL TRUSTEE FOR AMERICAN INDIANS  
Washington, D.C. 20240

Memorandum

APR 23 2001

To: Bureau of Indian Affairs  
Bureau of Land Management  
Minerals Management Service

From: Thomas N. Slonaker  
Special Trustee for American Indians

Subject: Trust Reform Training

In enacting the *American Indian Trust Fund Management Reform Act of 1994* (PL.103-412) the Congress directed the Department to implement the trust asset management reforms necessary to improve the execution of the government's fiduciary obligations to the Indian beneficiaries for whom it holds or controls assets. In addition, the Reform Act requires the Special Trustee to "oversee all reform efforts...relating to the trust responsibilities of the Secretary to ensure the establishment of policies, procedures, systems and practices to allow the Secretary to discharge" the government's trust responsibilities to Indian tribes and individual American Indians. Your personal leadership and the active and affirmative cooperation and support of your Office and staff are critical to the successful achievement of those legislatively required goals.

Starting in January, the Department initiated the trust training program described in the High Level Implementation Plan of the Trust Management Improvement Project. The desired result of this training is to provide trust system personnel at every level with the necessary skills and understanding to support fulfillment of the Department's fiduciary role. Training will be given in several topics including trust asset management, record keeping and trust policies and procedures, computer systems, and customer relations. The objective of the training is to support a trust asset management system within the Department that operates as an organic whole. The accurate performance of every individual's job is important to the operation of the entire trust management system. Therefore, the proper execution and supervision of every task is necessary to the proper discharge of our shared trust obligation.

The Department is committed to the creation and continued maintenance of an appropriately organized and staffed trust asset management system. That system depends on properly trained personnel. Full participation in the training program is required of all those employees in the Department who engage in any manner in the discharge of the Federal government's fiduciary obligations to the Indian beneficiaries of the assets it holds in trust.

I ask that each of you be able to assure me and the Secretary that this part of the High Level Implementation Plan is being fully executed.

cc: Secretary

Attachment 1-1