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NRC Yellow Announcement

UNITED STATES
NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Announcement No. 045

Date: April 1, 2010

To: All NRC Employees
SUBJECT: NRC TRIBAL PROTOCOL MANUAL

I am pleased to inform you of the agency-wide availability of NRC's recently completed Tribal Protocol Manual. The Manual is part of the agency's ongoing efforts to enhance our internal protocols for interactions with Native American tribal governments that allows for custom tailored approaches that will address both NRC and Tribal interest on a case-by-case basis. The Tribal Protocol Manual is now available [online](#).

The Manual is a reference tool that contains information from multiple sources, including staff research, interviews with NRC staff and management, discussions with personnel at other Federal and State agencies, and meetings with tribal representatives. The Tribal Protocol Manual provides guidance to foster effective interactions between NRC staff and tribal governments, as well as instructional background information to NRC staff on the historic relationship between the Federal government and Native Americans.

In a January 8, 2009, Staff Requirements Memorandum, the staff was directed to develop and implement an internal protocol for interactions with Native American governments. Staff provided an information paper (SECY-09-0180) to the Commission on December 11, 2009 (ML092920384), outlining the staff's plans for implementation of internal protocols, as noted above. The Tribal Protocol Manual is part of an agency-wide rollout plan of the internal protocols described in SECY-09-0180.

The Intergovernmental Liaison Branch (ILB), within the Office of Federal and State Materials and Environmental Management Programs, serves as the agency-wide, staff-level, liaison to Native American tribal governments. ILB staff provides liaison support to program offices upon request and will continue to enhance tribal outreach and communication resources available to NRC staff. In the near future, ILB staff will also conduct tribal protocol workshops to provide basic information regarding historical context, cultural information and practical application for the staff.

For additional information regarding the Tribal Protocol Manual or ILB's role in tribal interactions, please contact the ILB staff at 301-415-7278 or [e-mail](#).

/RA/

Michael Weber Acting for/
Martin J. Virgilio
Deputy Executive Director for Materials, Waste,
Research, State, Tribal, and Compliance Programs
Office of the Executive Director for Operations

Management Directive Reference: [MD 9.15. "Organization and Functions, Office of State and Tribal Programs"](#)

[NRC Yellow Announcements Index](#)

A-3