



January 15, 2025

Dear Tribal Leader and Urban Indian Organization Leader:

I am writing to inform you that the Indian Health Service (IHS) published a final notice in the *Federal Register* on Wednesday, January 8, 2025, announcing the Headquarters reorganization for the offices under the Deputy Director for Intergovernmental Affairs (DDIGA), now named the Deputy Director for Intergovernmental and External Affairs (DDIEA). This notice, effective immediately, marks the completion of this reorganization process.

By letter dated October 10, 2024, the IHS initiated Tribal Consultation and Urban Confer on the proposed reorganization of offices under the DDIGA. During the open comment period, which spanned more than 60 days, the IHS hosted two virtual sessions to gather feedback. An Urban Confer session was held on November 13, 2024, and a Tribal Consultation session on November 14, 2024. We appreciate your participation in the virtual sessions and the written feedback we received from you in the 16 letters from 6 IHS Areas representing 3 Tribes, 3 Tribal Organizations, and 10 Urban Indian Organizations (UIOs).

The feedback generally expressed support for streamlining Agency operations, with some concerns about vacancies and office mergers, and some budget-related questions regarding staffing the reorganization. Prior to finalizing the reorganization, the IHS reviewed all comments and identified where recommendations could be incorporated into the reorganization.

The restructuring maintains the important support for both Tribal and UIOs under the renamed Office of Tribal and Urban Affairs and the Office of Indian Self-Determination and Self-Governance. The process will utilize existing resources and include efforts to fill the named vacancies. The functions under the DDIEA will continue to operate within the IHS Office of the Director, with our ongoing commitment to strengthening our relationships and coordination with you, our Tribal partners. The IHS will be implementing the reorganization in the coming weeks, and we are committed to sharing information as the implementation process is finalized.

Thank you for your contributions to this reorganization and I appreciate your ongoing support and partnership.

Sincerely,

Roselyn Tso
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Roselyn Tso
Director