

§ 224.103 Must a tribe establish other public participation processes?

No. Except for the environmental review process required by the Act and § 224.63(b)(1), a tribe is not required to establish a process for public participation concerning non-environmental issues in a TERA or leases, business agreements or rights-of-way undertaken under a TERA. However, a tribe may elect to establish procedures that permit the public to participate in public hearings or that expand the scope of matters about which the public may comment.

§ 224.104 Must a tribe enact tribal laws, regulations, or procedures permitting a person or entity to allege that a tribe is not complying with a TERA?

No. A tribe is not required, but may elect, to enact tribal laws, regulations, or procedures permitting a person or entity that may be an interested party to allege that a tribe is not complying with its TERA.

§ 224.105 How may a person or entity obtain copies of tribal laws, regulations, or procedures that would permit an allegation of noncompliance with a TERA?

(a) A person or entity that may be an interested party may obtain copies of tribal laws, regulations, or procedures that establish tribal remedies that permit a person or entity to allege that the tribe is not complying with its TERA by making a request to the tribe in accordance with the TERA and § 224.63(g).

(b) Upon obtaining copies of tribal laws, regulations, or procedures under subsection (a), a person or entity that may be an interested party may file a petition with the tribe under those tribal laws, regulations, or procedures.

(c) If the person or entity that may be an interested party files a petition alleging noncompliance with a TERA, the person or entity becomes a petitioner, and the tribe must respond according to § 224.106.

§ 224.106 If a tribe has enacted tribal laws, regulations, or procedures for challenging tribal action, how must the tribe respond to a petition?

If a tribe has enacted tribal laws, regulations, or procedures under which a petitioner may file a petition alleging noncompliance with a TERA, the tribe must:

(a) Within a reasonable time issue a final written decision under the tribal laws, regulations, or procedures that addresses the claim. The decision may include a determination of whether the petitioner is an interested party;

(b) Provide a copy of its final written decision to the petitioner; and

(c) If the tribe fails, within a reasonable period, to issue a written decision to a petition that a petitioner brings under applicable tribal laws, regulations, or procedures the petitioner may file a petition with the Secretary.

§ 224.107 What must a petitioner do before filing a petition with the Secretary?

Before a petitioner may file a petition with the Secretary under this subpart, the petitioner must have exhausted tribal remedies by participating in any tribal process under § 224.106, including any tribal appeal process.

§ 224.108 May tribes offer a resolution of a petitioner's claim?

Yes. In responding to a petition filed under tribal laws, regulations or procedures, a tribe may, with the petitioner's written consent, resolve the petitioner's claims.

§ 224.109 What must a petitioner claim or request in a petition filed with the Secretary?

In a petition filed with the Secretary, a petitioner must:

(a) Claim that the tribe, through its action or inaction has failed to comply with terms or provisions of a TERA, and, as a result, the petitioner's interest has sustained or will sustain an adverse environmental impact.

(b) Request that the Secretary review the claims raised in the petition; and

(c) Request that the Secretary take whatever action is necessary to bring a tribe into compliance with the TERA.