

the laws of the United States. “Physical trust asset” does not include:

- (1) Any improvements (for example, wells or structures) to the assets held in trust or restricted status; or
- (2) Monetary assets.

Public means one or more natural or legal persons, and their associations, organizations, or groups; or Federal, State, tribal and local government agencies; or private industry and their associations, organizations, or groups.

Right-of-way means an easement, right, or other authorization over tribal lands, granted or subject to administration under a TERA, for a pipeline or electric transmission or distribution line that serves a facility located on tribal land that is related to energy resource development.

Secretary means the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary’s designee.

TERA means tribal energy resource agreement.

Tribal governing body means a tribe’s governing entity, such as tribal council or tribal business committee, as established under tribal or Federal law and recognized by the Secretary.

Tribal land means any land or interests in land owned by a tribe or tribes, title to which is held in trust by the United States, or is subject to a restriction against alienation under the laws of the United States. For the purposes of this part, tribal land includes land taken into trust or subject to restrictions on alienation under the laws of the United States after the effective date of the agreement.

Tribe means any Indian tribe, band, nation, or other organized group or community that is recognized as eligible for the special programs and services provided by the United States to Indians because of their status as Indians, except a Native Corporation as defined in the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act, 43 U.S.C. 1602.

Violation or breach means any breach or other violation by another party of any provision in a lease, business agreement, or right-of-way under a TERA or any activity or occurrence under a lease business agreement or right-of-way that constitutes a violation of Federal or tribal environmental law.

§ 224.40 How does the Act or a TERA affect the Secretary’s trust responsibility?

(a) The Act (25 U.S.C. 3504(e)(6)) preserves the Secretary’s trust responsibilities relating to mineral and other trust resources and requires the Secretary to act in good faith and in the best interest of Indian tribes.

(b) Neither the Act nor this part absolves the Secretary of responsibilities to Indian tribes under the trust relationship, treaties, statutes, regulations, Executive Orders, agreements or other Federal law.

(c) The Act and this part preserve the Secretary’s trust responsibility to ensure that the rights and interests of an Indian tribe are protected if:

(1) Another party to a lease, business agreement, or right-of-way executed under an approved TERA violates any term of the lease, business agreement, or right-of-way, or any applicable Federal law; or

(2) Any provision of a lease, business agreement, or right-of-way violates the TERA under which it was executed.

(d) The United States is not liable for losses to any party (including any tribe) for any negotiated term of, or any loss resulting from, the negotiated terms of a lease, business agreement, or right-of-way the tribe executes under a TERA.

§ 224.41 When does the Secretary require agreement of more than one tribe to approve a TERA?

When tribal land held for the benefit of more than one tribe is contemplated for inclusion in a TERA, each appropriate tribal governing body must request a pre-application consultation meeting, and submit a resolution or formal act of the tribal governing body approving the submission of any application. Each appropriate tribal governing body must also sign the TERA, if it is approved.

§ 224.42 How does the Paperwork Reduction Act affect these regulations?

The information collected from the public is cleared and covered by OMB Control Number 1076–0167. The sections of this rule which have information collections are §§ 224.53, 224.57(d), 224.61,

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224.63, 224.64, 224.65, 224.68(d), 224.76, 224.83, 224.87, 224.109, 224.112, 224.120(a), 224.139(b), 224.156, and 224.173. Please note that a Federal Agency may not conduct or sponsor, and you are not required to respond to, a collection of information unless it displays a currently valid OMB control number.

Subpart B—Procedures for Obtaining Tribal Energy Resource Agreements

§ 224.50 What is the purpose of this subpart?

This subpart establishes procedures for:

- (a) Pre-application and application consultations and process;
- (b) Requirements for the content of applications;
- (c) Submittal of completed applications; and
- (d) Secretarial review and processing of applications.

PRE-APPLICATION CONSULTATION AND THE FORM OF APPLICATION

§ 224.51 What is a pre-application consultation between a tribe and the Director?

(a) A tribe interested in entering into a TERA should request a pre-application consultation by writing to the Director, Office of Indian Energy and Economic Development. The request should include the name and contact information for the Designated Tribal Official who will coordinate scheduling with the Director.

(b) Upon receiving a pre-application consultation request, the Director will contact the Designated Tribal Official to schedule a pre-application consultation meeting. The Director may also initiate pre-application discussions with the tribal governing body.

(c) At the pre-application consultation meeting, the tribe and the Director may discuss any of the matters related to a future application including, but not limited to:

- (1) The application process;
- (2) The potential scope of the tribe's future application, including any regulatory or administrative activities that the tribe anticipates exercising;

(3) The required content of an application for a TERA;

(4) The energy resource the tribe anticipates developing;

(5) The tribe's capacity to manage and regulate the energy resource development the tribe identifies;

(6) Potential opportunities for funding capacity-building and other activities related to the energy resource the tribe anticipates developing under a TERA; and

(7) Any other matters applicable to this part, the Act, and the tribe.

§ 224.52 What may a tribe include in a TERA?

A TERA under this part:

- (a) May include development of all or part of a tribe's energy resources;
- (b) Must specify the type of energy resource included;
- (c) May include assumption by the tribe of certain activities normally carried out by the Department, except for inherently Federal functions; and
- (d) Must specify the services or resources related to the specific activity related to energy resource development that the tribe proposes to assume from the Department.

§ 224.53 What must an application for a TERA contain?

(a) An application for a TERA must contain all of the following:

(1) A proposed TERA between the tribe and the Secretary, signed by the authorized representative of the tribe, that contains the provisions required by § 224.63;

(2) A statement that the Secretary recognizes the tribe as an Indian tribe and that the tribe has tribal land;

(3) A brief description of the tribe's form of government;

(4) Copies of relevant portions of tribal documents (see paragraph (b) of this section);

(5) A map, legal description, and general description of the tribal land that the tribe intends to include in the TERA;

(6) A statement that meets the requirements in paragraph (c) of this section;

(7) A statement describing the tribe's experience in negotiating and administering energy-related leases, business