

Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

§ 170.300

maintain, certify, and enter the data for their region's portion of the IRR Inventory database. Only project-specific transportation activities are included in the IRR Inventory.

§ 170.228 Are all facilities included in the IRR Inventory used to calculate CTC?

No. Projects/facilities proposed to receive construction funds on an approved IRR TIP are not eligible for future inclusion in the calculation of the CTC portion of the formula for a period of 5 years thereafter.

GENERAL DATA APPEALS

§ 170.231 May a tribe challenge the data BIA uses in the RNDF?

(a) A tribe may submit a request to the BIA Regional Director to revise the data for the tribe that BIA uses in the RNDF. The request must include the tribe's data and written support for its contention that the tribal data is more accurate than BIA's.

(b) A tribe may submit a data correction request at any time. In order to impact the distribution in a given fiscal year, a data correction request must be approved, or any subsequent appeals resolved, by June 1 of the prior fiscal year.

(c) The BIA Regional Director must respond within 30 days of receiving a data correction request under this section.

(1) Unless the BIA Regional Director determines that the existing BIA data is more accurate, the BIA Regional Director must approve the tribe's data correction request and accept the tribe's corrected data.

(2) If the BIA Regional Director disapproves the tribe's request, the decision must include a detailed written explanation of the reasons for the disapproval, copies of any supporting documentation (other than the tribe's request) that the BIA Regional Director relied upon in reaching the decision, and notice of the tribe's right to appeal the decision.

(3) If the BIA Regional Director does not approve the tribe's request within 30 days of receiving the request, the request must be deemed disapproved.

§ 170.232 How does a tribe appeal a disapproval from the BIA Regional Director?

(a) Within 30 days of receiving a disapproval, or within 30 days of a disapproval by non-action of the BIA Regional Director, a tribe may file a written notice of appeal to the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, with a copy provided to the BIA Regional Director; and

(b) Within 30 days of receiving an appeal, the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs must issue a written decision upholding or reversing the BIA Regional Director's disapproval. This decision must include a detailed written explanation of the reasons for the disapproval, copies of any supporting documentation that the Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs relied upon in reaching the decision (other than the tribe's request or notice of appeal), and notice of the tribe's right to appeal the decision to the Interior Board of Indian Appeals under 25 CFR part 2.

FLEXIBLE FINANCING

§ 170.300 May tribes use flexible financing to finance IRR transportation projects?

Yes. Tribes may use flexible financing in the same manner as States to finance IRR transportation projects, unless otherwise prohibited by law.

(a) Tribes may issue bonds or enter into other debt financing instruments under 23 U.S.C. 122 with the expectation of payment of IRR Program funds to satisfy the instruments.

(b) Under 23 U.S.C. 183, the Secretary of Transportation may enter into an agreement for secured loans or lines of credit for IRR projects meeting the requirements contained in 23 U.S.C. 182. Tribes or BIA may service Federal credit instruments. The secured loans or lines of credit must be paid from tolls, user fees, or other dedicated revenue sources.

(c) Tribes may use IRR Program funds as collateral for loans or bonds to finance IRR projects. Upon the request of a tribe, a BIA region will provide necessary documentation to banks and other financial institutions.