

## § 82.10

(2) Lack of proper qualifications of a signer.

No challenge will be considered which is not accompanied by supporting evidence in writing. In the event that an individual's name appears on a petition more than once, all but one of the names shall be stricken.

### § 82.10 Action on the petition.

(a) Within 30 days after the official filing date, the local Bureau official shall forward to the Area Director, or when the Area Director is the local Bureau official, directly to the Commissioner, the original of the petition and its accompanying signatures, together with recommendations concerning challenges and conclusions concerning:

- (1) The validity of the signatures;
- (2) The adequacy of the number of signatures; and
- (3) The propriety of the petitioning procedure.

(b) The Area Director or the Commissioner, as the case may be, shall within 45 days after the official filing date decide upon each challenge and the sufficiency of the petition and announce whether the petition shall be acted upon. If a decision is reached that the petitioning action is for any reason insufficient, the spokesman for the petitioners and the governing body of the tribe will be so informed and given the reasons for the decision. If a petitioning action warrants action by the Secretary or Commissioner, the spokesman for the petitioners and the governing body of the tribe concerned will be so informed. The decision in such matters shall be final. The procedures for implementing any action initiated by the acceptance of a petition will be determined in accordance with pertinent directives and regulations.

### § 82.11 Duration of petition.

Any petition submitted under this part, shall be considered only for the purpose stated therein. Once a petition has been acted upon, it shall not be used again.

## 25 CFR Ch. I (4–1–13 Edition)

### PART 83—PROCEDURES FOR ESTABLISHING THAT AN AMERICAN INDIAN GROUP EXISTS AS AN INDIAN TRIBE

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AUTHORITY: 5 U.S.C. 301; 25 U.S.C. 2 and 9; 43 U.S.C. 1457; and 209 Departmental Manual 8.

SOURCE: 59 FR 9293, Feb. 25, 1994, unless otherwise noted.

### § 83.1 Definitions.

As used in this part:

*Area Office* means a Bureau of Indian Affairs Area Office.

*Assistant Secretary* means the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, or that officer's authorized representative.

*Autonomous* means the exercise of political influence or authority independent of the control of any other Indian governing entity. Autonomous must be understood in the context of the history, geography, culture and social organization of the petitioning group.

*Board* means the Interior Board of Indian Appeals.

*Bureau* means the Bureau of Indian Affairs.

*Community* means any group of people which can demonstrate that consistent interactions and significant social relationships exist within its membership and that its members are differentiated from and identified as distinct from nonmembers. *Community* must be understood in the context of the history, geography, culture and social organization of the group.

*Continental United States* means the contiguous 48 states and Alaska.