Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior

§ 115.814 If a tribe withholds money from its trust account for a particular purpose or project, may the tribe redeposit any money that was not used for its intended purpose?

A tribe may redeposit funds not used for a particular purpose or project if:

(a) The funds were withdrawn in accordance with:
   (1) The terms of Trust Reform Act;
   (2) The terms of the legislative settlement; or
   (3) The terms of a judgment use and distribution plan; and
   (b) The tribe can provide documentation showing the source of the funds to be redeposited.

WITHDRAWING TRIBAL TRUST FUNDS

§ 115.815 How does a tribe request trust funds from a tribal trust account?

To request trust funds from a tribal trust account, a tribe may:

(a) Make a written request to the BIA or the OTFM that is signed by the proper authorizing official(s), list the amount of trust funds to be withdrawn, provide any additional documentation or information required by law to withdraw certain trust funds, and must include a tribal resolution approving the withdrawal of the specified amount of trust funds; or

(b) Contact the OTFM to withdraw funds in accordance with the Trust Reform Act and 25 CFR part 1200.

§ 115.816 May a tribe’s request for a withdrawal of trust funds from its trust account be delayed or denied?

(a) Action on a tribe’s request for a withdrawal of trust funds may be delayed or denied if:
   (1) The tribe did not submit all the necessary documentation;
   (2) The tribe’s request is not signed by the proper authorizing official(s);
   (3) OTFM does not have documentation from the tribe certifying its recognized, authorizing officials;
   (4) The tribe’s request is in conflict with statutory language or the controlling document governing the use of the trust funds; or
   (5) The BIA or OTFM requires clarification regarding the tribe’s request.

(b) If action on a tribe’s request to withdraw trust funds will be delayed or denied, the BIA or the OTFM will:
   (1) Notify the tribe within ten (10) working days of the date of a request made under § 115.818(a);
   (2) Notify the tribe under the time frames established in 25 CFR part 1200 for requests made under the Trust Reform Act; and
   (3) Provide technical assistance to the tribe to address any problems.

§ 115.817 How does OTFM disburse money to a tribe?

Upon receipt of all necessary documentation, OTFM will process the request for disbursement and send the tribe the requested amount of trust funds within one business day. Whenever possible, trust funds will be disbursed electronically to an account in a financial institution designated by the tribe. If there are circumstances that preclude electronic payments, OTFM will mail a check.

UNCLAIMED PER CAPITA FUNDS

§ 115.818 What happens if an Indian adult does not cash his or her per capita check?

(a) If an Indian adult does not cash his or her per capita check within twelve (12) months of the date the check was issued, the check will be canceled and the trust funds will be deposited into a “returned per capita account” where the funds will be maintained until we receive a request for disbursement by the Indian adult or for disposition by a tribe pursuant to § 115.820.

(b) If an Indian adult’s per capita check is returned to us as undeliverable, the trust funds will be immediately deposited into a “returned per capita account” where the funds will be maintained until we receive a request for disbursement by the individual or for disposition by a tribe pursuant to § 115.820.