management of argali in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, or Tajikistan has changed since the original classification of these populations in June 23, 1992 (57 FR 28014), the Service continues to consider these populations as threatened. Except for the recent report by Fedosenko on argali in the Pamirs region in Tajikistan, the Service has received little additional information on the status and management of argali in these countries since the 1993 report funded by the Service. Thus, the Service is requesting additional and updated information from the Governments of Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, and Mongolia and from individuals and organizations knowledgeable about the status and management of the argali in these three range countries.

Information Solicited

The Service can only issue a threatened species permit for the import of argali trophies when it finds that the activity will enhance the propagation or survival of the species. So the Service solicits information on the status of argali populations in Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, and Tajikistan, including: (1) Whether the population in each country is sufficiently large, viable, and adequately protected to sustain sport hunting, (2) whether the regulating authorities in these range countries recognize these argali populations as a valuable resource and have the legal and practical means to manage these argali populations, including examples of any recent management initiatives, and (3) whether the regulating authorities can ensure that the exported trophy has in fact been legally taken from the specified population. In addition, the Service seeks information on how any funds derived from the involved sport hunt or any contributions made directly by the applicant and/or the outfitter have been applied to argali conservation, including specific examples.

Information received will be considered in developing the Service's findings for future permit applications for the import of sport-hunted argali trophies. In the meantime, the Service continues to process applications and make its decisions on existing information.

Dated: May 30, 1996.

John G. Rogers,

Acting Director.

[FR Doc. 96–14377 Filed 6–7–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

Bureau of Land Management

Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council; Meeting

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management—Interior.

ACTION: Notice of meeting.

SUMMARY: The Lower Snake River District Resource Advisory Council will meet at the district office to discuss options for applying terms and conditions for improving riparian areas to livestock grazing permits and leases.

DATES: Tuesday, June 18, 1996. The meeting will begin at 8:30 a.m. and a public comment period will begin at 9:00 a.m.

ADDRESSES: The Lower Snake River District Office is located at 3948 Development Avenue, Boise, Idaho.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Barry Rose, Lower Snake River District Office (208–384–3393).

Dated: June 4, 1996.

Barry Rose,

Public Affairs Specialist.

[FR Doc. 96–14551 Filed 6–7–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–GG–P

INTERNATIONAL TRADE COMMISSION

[USITC SE–96–11]

Sunshine Act Meeting

AGENCY HOLDING THE MEETING: United States International Trade Commission.

TIME AND DATE: June 18, 1996 at 9:30 a.m.

PLACE: Room 101, 500 E Street S.W., Washington, DC 20436.

STATUS: Open to the public.

MATTERS TO BE CONSIDERED:

1. Agenda for future meeting
2. Minutes
3. Ratification List
4. Inv. No. 731–TA–739 (Final) (Clad Steel Plate from Japan)—briefing and vote.
5. Inv. No. 731–TA–732–733 (Final) (Circular Welded Non-Alloy Steel Pipe from Romania and South Africa)—briefing and vote.
6. Outstanding action jackets: None.

In accordance with Commission policy, subject matter listed above, not disposed of at the scheduled meeting, may be carried over to the agenda of the following meeting.

By order of the Commission:

Issued: June 6, 1996

Donna R. Koehnke,

Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–14749 Filed 6–6–96; 1:05 pm]

BILLING CODE 7020–02–P

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

Office of the Deputy Attorney General

Office of Tribal Justice; Policy on Indian Sovereignty

AGENCY: Office of Tribal Justice, Department of Justice.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice publishes the ''Department of Justice Policy on Indian Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations.'' The Polcy reaffirms both the Department's recognition of the sovereign status of federally recognized Indian tribes and the Department's adherence to government-to-government relations with federally recognized Indian tribes. The Policy also contains a directive to all components of the Department of Justice to inform attorneys of the responsibilities enumerated in the policy and to make all reasonable efforts to ensure that component activities conform to its terms. The Policy also directs Department of Justice component heads to appoint a contact person to work with the Office of Tribal Justice to address Indian issues within each component.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Herbert A. Becker, Director, Office of Tribal Justice, Room 1509, Main Building, Department of Justice. Telephone: (202) 514–8812. FAX: (202) 514–9078.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Attached is a copy of the ''Department of Justice Policy on Indian Sovereignty and Government-to-Government Relations with Indian Tribes,'' which the Attorney General signed on June 1, 1995.

Dated: June 3, 1996.

Herbert A. Becker,

Director, Office of Tribal Justice.

Office of the Attorney General
Washington, DC 20530

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE POLICY ON INDIAN SOVEREIGNTY AND GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT RELATIONS WITH INDIAN TRIBES

Purpose

To reaffirm the Department's recognition of the sovereign status of federally recognized Indian tribes as domestic dependent nations and to reaffirm adherence to the principles of government-to-government relations; to inform Department personnel, other federal agencies, federally recognized Indian tribes, and the public of the Department's working relationships with federally recognized Indian tribes; and to guide the Department in its work in the field of Indian affairs.

I. Introduction

From its earliest days, the United States has recognized the sovereign status of Indian

tribes as ''domestic dependent nations.'' *Cherokee Nation* v. *Georgia,* 30 U.S. (5 Pet.) 1, 17 (1831). Our Constitution recognize Indian sovereignty by classing Indian treaties among the ''supreme Law of the land, '' and establishes Indian affairs as a unique area of federal concern. In early Indian treaties, the United States pledged to ''protect'' Indian tribes, thereby establishing one of the bases for the federal trust responsibility in our government-to-government relations with Indian tribes. These principles continue to guide our national policy towards Indian tribes.

A. The Executive Memorandum on Government-to-Government Relations Between the United States and Indian Tribes

On April 29, 1994, at an historic meeting with the heads of tribal governments, President Clinton reaffirmed the United States' ''unique legal relationship with Native American tribal governments'' and issued a directive to all executive departments and agencies of the Federal Government that:

As executive departments and agencies undertake activities affecting Native American tribal rights or trust resources, such activities should be implemented in a knowledgeable, sensitive manner respectful of tribal sovereignty.

President Clinton's directive requires that in all activities relating to or affecting the government or treaty rights of Indian tribes, the executive branch shall:

(1) Operate within a government-to-government relationship with federally recognized Indian tribes;

(2) Consult, to the greatest extent practicable and permitted by law, with Indian tribal governments before taking actions that affect federally recognized Indian tribes;

(3) Assess the impact of agency activities on tribal trust resources and assure that tribal interests are considered before the activities are undertaken;

(4) Remove procedural impediments to working directly with tribal governments on activities that affect trust property or governmental rights of the tribes; and

(5) Work cooperatively with other agencies to accomplish these goals established by the President.

The Department of Justice is reviewing programs and procedures to ensure that we adhere to principles of respect for Indian tribal governments and honor our Nation's trust responsibility to Indian tribes. Within the Department, the Office of Tribal Justice has been formed to coordinate policy towards Indian tribes both within the Department and with other agencies of the Federal Government, and to assist Indian tribes as domestic dependent nations within the federal system.

B. Federal Indian Self-Determination Policy

President Clinton's executive memorandum builds on the firmly established federal policy of self-determination for Indian tribes. Working together with Congress, previous Presidents affirmed the fundamental policy of federal respect for tribal self-government. President Johnson recognized ''the right of the first Americans * * * to freedom of choice and self-determination.'' President Nixon strongly encouraged ''self-determination'' among the Indian people. President Reagan pledged ''to pursue the policy of self-government'' for Indian tribes and reaffirmed ''the government-to-government basis'' for dealing with Indian tribes. President Bush recognized that the Federal Government's ''efforts to increase tribal self-governance have brought a renewed sense of pride and empowerment to this country's native peoples.''

II. Principles of Indian Sovereignty and the Trust Responsibility

Though generalizations are difficult, a few basic principles provide important guidance in the field of Indian affairs: (1) the Constitution vests Congress with plenary power over Indian affairs; (2) Indian tribes retain important sovereign powers over ''their members and their territory,'' subject to the plenary power of Congress; and (3) the United States has a trust responsibility to Indian tribes, which guides and limits the Federal Government in dealings with Indian tribes. Thus, federal and tribal law generally have primacy over Indian affairs in Indian country, except where Congress has provided otherwise.

III. Department of Justice Recognition of Indian Sovereignty and the Federal Trust Responsibility

The Department resolves that the following principles will guide its interactions with the Indian tribes.

A. The Sovereignty of Indian Tribes

The Department recognizes that Indian tribes as domestic dependent nations retain sovereign powers, except as divested by the United States, and further recognizes that the United States has the authority to restore federal recognition of Indian sovereignty in order to strengthen tribal self-governance.

The Department shall be guided by principles of respect for Indian tribes and their sovereign authority and the United States' trust responsibility in the many ways in which the Department takes action on matters affecting Indian tribes. For example, the Department reviews proposed legislation, administers funds that are available to tribes to build their capacity to address crime and crime-related problems in Indian country, and in conjunction with the Bureau of Indian Affairs and tribal police, provides essential law enforcement in Indian country. The Department represents the United States, in coordination with other federal agencies, in litigation brought for the benefit of Indian tribes and individuals, as well as in litigation by Indian tribes or individuals against the United States or its agencies. In litigation as in other matters, the Department may take actions and positions affecting Indian tribes with which one or more tribes may disagree. In all situations, the Department will carry out its responsibilities consistent with the law and this policy statement.

B. Government-to-Government Relationships with Indian Tribes

In accord with the status of Indian tribes as domestic dependent nations, the Department is committed to operating on the basis of government-to-government relations with Indian tribes.

Consistent with federal law and other Departmental duties, the Department will consult with tribal leaders in its decisions that relate to or affect the sovereignty, rights, resources or lands of Indian tribes. Each component will conduct such consultation in light of its mission. In addition, the Department has initiated national and regional listening conferences and has created the Office of Tribal Justice to improve communications with Indian tribes. In the Offices of the United States Attorneys with substantial areas of Indian country within their purview, the Department encourages designation of Assistant U.S. Attorneys to serve as tribal liaisons.

In order to fulfill its mission, the Department of Justice endeavors to forge strong partnerships between the Indian tribal governments and the Department. These partnerships will enable the Department to better serve the needs of Indian tribes, Indian people, and the public at large.

C. Self-Determination and Self-Governance

The Department is committed to strengthening and assisting Indian tribal governments in their development and to promoting Indian self-governance. Consistent with federal law and Departmental responsibilities, the Department will consult with tribal governments concerning law enforcement priorities in Indian country, support duly recognized tribal governments, defend the lawful exercise of tribal governmental powers in coordination with the Department of the Interior and other federal agencies, investigate government corruption when necessary, and support and assist Indian tribes in the development of their law enforcement systems, tribal courts, and traditional justice systems.

D. Trust Responsibility

The Department acknowledges the federal trust responsibility arising from Indian treaties, statutes, executive orders, and the historical relations between the United States and Indian tribes. In a broad sense, the trust responsibility relates to the United States' unique legal and political relationship with Indian tribes. Congress, with plenary power over Indian affairs, plays a primary role in defining the trust responsibility, and Congress recently declared that the trust responsibility ''includes the protection of the sovereignty of each tribal government.'' 25 U.S.C. 3601.

The term ''trust responsibility'' is also used in a narrower sense to define the precise legal duties of the United States in managing property and resources of Indian tribes and, at times, of individual Indians.

The trust responsibility, in both senses, will guide the Department in litigation, enforcement, policymaking and proposals for legislation affecting Indian country, when appropriate to the circumstances. As used in its narrower sense, the federal trust responsibility may be justifiable in some circumstances, while in its broader sense the definition and implementation of the trust responsibility is committed to Congress and the Executive Branch.

E. Protection of Civil Rights

Federal law prohibits discrimination based on race or national origin by the federal, state and local governments, or individuals against American Indians in such areas as voting, education, housing, credit, public accommodations and facilities, employment, and in certain federally funded programs and facilities. Various federal criminal civil rights statutes also preserve personal liberties and safety. The existence of the federal trust responsibility towards Indian tribes does not diminish the obligation of state and local governments to respect the civil rights of Indian people.

Through the Indian Civil Rights Act, Congress selectively has derived essential civil rights protections from the Bill of Rights and applied them to Indian tribes. 25 U.S.C. § 1301. The Indian Civil Rights Act is to be interpreted with respect for Indian sovereignty. The primary responsibility for enforcement of the Act is invested in the tribal courts and other tribal fora. In the criminal law context, federal courts have authority to decide habeas corpus petitions after tribal remedies are exhausted.

The Department of Justice is fully committed to safeguarding the constitutional and statutory rights of American Indians, as well as all other Americans.

F. Protection of Tribal Religion and Culture

The mandate to protect religious liberty is deeply rooted in this Nation's constitutional heritage. The Department seeks to ensure that American Indians are protected in the observance of their faiths. Decisions regarding the activities of the Department that have the potential to substantially interfere with the exercise of Indian religions will be guided by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, as well as by statutes which protect the exercise of religion such as the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, the American Indian Religious Freedom Act, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

The Department also recognizes the significant federal interest in aiding tribes in the preservation of their tribal customs and traditions. In performing its duties in Indian country, the department will respect and seek to preserve tribal cultures.

IV. Directive to all Components of the Department of Justice

The principles set out here must be interpreted by each component of the Department of Justice in light of its respective mission. Therefore, each component head shall make all reasonable efforts to ensure that the component's activities are consistent with the above sovereignty and trust principles. The component heads shall circulate this policy to all attorneys in Department to inform them of their responsibilities. Where the activities and internal procedures of the components can be reformed to ensure greater consistency with this Policy, the component head shall undertake to do so. If tensions arise between these principles and other principles which guide the component in carrying out its mission, components will develop, as necessary, a mechanism for resolving such tensions to ensure that tribal interests are given due consideration. Finally, component heads will appoint a contact person to work with the Office of Tribal Justice in addressing Indian issues within the component.

V. Disclaimer

This policy is intended only to improve the internal management of the Department and is not intended to create any right enforceable in any cause of action by any party against the United States, its agencies, officers, or any person.

Dated: June 1, 1995.

Janet Reno,

Attorney General.

[FR Doc. 96–14513 Filed 6–7–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–01–M

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decrees in Action To Recover Past Costs Under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act

In accordance with Departmental Policy, 28 CFR § 50.7, 38 FR 19029, notice is hereby given that two Consent Decrees in *United States* v. *Cassidy, et al.,* Civil Action No. 94–CV–71787–DT, were lodged with the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan on May 30, 1996.

The Consent Decrees resolve claims brought by the United States pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, 42 U.S.C. 9601 *et seq.*, against Detrex Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., Tronex Chemical Co., Van Waters & Rogers, Inc., Ethone-OMI, Inc., Henkel Corp., Chrysler Corp., General Electric Co., and Carboloy, Inc. The complaint alleges that the United States incurred response costs in connection with a release or threatened release of hazardous substances from sites operated by the ABC Barrel and Drum Company at 14290 Birwood St. and 102 W. Lantz St. in Detroit, Wayne County, Michigan. The complaint alleges that the defendants were liable for such costs as persons who arranged for the disposal of hazardous substances at the sites.

One of the Consent Decrees requires Detrex Corp., Ford Motor Co., General Motors Corp., PVS-Nolwood Chemicals, Inc., Van Waters & Rogers, Inc., Ethone-OMI, Inc., Henkel Corp., Chrysler Corp., General Electric Co., and Carboloy, Inc. to pay $2,550,000 to the EPA Hazardous Substances Superfund to settle the claims asserted against them. Under this Decree, the United States also covenants not to sue and provides contribution protection to three third party defendants who settled with the defendants for a total of $32,638: Martin Marietta Magnesia Specialties, Inc., McKesson Corp., and Union Carbide Corp. The Decree also restricts the contribution rights of the settling defendants and settling third parties.

The second Consent Decree that was lodged requires Tronex Chemical Company to pay $20,000, plus interest, in four installments to the EPA Hazardous Substance Superfund to settle the claims asserted against it in the Complaint.

The Department of Justice will receive for thirty (30) days from the date of publication of this notice written comments relating to the Consent Decrees. Comments should be addressed to the Assistant Attorney General, Environment and Natural Resources Division, Department of Justice, Washington, D.C. 20530, and should refer to *United States* v. *Cassidy, et al.,* DOJ Ref. No. 90–11–3–1060.

The Consent Decrees may be examined at the Office of the United States Attorney, Eastern District of Michigan, 211 W. Fort St., Suite 2300, Detroit, Michigan; at the Region V Office of the Environmental Protection Agency, 77 West Jackson Blvd., Chicago, Illinois; and at the Consent Decree Library, 1120 G Street, N.W., 4th Floor, Washington, D.C., (202) 624–0892. A copy of the proposed Consent Decrees may be obtained in person or by mail from the Consent Decree Library, 1120 G Street, N.W., 4th Floor, Washington, D.C. 20005. In requesting a copy, please refer to the referenced case and enclose a check payable to the Consent Decree Library in the amount of $10.75 ($.25 cents per page reproduction costs) for the Consent Decree requiring the $2,550,000 payment, and/or, $5.75 for the Consent Decree involving Tronex Chemical Company. Please specify precisely which Decree is being requested.

Bruce S. Gelber,

Deputy Chief, Environmental Enforcement Section, Environment and Natural Resources Division.

[FR Doc. 96–14472 Filed 6–7–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4410–01–M

Notice of Lodging of Consent Decree Pursuant to the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, (42 U.S.C. 9601–9675)

Notice is hereby given that a proposed consent decree in *United States* v. *David B. Fisher, et al.,* Civil Action No. S92–00636M, was lodged on May 22, 1996 with the United States District Court for