



JUN 24 1980

Mr. Eddie L. Tullis
Star Route B, Box 604
Atmore, Alabama 36502

Dear Mr. Tullis:

This is to notify you that, as required by the Federal acknowledgment regulations (25 CFR 54), the Acknowledgment staff has conducted an initial review of the Creek Nation East of the Mississippi's petition for Federal acknowledgment for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions. This letter is only a discussion of areas which we feel could be strengthened with additional information and does not constitute a notification of active consideration.

The petition is, in general, well done. There are, however, significant deficiencies in material necessary to evaluate the community in relation to criteria 54.7 (b) and (c). The petition does not include a description of the history and nature of the community and how it functioned politically between the settlement of the original families and approximately 1900. Although general statements have been included about kin-based settlements and their informal leadership, we request a more detailed description and evidence to support these statements. More information is needed concerning the origins of the four hamlets, their size, their informal leaders and their organization.

Additional information will also be needed in several other areas. This information, which is requested below, will help to speed the processing of the petition but does not represent deficiencies or omissions:

1. A list of the founding families of the Poarch community and a list of the additional families who joined the original community in the middle and late 1800's. If possible, please describe what links these families had with each other prior to joining the Poarch community.
2. Any previous governing documents, if they exist, as well as meeting minutes, before and after 1970, and council lists which were referred to but not included in the petition.
3. Anthony Paredes' paper on kinship ties within the Poarch community.

With 1,298 members on the Poarch roll, it has been impossible to do an in-depth preliminary review of the genealogical materials submitted. It appears, however, that your enrollment operations are well-organized. Your staff is to be commended for what seems to be the most thorough genealogical work we have received to date.

The Acknowledgment staff will be in touch by telephone to discuss the specific materials needed to reinforce the petition. We look forward to working with you and do not expect the additional material requested to create a significant delay in processing of the petition. In the meantime, if you have questions, please call the Acknowledgment staff on (703) 235-2360.

Sincerely,

Isi Ralph R. Reeser

Acting Deputy

Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs