
(3) Technical Assistance Letter(s)
- September 19, 1984

Tribal Government Services - AR

SEP 19 1984

Mrs. Evelyn James
Box 2656
Tuba City, Arizona 86045

Dear Mrs. James:

The ~~San Juan~~ Southern Paiute's documented petition for acknowledgment has been given the preliminary review for obvious deficiencies and significant omissions called for under section 83.9(b) of the Acknowledgment regulations (25 CFR 83). The petition is carefully and thoroughly organized, prepared, and documented. The materials presented are sufficient for the Acknowledgment staff to begin work evaluating the San Juan Southern Paiute petition for acknowledgment. We expect to place this petition under active consideration in October, after completion of work on cases currently being considered. We will notify you when active consideration begins.

While the documentation of the petition is sufficient for it to be placed on active consideration, the preliminary review has brought to light a number of areas where we anticipate that additional information, documentation, or explanation will be needed in the course of the work on the petition. These areas are outlined in the balance of this letter. The Acknowledgment staff will be in touch with your group's researchers concerning these materials. In addition, there may be further questions or need for information which will develop once work is actually begun on the petition.

Concerning the political organization of the group, the petition makes reference to the existence of informal councils (termed shuupara'ap) both currently and historically. Please provide, if possible, a description of the activities carried out by these councils previous to the most recent period of time (see p. 118 and 156 of the petition). We also request copies of minutes and lists of participants, which the petition indicates have been kept in recent years. Please provide, in addition, a more detailed description of council efforts or other social mechanisms (such as social pressure) used presently or in the past to resolve conflicts that have occurred within the group's membership or used to maintain social distinctions between the group and neighboring Indian populations.

We would like to know if more information or explanation can be provided concerning leadership within the group in the latter part of the 19th century, after the beginning of Anglo-European contact. We note that several documents either in the petition or cited in the bibliography appear to refer to other leaders of the group not discussed in the text. These are Stewart (manuscript dated 1984), who cites several names, Van Valkenberg (1941), who refers to a "Badoway," and Shepardson and Hammond (1970), who state that Dyk (1937) identifies a Paiute named "Nabahadzin" as a leader at Paiute Canyon.

We also request further information concerning any participation by members of the group in the political institutions of the Navajo Nation such as the local chapters, either past or present. We specifically request comment concerning statements in Shepardson and Hammond (1970), on pages 37 and 160, which appear to indicate Paiute participation in local Navajo governing bodies at Navajo Mountain.

Any further information concerning the extent of informal social relations with local Navajo populations in the past, especially with kinsmen, would be appreciated. Please discuss how the social affiliation with either Paiute or Navajo is determined for the many local families who are of mixed Paiute and Navajo ancestry. Are there families which are divided between the two groups?

Please provide a more detailed description of the degree and kind of participation that off-reservation members maintain with the two local communities.

We appreciate the discussion on pages 333-4 concerning the definition of membership used by the group to determine the membership list, but would appreciate a slightly more detailed discussion of how the criteria were applied. In addition, is there any documentation that was created as part of this process? To what degree is social participation a criterion for membership as well? Are there individuals who are not on the roll submitted, who meet the criteria for membership, that are currently enrolled with a recognized tribe? If so, please identify these. We would appreciate any further information which would bear on the assignment of census or roll numbers on the Navajo rolls for members of the group.

With regard to the roll, please provide current addresses for individuals who are not resident within the boundaries of the Navajo Reservation. We note also that the roll lists 173 individuals, but that the household list includes only 169 and some of these have no attributed location. Please clarify this. What is the enrollment status for Richard Greymountain (birthdate 11/10/48) and Pauline Choe, for whom individual history charts were submitted but who do not appear on the tribal roll?

What archaeological studies have been done that would provide information concerning Paiute settlement in the relevant areas after the beginning of contact with Europeans? Please provide a short statement of the significance of this material. Are there additional historical sources concerning Paiutes in the area after 1780 and before 1850? Please clarify the basic relationship to the San Juan band of the Paiutes referred to as the "Allen Canyon" group, Blue Mountain Paiutes, or "Polk and Posey's band," i.e., aside from the addition to that group of individuals from various San Juan Southern Paiute settlements.

Please provide clearer copies of the following petition documents from the Federal Archives which cannot be read in the materials received: items numbered 1, 3, 4, 11, 48, 49, 50, 53 and 54. Please also provide clearer copies, if possible, of Muriel Jake's notes of March 12, 1977 and the exhibit entitled "Paiute Census Roll" (cited in the petition as Hemstreet 1973). We will also need copies of the following documents referred to in the text or elsewhere in the petition but not provided: (1) the Turner and Euler manuscript and the Palmer manuscript, both cited in Stewart (1984), (2) the 1930 and 1949 censuses referred to as "document 7" in Stewart (1984), (3) the census mentioned by Janus in reference number 50, (4) the title and contents pages and pages 650, 657 and 658 of Moencopi Chronology (cited as Navajo Tribe n.d.) and, (5) relevant sections of Littell (n.d.).

We also request copies of any exhibits, depositions and answers to interrogatories concerning the group which have been created or will be created in connection with the group's actions to intervene in Sidney v. Zah.

The Acknowledgment staff will be in contact with the group's researchers in the next few weeks to discuss provision of the requested materials. Thank you for your cooperation with these requests. Prompt submission of these materials will be of great help to our staff in evaluation of the San Juan Southern Paiute petition. If you have any questions about the contents of this letter in the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact the Acknowledgment staff at (202) 343-3568.

Sincerely,

Hazel E. Elbert

Acting
Director, Office of Indian Services

cc: Kim Gottschalk, NARF/Boulder
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