



THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR
WASHINGTON

SEP 09 2005

Mrs. Marcia Jones Flowers
391 Norwich Westerly Road
P.O. Box 208
North Stonington, Connecticut 06359

Dear Mrs. Flowers:

On May 12, 2005, the Interior Board of Indian Appeals (IBIA) vacated the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs' final determinations to acknowledge the tribal status of the Historical Eastern Pequot tribe, composed of the Eastern Pequot (EP) and Paucatuck Eastern Pequot (PEP) petitioners. The IBIA remanded the matter directly to me pursuant to 25 CFR 83.11(e)(10) for reconsideration consistent with its decision. Under the regulations, I have 120 days in which to issue the reconsidered final determinations. The regulations do not preclude extensions of this time period.

The Assistant Secretary's proposed findings, final determinations and the underlying documentation related to these petitioners and the proceeding before IBIA are complex and voluminous. While each determination is unique on its facts, these determinations share with each other common issues and facts. In addition, they share the issue of state recognition in common with the reconsidered final determination on the Schaghticoke Tribal Nation (STN) petitioner, which will be issued on or before October 12, 2005.

In order to insure that the reconsidered final determinations on the EP and PEP petitioners thoroughly consider all issues, consistently interpret and apply the relevant acknowledgment principles and laws, and do not prejudge matters in common with the STN, I need additional time. Accordingly, I am waiving the regulatory time for issuing these two reconsidered final determinations for 30 days until October 12, 2005. I find it in the best interest of all parties to do so. Through this letter, I am informing the petitioners and interested parties.

Sincerely,

Associate Deputy Secretary

cc: Interested & Informed Parties