



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 4
ATLANTA FEDERAL CENTER
61 FORSYTH STREET
ATLANTA, GEORGIA 30303-8960

JUN 28 2018

Mr. Kirk Francis
President
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Suite 100
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Mr. Kitcki Carroll
Executive Director
United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.
711 Stewarts Ferry Pike
Suite 100
Nashville, Tennessee 37214

Subject: United South and Eastern Tribes, Inc.'s comments on proposed additional revisions to the Interim Final Environmental Protection Agency Region 4 Consultation Policy Standard Operating Procedures

Dear Messrs. Francis and Carroll:

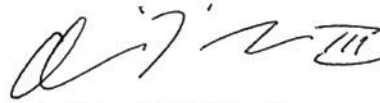
The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency wishes to thank you for your recent comments, dated May 14, 2018, on the Agency's proposed revisions to the Interim Final EPA Region 4 Consultation Policy Standard Operating Procedures (SOP).

The EPA takes seriously its responsibility to engage in tribal consultation, and is endeavoring to improve that engagement both internal and externally. Various staff and management personnel, both within the Region and at the Office of International and Tribal Affairs, are involved in the Agency's decision-making process as to whether a matter is appropriate for consultation and/or the adequacy of any such consultation. To the extent that the proposed SOP is unclear as to these roles, the Region will consider further revisions to the SOP.

The EPA appreciates USET Sovereignty Protection Fund's suggestion that the EPA more fully engage with tribes as what issues may be appropriate for consultation. EPA's policy is to offer consultation on actions and decisions which may affect tribal interests. The EPA believes that tribes have an important role to play in assisting the Agency in identifying those actions and decisions. Therefore, Region 4 intends to continue its dialogue with Region 4 tribes to identify such matters in an early and meaningful manner, and to improve its internal communications about such matters. In addition, as noted in both the EPA Consultation Policy and the Region's SOP, tribes may request consultation on EPA actions and decisions.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please do not hesitate to call me at (404) 562-8357, or to contact Ms. Suzanne Armor, Acting Regional Tribal Relations Coordinator, at (404) 562-9701 or via email at armor.suzanne@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Onis 'Trey' Glenn, III'. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'O' and a prominent 'T'.

Onis "Trey" Glenn, III
Regional Administrator

cc: Ms. Liz Malerba
Director of Policy and Legislative Affairs
USET SPF

Mr. Jerry Pardilla
Director of Environmental Resource Management
USET