**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: FW/FYI: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel **Attachments:** GC Correspondence with UMU 3 16 15.pdf

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 6:43 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: FW/FYI: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

From: Harrison, Jed

Sent: Monday, March 23, 2015 12:56 PM

To: Flynn, Mike; Cherepy, Andrea; Edwards, Jonathan; Perrin, Alan; Peake, Tom

**Cc:** Rosencrantz, Ingrid; Rosnick, Reid; Littleton, Brian **Subject:** FW/FYI: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

I got this from Pat last week when I was on leave. It reads as though there's been coordination between OGC and ORIA on this, so hopefully no surprises.



U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY OFFICE OF RADIATION & INDOOR AIR (702) 784 8218 MOBILE: (702) 494 7050



4220 S. MARYLAND PARKWAY BLDG. D, SUITE 800 LAS VEGAS, NEVADA 89119

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 8:58 AM

To: Harrison, Jed

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hey Jed

Can you circulate this with all the right radiation folks, Im afraid III forget someone.

From: Moffa, Anthony

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:55 PM **To:** Siciliano, CarolAnn; Ward, W. Robert

Cc: Childers, Pat; Mitre, Alfreda

Subject: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hello All,

As an **FYI**, I am attaching the correspondence from Avi to the counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in regards to her questions/concerns from the tribal attorney listening session. The letter was mailed to her in hard copy yesterday. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Anthony

### Anthony Moffa

Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office Civil Rights and Finance Law Office

Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-1087

Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain deliberative, attorney-client, or otherwise privileged material. Do not release this message under FOLA without appropriate review. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Washington, D.C. 20460

THATED STATES

Office of General Counsel

MAR 1 3 2015

Celene Hawkins
Associate General Counsel
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
125 W. Mike Wash Road Tribal Complex
Towaoc, CO 81334

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Washington at the Office of General Counsel's (OGC) inaugural tribal attorney listening session at EPA. I was excited to participate in this new opportunity to engage with you and other tribal attorneys in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This type of lawyer-to-lawyer engagement between tribes and the Agency attorneys working on the very same issues is critical to the success of our clients. As you heard me express there, and perhaps on prior occasions, I firmly believe that we, as Agency attorneys, need to nurture our partnerships, particularly with co-regulators, to explore and support our shared interests and responsibilities to protect public health and the environment. With respect to the protection of human health and the environment in Indian country, that means meeting with tribal attorneys and tribal leaders and looking to you for guidance on how to ensure that our laws and regulations work for your tribes and tribal communities. I am grateful that you took the time to actively participate in the listening session and provide just that type of guidance. It is in response to the concerns you raised there that I now write.

At the listening session, you raised concerns on behalf of your Tribe regarding the potential impact of an ongoing rulemaking. EPA recently proposed to revise Subpart W National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant (NESHAP), 40 C.F.R. Parts 61.250-256, which regulates the emission of radon-222 from uranium mills and their associated tailings. It is my understanding that due to the presence of a uranium mill approximately three miles from tribal lands (the White Mesa Mill facility), the Ute Mountain Ute engaged with the EPA staff working on this proposed rulemaking, both formally and informally. The concerns you raised

at the listening session related to both the substance and the process of those past consultations.

As you are probably aware, Administrator McCarthy just recently received a letter from Chairman Heart requesting a second formal consultation on the Subpart W rulemaking. I understand that the Office of Air and Radiation staff spoke with Tribal members, including Scott Clow (the Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Director) and the Tribal Air Programs staff, in regard to the consultation request. Moving forward, EPA staff will coordinate with the Tribe on scheduling the second consultation at a time that will be most productive for all involved. Mike Flynn, the Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, has sent a letter to Chairman Heart communicating that agreed-upon plan of action. My staff in OGC will monitor the developments on this upcoming consultation to ensure that EPA continues to conform to its consultation policy. See EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (2011), <a href="http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf</a>. I expect that the discussion at the upcoming consultation will address any remaining substantive concerns the Tribe may have with the Subpart W rulemaking.

With respect to the process concerns you articulated, particularly the Tribe's displeasure with the tone of consultation thus far, I want to assure you that EPA stands by the commitment we made in our 1984 Indian Policy to honor the unique legal and historical relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. This special government-to-government relationship only functions properly when there is mutual respect between the sovereigns involved. I have reached out to the EPA officials involved in the consultation and am confident that they in no way meant to dismiss the Tribe's concerns offhand. In fact, they expressed an appreciation for the level of sophistication with which the Tribe approached the consultation. It is my hope and belief that the upcoming consultation will be respectful and productive.

You also expressed some frustration with the lack of information that was shared with the Tribe on the text of the proposed rule prior to its publication in the Federal Register. I understand your concern; indeed, many tribes ask to see the text of proposed rules before EPA publishes them for public comment. EPA does not share the text of proposed rules with any party outside the Agency, including tribes, before signature and publication. Nonetheless, as I understand it, key aspects of the proposed rule were discussed with stakeholders including the Ute Mountain Ute prior to publication of the proposal. The initial meeting with tribes in 2010 and the quarterly stakeholder calls were meant to give tribes, and other

stakeholders, an opportunity to inform the content of the proposed rule from the very beginning of the drafting process.

Finally, I encourage you and the tribal members to review the public rulemaking docket, as responses to the Tribe's comments will be published there and will likely provide the basis for the upcoming consultation. *See* http://www.epa.gov/radiation/neshaps/subpartw/rulemaking-activity.html.

I have spoken to Robert Ward, the Regional Counsel in Region 8, as well as EPA staff in the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response about the events that gave rise to the Tribe's concerns and about opportunities for improved engagement with the Tribe in the future.<sup>1</sup>

There are two upcoming regulatory actions where the Tribe might get meaningfully involved. The first is the Chloroform Groundwater Corrective Action Plan that will require coordination between the Tribe and the Utah DEQ. To the extent that EPA is involved with that developing conversation, my colleagues in EPA Region 8 will be happy to coordinate with the Tribe. The second is the pending review of the "acceptability determination" for the White Mesa Mill as a recipient of CERCLA waste under the "Off-Site Rule." *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 300.440.

I appreciate your making the effort, on relatively short notice, to make the trip to Washington to inform me of the Tribe's specific concerns about the process of tribal consultation and the substance of the Subpart W rulemaking. I take seriously my commitment to working side-by-side with you, and your colleagues who serve as tribal counsel, to engage respectfully, openly, and honestly on matters of mutual interest. As for the matter at hand, I hope that I have addressed in some fashion the concerns you raised and that the upcoming consultation proves more useful to the Tribe. Should you have further questions on the subjects addressed here, or any others, I encourage you to contact Robert Ward in Region 8 or Carol Ann Siciliano, who is the Associate General Counsel of the Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office here at headquarters. Contact information for both of them is provided below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the listening session, you mentioned the upcoming revisions to the Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium In Situ Leaching Processing Facilities at 40 C.F.R. Part 192. EPA officials from both the Region and the Office of Air and Radiation would be happy to discuss this rulemaking with you and hold a consultation at an appropriate point in time. However, I have been told that the White Mesa Mill is not an in situ recovery (ISR) facility and therefore may not be affected by the proposed revisions.

I sincerely hope that we are able to forge a strong and respectful relationship going forward. To that end, I look forward to more opportunities to engage with you and other tribal counsel.

Sincerely,

Avi S. Garbow General Counsel

cc: Robert Ward, Region 8
Alfreda Mitre, Region 8
Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
Pat Childers, OAR

**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 6:43 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

From: Jackson, Scott

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 2:14 PM

To: Rosnick, Reid

Subject: RE: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Thanks, Reid.

\_\_\_\_\_

Scott Jackson, Unit Chief Indoor Air, Toxics and Transportation Unit U.S. EPA Region 8 1595 Wynkoop Street (8P-AR) Denver, CO 80202-1129

Deliver, CO 00202 112.

(303) 312-6107

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 5:38 AM

To: Jackson, Scott

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Scott,

FYI, a letter to the UTE Mountain Ute from the Office of General Counsel.

Reid

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:19 PM

To: Rosnick, Reid

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Just realized Jed isn't in. Can you make sure this makes the rounds to appropriate ORIA staff.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:58 AM

To: Harrison, Jed

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hey Jed

Can you circulate this with all the right radiation folks, Im afraid III forget someone.

From: Moffa, Anthony

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:55 PM **To:** Siciliano, CarolAnn; Ward, W. Robert

Cc: Childers, Pat; Mitre, Alfreda

Subject: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hello All,

As an **FYI**, I am attaching the correspondence from Avi to the counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in regards to her questions/concerns from the tribal attorney listening session. The letter was mailed to her in hard copy yesterday. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Anthony

## **Anthony Moffa**

Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office Civil Rights and Finance Law Office

Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-1087

Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain deliberative, attorney-client, or otherwise privileged material. Do not release this message under FOLA without appropriate review. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.



**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel **Attachments:** GC Correspondence with UMU 3 16 15.pdf

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 6:43 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:19 PM

To: Rosnick, Reid

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Just realized Jed isn't in. Can you make sure this makes the rounds to appropriate ORIA staff.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:58 AM

To: Harrison, Jed

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

### Hey Jed

Can you circulate this with all the right radiation folks, Im afraid III forget someone.

From: Moffa, Anthony

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:55 PM **To:** Siciliano, CarolAnn; Ward, W. Robert

Cc: Childers, Pat; Mitre, Alfreda

Subject: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hello All,

As an **FYI**, I am attaching the correspondence from Avi to the counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in regards to her questions/concerns from the tribal attorney listening session. The letter was mailed to her in hard copy yesterday. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Anthony

## Anthony Moffa

Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office Civil Rights and Finance Law Office

### Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-1087

Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain deliberative, attorney-client, or otherwise privileged material. Do not release this message under FOLA without appropriate review. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.



Please consider the environment before printing this email.

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Washington, D.C. 20460

THATED STATES

Office of General Counsel

MAR 1 3 2015

Celene Hawkins
Associate General Counsel
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
125 W. Mike Wash Road Tribal Complex
Towaoc, CO 81334

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Washington at the Office of General Counsel's (OGC) inaugural tribal attorney listening session at EPA. I was excited to participate in this new opportunity to engage with you and other tribal attorneys in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This type of lawyer-to-lawyer engagement between tribes and the Agency attorneys working on the very same issues is critical to the success of our clients. As you heard me express there, and perhaps on prior occasions, I firmly believe that we, as Agency attorneys, need to nurture our partnerships, particularly with co-regulators, to explore and support our shared interests and responsibilities to protect public health and the environment. With respect to the protection of human health and the environment in Indian country, that means meeting with tribal attorneys and tribal leaders and looking to you for guidance on how to ensure that our laws and regulations work for your tribes and tribal communities. I am grateful that you took the time to actively participate in the listening session and provide just that type of guidance. It is in response to the concerns you raised there that I now write.

At the listening session, you raised concerns on behalf of your Tribe regarding the potential impact of an ongoing rulemaking. EPA recently proposed to revise Subpart W National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant (NESHAP), 40 C.F.R. Parts 61.250-256, which regulates the emission of radon-222 from uranium mills and their associated tailings. It is my understanding that due to the presence of a uranium mill approximately three miles from tribal lands (the White Mesa Mill facility), the Ute Mountain Ute engaged with the EPA staff working on this proposed rulemaking, both formally and informally. The concerns you raised

at the listening session related to both the substance and the process of those past consultations.

As you are probably aware, Administrator McCarthy just recently received a letter from Chairman Heart requesting a second formal consultation on the Subpart W rulemaking. I understand that the Office of Air and Radiation staff spoke with Tribal members, including Scott Clow (the Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Director) and the Tribal Air Programs staff, in regard to the consultation request. Moving forward, EPA staff will coordinate with the Tribe on scheduling the second consultation at a time that will be most productive for all involved. Mike Flynn, the Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, has sent a letter to Chairman Heart communicating that agreed-upon plan of action. My staff in OGC will monitor the developments on this upcoming consultation to ensure that EPA continues to conform to its consultation policy. See EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (2011), <a href="http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf</a>. I expect that the discussion at the upcoming consultation will address any remaining substantive concerns the Tribe may have with the Subpart W rulemaking.

With respect to the process concerns you articulated, particularly the Tribe's displeasure with the tone of consultation thus far, I want to assure you that EPA stands by the commitment we made in our 1984 Indian Policy to honor the unique legal and historical relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. This special government-to-government relationship only functions properly when there is mutual respect between the sovereigns involved. I have reached out to the EPA officials involved in the consultation and am confident that they in no way meant to dismiss the Tribe's concerns offhand. In fact, they expressed an appreciation for the level of sophistication with which the Tribe approached the consultation. It is my hope and belief that the upcoming consultation will be respectful and productive.

You also expressed some frustration with the lack of information that was shared with the Tribe on the text of the proposed rule prior to its publication in the Federal Register. I understand your concern; indeed, many tribes ask to see the text of proposed rules before EPA publishes them for public comment. EPA does not share the text of proposed rules with any party outside the Agency, including tribes, before signature and publication. Nonetheless, as I understand it, key aspects of the proposed rule were discussed with stakeholders including the Ute Mountain Ute prior to publication of the proposal. The initial meeting with tribes in 2010 and the quarterly stakeholder calls were meant to give tribes, and other

stakeholders, an opportunity to inform the content of the proposed rule from the very beginning of the drafting process.

Finally, I encourage you and the tribal members to review the public rulemaking docket, as responses to the Tribe's comments will be published there and will likely provide the basis for the upcoming consultation. *See* http://www.epa.gov/radiation/neshaps/subpartw/rulemaking-activity.html.

I have spoken to Robert Ward, the Regional Counsel in Region 8, as well as EPA staff in the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response about the events that gave rise to the Tribe's concerns and about opportunities for improved engagement with the Tribe in the future.<sup>1</sup>

There are two upcoming regulatory actions where the Tribe might get meaningfully involved. The first is the Chloroform Groundwater Corrective Action Plan that will require coordination between the Tribe and the Utah DEQ. To the extent that EPA is involved with that developing conversation, my colleagues in EPA Region 8 will be happy to coordinate with the Tribe. The second is the pending review of the "acceptability determination" for the White Mesa Mill as a recipient of CERCLA waste under the "Off-Site Rule." *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 300.440.

I appreciate your making the effort, on relatively short notice, to make the trip to Washington to inform me of the Tribe's specific concerns about the process of tribal consultation and the substance of the Subpart W rulemaking. I take seriously my commitment to working side-by-side with you, and your colleagues who serve as tribal counsel, to engage respectfully, openly, and honestly on matters of mutual interest. As for the matter at hand, I hope that I have addressed in some fashion the concerns you raised and that the upcoming consultation proves more useful to the Tribe. Should you have further questions on the subjects addressed here, or any others, I encourage you to contact Robert Ward in Region 8 or Carol Ann Siciliano, who is the Associate General Counsel of the Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office here at headquarters. Contact information for both of them is provided below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the listening session, you mentioned the upcoming revisions to the Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium In Situ Leaching Processing Facilities at 40 C.F.R. Part 192. EPA officials from both the Region and the Office of Air and Radiation would be happy to discuss this rulemaking with you and hold a consultation at an appropriate point in time. However, I have been told that the White Mesa Mill is not an in situ recovery (ISR) facility and therefore may not be affected by the proposed revisions.

I sincerely hope that we are able to forge a strong and respectful relationship going forward. To that end, I look forward to more opportunities to engage with you and other tribal counsel.

Sincerely,

Avi S. Garbow General Counsel

cc: Robert Ward, Region 8
Alfreda Mitre, Region 8
Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
Pat Childers, OAR

**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: CMS Control Closed - Barbara Matthews - AX-15-000-4505

**Attachments:** AX-15-000-4505 Final Response Manuel Heart.pdf

\_\_\_\_\_

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 6:44 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: CMS Control Closed - Barbara Matthews - AX-15-000-4505

----Original Message-----From: Gillam, Connie

Sent: Tuesday, March 10, 2015 10:15 AM

To: Rosnick, Reid Cc: Ferguson, Rafaela

Subject: FW: CMS Control Closed - Barbara Matthews - AX-15-000-4505

Good morning, Reid.

I am forwarding the message below in response to your question about whether or not Janet signed the Ute Mountain Ute response. I am also attaching a copy of the final.

-----Original Message-----

From: cmsadmin@epa.gov [mailto:cmsadmin@epa.gov]

Sent: Wednesday, March 04, 2015 11:49 AM

To: Painter, Michele; Labbe, Ken; Gillam, Connie; Matthews, Barbara Subject: CMS Control Closed - Barbara Matthews - AX-15-000-4505

This is a notification that control AX-15-000-4505 was closed on 3/4/15 11:49 AM. No further action is required on your part. Please go to the CMS webpage to view the details of the control.

Summary Information -

Control Number: AX-15-000-4505

Control Subject: DRF - Daily Reading File - Second Governnient-to-Government Consultation between EPA and the Ute Mountain tlte Tribe, Rulemaking Activity 40 C.F.R. Part 61, Subpart W

From: Heart, Manuel

Note: This Email was automatically generated. Please do not attempt to respond to it. You can access this control at https://cms.epa.gov/cms. Questions or comments concerning CMS should be directed to CMS Support at 202-564-4985 or CMS Information@epa.gov.



## UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY WASHINGTON, D.C. 20460

OFFICE OF AIR AND RADIATION

MAR 4 2015

Mr. Manuel Heart Chairman Ute Mountain Ute Tribe P.O. Box 248 Towaoc, Colorado 81334-0248

Dear Chairman Heart:

Thank you for your letter to Administrator McCarthy of January 13, 2015, discussing the possibility of a second consultation regarding the proposed National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants (NESHAP) Subpart W regulation. The Administrator has asked that I respond on her behalf.

On January 30, 2015, staff from my office and the Office of General Counsel held a conference call with Mr. Scott Clow and members of the Tribal Air Programs staff. They discussed a number of issues, among them the best time for a second consultation between the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and the Tribe. We understand your desire to have the EPA respond to your public comments on the proposal, including the questions you submitted prior to the July 2014 consultation. We are happy to discuss your comments and questions in further meetings prior to and/or after publication of the final rule. However, while we can discuss your comments with you, we will be unable to provide you with a final resolution on them until after the final rule has been published. As EPA staff discussed with Mr. Clow and members of his staff on our January 30 call, the Agency received numerous comments from other entities on the same issues raised by the Tribe, and we are currently evaluating all of these comments and the information provided in them as we develop a final rule.

We value the input from the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe, and will work with your staff to identify a convenient time for a follow-up meeting. We will continue to work through Mr. Clow; please have your staff contact Reid Rosnick at 202-343-9563 or <a href="mailto:rosnick.reid@epa.gov">rosnick.reid@epa.gov</a> for comments or questions.

Sincerely,

Janet G. McCabe

1-08. De la

Acting Assistant Administrator

**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel **Attachments:** GC Correspondence with UMU 3 16 15.pdf

From: Stahle, Susan

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 9:47 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Susan Stahle
Attorney-Advisor
Air and Radiation Law Office
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-1272 (ph)

202-564-12/2 (ph) 202-564-5603 (fax stahle.susan@epa.gov

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:25 AM

To: Edwards, Jonathan; Perrin, Alan; Peake, Tom; Schultheisz, Daniel

**Cc:** Ferguson, Rafaela; Cherepy, Andrea; Stahle, Susan **Subject:** FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

FYI, OGC Correspondence with Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:19 PM

To: Rosnick, Reid

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Just realized Jed isn't in. Can you make sure this makes the rounds to appropriate ORIA staff.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:58 AM

To: Harrison, Jed

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hey Jed

### Can you circulate this with all the right radiation folks, Im afraid III forget someone.

From: Moffa, Anthony

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:55 PM **To:** Siciliano, CarolAnn; Ward, W. Robert

Cc: Childers, Pat; Mitre, Alfreda

Subject: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hello All,

As an **FYI**, I am attaching the correspondence from Avi to the counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in regards to her questions/concerns from the tribal attorney listening session. The letter was mailed to her in hard copy yesterday. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Anthony

## **Anthony Moffa**

Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office Civil Rights and Finance Law Office

Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-1087

Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain deliberative, attorney-client, or otherwise privileged material. Do not release this message under FOLA without appropriate review. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.



# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Washington, D.C. 20460

THATED STATES

Office of General Counsel

MAR 1 3 2015

Celene Hawkins
Associate General Counsel
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
125 W. Mike Wash Road Tribal Complex
Towaoc, CO 81334

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Washington at the Office of General Counsel's (OGC) inaugural tribal attorney listening session at EPA. I was excited to participate in this new opportunity to engage with you and other tribal attorneys in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This type of lawyer-to-lawyer engagement between tribes and the Agency attorneys working on the very same issues is critical to the success of our clients. As you heard me express there, and perhaps on prior occasions, I firmly believe that we, as Agency attorneys, need to nurture our partnerships, particularly with co-regulators, to explore and support our shared interests and responsibilities to protect public health and the environment. With respect to the protection of human health and the environment in Indian country, that means meeting with tribal attorneys and tribal leaders and looking to you for guidance on how to ensure that our laws and regulations work for your tribes and tribal communities. I am grateful that you took the time to actively participate in the listening session and provide just that type of guidance. It is in response to the concerns you raised there that I now write.

At the listening session, you raised concerns on behalf of your Tribe regarding the potential impact of an ongoing rulemaking. EPA recently proposed to revise Subpart W National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant (NESHAP), 40 C.F.R. Parts 61.250-256, which regulates the emission of radon-222 from uranium mills and their associated tailings. It is my understanding that due to the presence of a uranium mill approximately three miles from tribal lands (the White Mesa Mill facility), the Ute Mountain Ute engaged with the EPA staff working on this proposed rulemaking, both formally and informally. The concerns you raised

at the listening session related to both the substance and the process of those past consultations.

As you are probably aware, Administrator McCarthy just recently received a letter from Chairman Heart requesting a second formal consultation on the Subpart W rulemaking. I understand that the Office of Air and Radiation staff spoke with Tribal members, including Scott Clow (the Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Director) and the Tribal Air Programs staff, in regard to the consultation request. Moving forward, EPA staff will coordinate with the Tribe on scheduling the second consultation at a time that will be most productive for all involved. Mike Flynn, the Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, has sent a letter to Chairman Heart communicating that agreed-upon plan of action. My staff in OGC will monitor the developments on this upcoming consultation to ensure that EPA continues to conform to its consultation policy. See EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (2011), <a href="http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf</a>. I expect that the discussion at the upcoming consultation will address any remaining substantive concerns the Tribe may have with the Subpart W rulemaking.

With respect to the process concerns you articulated, particularly the Tribe's displeasure with the tone of consultation thus far, I want to assure you that EPA stands by the commitment we made in our 1984 Indian Policy to honor the unique legal and historical relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. This special government-to-government relationship only functions properly when there is mutual respect between the sovereigns involved. I have reached out to the EPA officials involved in the consultation and am confident that they in no way meant to dismiss the Tribe's concerns offhand. In fact, they expressed an appreciation for the level of sophistication with which the Tribe approached the consultation. It is my hope and belief that the upcoming consultation will be respectful and productive.

You also expressed some frustration with the lack of information that was shared with the Tribe on the text of the proposed rule prior to its publication in the Federal Register. I understand your concern; indeed, many tribes ask to see the text of proposed rules before EPA publishes them for public comment. EPA does not share the text of proposed rules with any party outside the Agency, including tribes, before signature and publication. Nonetheless, as I understand it, key aspects of the proposed rule were discussed with stakeholders including the Ute Mountain Ute prior to publication of the proposal. The initial meeting with tribes in 2010 and the quarterly stakeholder calls were meant to give tribes, and other

stakeholders, an opportunity to inform the content of the proposed rule from the very beginning of the drafting process.

Finally, I encourage you and the tribal members to review the public rulemaking docket, as responses to the Tribe's comments will be published there and will likely provide the basis for the upcoming consultation. *See* http://www.epa.gov/radiation/neshaps/subpartw/rulemaking-activity.html.

I have spoken to Robert Ward, the Regional Counsel in Region 8, as well as EPA staff in the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response about the events that gave rise to the Tribe's concerns and about opportunities for improved engagement with the Tribe in the future.<sup>1</sup>

There are two upcoming regulatory actions where the Tribe might get meaningfully involved. The first is the Chloroform Groundwater Corrective Action Plan that will require coordination between the Tribe and the Utah DEQ. To the extent that EPA is involved with that developing conversation, my colleagues in EPA Region 8 will be happy to coordinate with the Tribe. The second is the pending review of the "acceptability determination" for the White Mesa Mill as a recipient of CERCLA waste under the "Off-Site Rule." *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 300.440.

I appreciate your making the effort, on relatively short notice, to make the trip to Washington to inform me of the Tribe's specific concerns about the process of tribal consultation and the substance of the Subpart W rulemaking. I take seriously my commitment to working side-by-side with you, and your colleagues who serve as tribal counsel, to engage respectfully, openly, and honestly on matters of mutual interest. As for the matter at hand, I hope that I have addressed in some fashion the concerns you raised and that the upcoming consultation proves more useful to the Tribe. Should you have further questions on the subjects addressed here, or any others, I encourage you to contact Robert Ward in Region 8 or Carol Ann Siciliano, who is the Associate General Counsel of the Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office here at headquarters. Contact information for both of them is provided below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the listening session, you mentioned the upcoming revisions to the Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium In Situ Leaching Processing Facilities at 40 C.F.R. Part 192. EPA officials from both the Region and the Office of Air and Radiation would be happy to discuss this rulemaking with you and hold a consultation at an appropriate point in time. However, I have been told that the White Mesa Mill is not an in situ recovery (ISR) facility and therefore may not be affected by the proposed revisions.

I sincerely hope that we are able to forge a strong and respectful relationship going forward. To that end, I look forward to more opportunities to engage with you and other tribal counsel.

Sincerely,

Avi S. Garbow General Counsel

cc: Robert Ward, Region 8
Alfreda Mitre, Region 8
Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
Pat Childers, OAR

**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel **Attachments:** GC Correspondence with UMU 3 16 15.pdf

From: Stahle, Susan

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 9:51 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Susan Stahle
Attorney-Advisor
Air and Radiation Law Office
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-1272 (ph)
202-564-5603 (fax)
stahle.susan@epa.gov

From: Stahle, Susan

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 12:53 PM

To: Rodman, Sonja

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

FYI. I did not have any involvement in this letter, just saw it today. I understand from ORIA that they are very pleased with it and would like us to convey to Avi their appreciation for him standing behind them on their efforts on this proposal, particularly the explanation regarding not providing tribes a copy of the proposal prior to its publication.

Susan Stahle
Attorney-Advisor
Air and Radiation Law Office
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-1272 (ph)
202-564-5603 (fax)

stahle.susan@epa.gov

From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:25 AM

To: Edwards, Jonathan; Perrin, Alan; Peake, Tom; Schultheisz, Daniel

Cc: Ferguson, Rafaela; Cherepy, Andrea; Stahle, Susan

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

FYI, OGC Correspondence with Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:19 PM

To: Rosnick, Reid

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Just realized Jed isn't in. Can you make sure this makes the rounds to appropriate ORIA staff.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:58 AM

To: Harrison, Jed

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hey Jed

Can you circulate this with all the right radiation folks, Im afraid III forget someone.

From: Moffa, Anthony

**Sent:** Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:55 PM **To:** Siciliano, CarolAnn; Ward, W. Robert

Cc: Childers, Pat; Mitre, Alfreda

Subject: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hello All,

As an **FYI**, I am attaching the correspondence from Avi to the counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in regards to her questions/concerns from the tribal attorney listening session. The letter was mailed to her in hard copy yesterday. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks,

Anthony

#### Anthony Moffa

Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office Civil Rights and Finance Law Office

Office of General Counsel

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency

(202) 564-1087

Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain deliberative, attorney-client, or otherwise privileged material. Do not release this message under FOLA without appropriate review. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.



# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Washington, D.C. 20460

THATED STATES

Office of General Counsel

MAR 1 3 2015

Celene Hawkins
Associate General Counsel
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
125 W. Mike Wash Road Tribal Complex
Towaoc, CO 81334

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Washington at the Office of General Counsel's (OGC) inaugural tribal attorney listening session at EPA. I was excited to participate in this new opportunity to engage with you and other tribal attorneys in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This type of lawyer-to-lawyer engagement between tribes and the Agency attorneys working on the very same issues is critical to the success of our clients. As you heard me express there, and perhaps on prior occasions, I firmly believe that we, as Agency attorneys, need to nurture our partnerships, particularly with co-regulators, to explore and support our shared interests and responsibilities to protect public health and the environment. With respect to the protection of human health and the environment in Indian country, that means meeting with tribal attorneys and tribal leaders and looking to you for guidance on how to ensure that our laws and regulations work for your tribes and tribal communities. I am grateful that you took the time to actively participate in the listening session and provide just that type of guidance. It is in response to the concerns you raised there that I now write.

At the listening session, you raised concerns on behalf of your Tribe regarding the potential impact of an ongoing rulemaking. EPA recently proposed to revise Subpart W National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant (NESHAP), 40 C.F.R. Parts 61.250-256, which regulates the emission of radon-222 from uranium mills and their associated tailings. It is my understanding that due to the presence of a uranium mill approximately three miles from tribal lands (the White Mesa Mill facility), the Ute Mountain Ute engaged with the EPA staff working on this proposed rulemaking, both formally and informally. The concerns you raised

at the listening session related to both the substance and the process of those past consultations.

As you are probably aware, Administrator McCarthy just recently received a letter from Chairman Heart requesting a second formal consultation on the Subpart W rulemaking. I understand that the Office of Air and Radiation staff spoke with Tribal members, including Scott Clow (the Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Director) and the Tribal Air Programs staff, in regard to the consultation request. Moving forward, EPA staff will coordinate with the Tribe on scheduling the second consultation at a time that will be most productive for all involved. Mike Flynn, the Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, has sent a letter to Chairman Heart communicating that agreed-upon plan of action. My staff in OGC will monitor the developments on this upcoming consultation to ensure that EPA continues to conform to its consultation policy. See EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (2011), <a href="http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf</a>. I expect that the discussion at the upcoming consultation will address any remaining substantive concerns the Tribe may have with the Subpart W rulemaking.

With respect to the process concerns you articulated, particularly the Tribe's displeasure with the tone of consultation thus far, I want to assure you that EPA stands by the commitment we made in our 1984 Indian Policy to honor the unique legal and historical relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. This special government-to-government relationship only functions properly when there is mutual respect between the sovereigns involved. I have reached out to the EPA officials involved in the consultation and am confident that they in no way meant to dismiss the Tribe's concerns offhand. In fact, they expressed an appreciation for the level of sophistication with which the Tribe approached the consultation. It is my hope and belief that the upcoming consultation will be respectful and productive.

You also expressed some frustration with the lack of information that was shared with the Tribe on the text of the proposed rule prior to its publication in the Federal Register. I understand your concern; indeed, many tribes ask to see the text of proposed rules before EPA publishes them for public comment. EPA does not share the text of proposed rules with any party outside the Agency, including tribes, before signature and publication. Nonetheless, as I understand it, key aspects of the proposed rule were discussed with stakeholders including the Ute Mountain Ute prior to publication of the proposal. The initial meeting with tribes in 2010 and the quarterly stakeholder calls were meant to give tribes, and other

stakeholders, an opportunity to inform the content of the proposed rule from the very beginning of the drafting process.

Finally, I encourage you and the tribal members to review the public rulemaking docket, as responses to the Tribe's comments will be published there and will likely provide the basis for the upcoming consultation. *See* http://www.epa.gov/radiation/neshaps/subpartw/rulemaking-activity.html.

I have spoken to Robert Ward, the Regional Counsel in Region 8, as well as EPA staff in the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response about the events that gave rise to the Tribe's concerns and about opportunities for improved engagement with the Tribe in the future.<sup>1</sup>

There are two upcoming regulatory actions where the Tribe might get meaningfully involved. The first is the Chloroform Groundwater Corrective Action Plan that will require coordination between the Tribe and the Utah DEQ. To the extent that EPA is involved with that developing conversation, my colleagues in EPA Region 8 will be happy to coordinate with the Tribe. The second is the pending review of the "acceptability determination" for the White Mesa Mill as a recipient of CERCLA waste under the "Off-Site Rule." *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 300.440.

I appreciate your making the effort, on relatively short notice, to make the trip to Washington to inform me of the Tribe's specific concerns about the process of tribal consultation and the substance of the Subpart W rulemaking. I take seriously my commitment to working side-by-side with you, and your colleagues who serve as tribal counsel, to engage respectfully, openly, and honestly on matters of mutual interest. As for the matter at hand, I hope that I have addressed in some fashion the concerns you raised and that the upcoming consultation proves more useful to the Tribe. Should you have further questions on the subjects addressed here, or any others, I encourage you to contact Robert Ward in Region 8 or Carol Ann Siciliano, who is the Associate General Counsel of the Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office here at headquarters. Contact information for both of them is provided below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the listening session, you mentioned the upcoming revisions to the Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium In Situ Leaching Processing Facilities at 40 C.F.R. Part 192. EPA officials from both the Region and the Office of Air and Radiation would be happy to discuss this rulemaking with you and hold a consultation at an appropriate point in time. However, I have been told that the White Mesa Mill is not an in situ recovery (ISR) facility and therefore may not be affected by the proposed revisions.

I sincerely hope that we are able to forge a strong and respectful relationship going forward. To that end, I look forward to more opportunities to engage with you and other tribal counsel.

Sincerely,

Avi S. Garbow General Counsel

cc: Robert Ward, Region 8
Alfreda Mitre, Region 8
Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
Pat Childers, OAR

**From:** Thornton, Marisa on behalf of Collections.SubW

**Sent:** Thursday, May 21, 2015 8:24 AM

**To:** Thornton, Marisa

**Subject:** Fw: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

**Attachments:** GC Correspondence with UMU 3 16 15.pdf; ATT00001.htm

From: Stahle, Susan

Sent: Thursday, April 2, 2015 9:51 AM

To: Collections.SubW

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Susan Stahle
Attorney-Advisor
Air and Radiation Law Office
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
202-564-1272 (ph)
202-564-5603 (fax)
stahle.susan@epa.gov

From: Rodman, Sonja

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 2:03 PM

To: Stahle, Susan

Subject: Fwd: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Thanks for forwarding. I had no idea this was in the works.

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: "Stahle, Susan" < Stahle.Susan@epa.gov>
To: "Rodman, Sonja" < Rodman.Sonja@epa.gov>
Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

FYI. I did not have any involvement in this letter, just saw it today. I understand from ORIA that they are very pleased with it and would like us to convey to Avi their appreciation for him standing behind them on their efforts on this proposal, particularly the explanation regarding not providing tribes a copy of the proposal prior to its publication.

Susan Stahle Attorney-Advisor Air and Radiation Law Office Office of General Counsel U.S. Environmental Protection Agency



From: Rosnick, Reid

Sent: Thursday, March 19, 2015 6:25 AM

To: Edwards, Jonathan; Perrin, Alan; Peake, Tom; Schultheisz, Daniel

Cc: Ferguson, Rafaela; Cherepy, Andrea; Stahle, Susan Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

FYI, OGC Correspondence with Ute Mountain Ute Tribe.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 3:19 PM

To: Rosnick, Reid

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Just realized Jed isn't in. Can you make sure this makes the rounds to appropriate ORIA staff.

From: Childers, Pat

Sent: Wednesday, March 18, 2015 11:58 AM

To: Harrison, Jed

Subject: FW: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hey Jed

Can you circulate this with all the right radiation folks, Im afraid Ill forget someone.

From: Moffa, Anthony

Sent: Tuesday, March 17, 2015 5:55 PM To: Siciliano, CarolAnn; Ward, W. Robert

Cc: Childers, Pat; Mitre, Alfreda

Subject: GC's Letter to UMU Tribal Counsel

Hello All,

As an FYI, I am attaching the correspondence from Avi to the counsel for the Ute Mountain Ute tribe in regards to her questions/concerns from the tribal attorney listening session. The letter was mailed to her in hard copy yesterday. I am happy to answer any questions you may have.

Thanks.

Anthony

Anthony Moffa Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office Civil Rights and Finance Law Office
Office of General Counsel
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
(202) 564-1087

Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov<mailto:Moffa.Anthony@epa.gov>

CONFIDENTIALITY NOTICE: This message may contain deliberative, attorney-client, or otherwise privileged material. Do not release this message under FOIA without appropriate review. If you are not the intended recipient, or the employee or agent responsible to deliver it to the intended recipient, please contact the sender and delete all copies.

P Please consider the environment before printing this email.

# UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY Washington, D.C. 20460

THATED STATES

Office of General Counsel

MAR 1 3 2015

Celene Hawkins
Associate General Counsel
Ute Mountain Ute Tribe
125 W. Mike Wash Road Tribal Complex
Towaoc, CO 81334

Dear Ms. Hawkins:

It was a pleasure to meet you in Washington at the Office of General Counsel's (OGC) inaugural tribal attorney listening session at EPA. I was excited to participate in this new opportunity to engage with you and other tribal attorneys in conjunction with the White House Tribal Nations Conference. This type of lawyer-to-lawyer engagement between tribes and the Agency attorneys working on the very same issues is critical to the success of our clients. As you heard me express there, and perhaps on prior occasions, I firmly believe that we, as Agency attorneys, need to nurture our partnerships, particularly with co-regulators, to explore and support our shared interests and responsibilities to protect public health and the environment. With respect to the protection of human health and the environment in Indian country, that means meeting with tribal attorneys and tribal leaders and looking to you for guidance on how to ensure that our laws and regulations work for your tribes and tribal communities. I am grateful that you took the time to actively participate in the listening session and provide just that type of guidance. It is in response to the concerns you raised there that I now write.

At the listening session, you raised concerns on behalf of your Tribe regarding the potential impact of an ongoing rulemaking. EPA recently proposed to revise Subpart W National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutant (NESHAP), 40 C.F.R. Parts 61.250-256, which regulates the emission of radon-222 from uranium mills and their associated tailings. It is my understanding that due to the presence of a uranium mill approximately three miles from tribal lands (the White Mesa Mill facility), the Ute Mountain Ute engaged with the EPA staff working on this proposed rulemaking, both formally and informally. The concerns you raised

at the listening session related to both the substance and the process of those past consultations.

As you are probably aware, Administrator McCarthy just recently received a letter from Chairman Heart requesting a second formal consultation on the Subpart W rulemaking. I understand that the Office of Air and Radiation staff spoke with Tribal members, including Scott Clow (the Ute Mountain Ute Environmental Director) and the Tribal Air Programs staff, in regard to the consultation request. Moving forward, EPA staff will coordinate with the Tribe on scheduling the second consultation at a time that will be most productive for all involved. Mike Flynn, the Director of the Office of Radiation and Indoor Air, has sent a letter to Chairman Heart communicating that agreed-upon plan of action. My staff in OGC will monitor the developments on this upcoming consultation to ensure that EPA continues to conform to its consultation policy. See EPA Policy on Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribes (2011), <a href="http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf">http://www.epa.gov/tp/pdf/cons-and-coord-with-indian-tribes-policy.pdf</a>. I expect that the discussion at the upcoming consultation will address any remaining substantive concerns the Tribe may have with the Subpart W rulemaking.

With respect to the process concerns you articulated, particularly the Tribe's displeasure with the tone of consultation thus far, I want to assure you that EPA stands by the commitment we made in our 1984 Indian Policy to honor the unique legal and historical relationship between the United States and Indian tribes. This special government-to-government relationship only functions properly when there is mutual respect between the sovereigns involved. I have reached out to the EPA officials involved in the consultation and am confident that they in no way meant to dismiss the Tribe's concerns offhand. In fact, they expressed an appreciation for the level of sophistication with which the Tribe approached the consultation. It is my hope and belief that the upcoming consultation will be respectful and productive.

You also expressed some frustration with the lack of information that was shared with the Tribe on the text of the proposed rule prior to its publication in the Federal Register. I understand your concern; indeed, many tribes ask to see the text of proposed rules before EPA publishes them for public comment. EPA does not share the text of proposed rules with any party outside the Agency, including tribes, before signature and publication. Nonetheless, as I understand it, key aspects of the proposed rule were discussed with stakeholders including the Ute Mountain Ute prior to publication of the proposal. The initial meeting with tribes in 2010 and the quarterly stakeholder calls were meant to give tribes, and other

stakeholders, an opportunity to inform the content of the proposed rule from the very beginning of the drafting process.

Finally, I encourage you and the tribal members to review the public rulemaking docket, as responses to the Tribe's comments will be published there and will likely provide the basis for the upcoming consultation. *See* http://www.epa.gov/radiation/neshaps/subpartw/rulemaking-activity.html.

I have spoken to Robert Ward, the Regional Counsel in Region 8, as well as EPA staff in the Office of Air and Radiation and the Office of Solid Waste and Emergency Response about the events that gave rise to the Tribe's concerns and about opportunities for improved engagement with the Tribe in the future.<sup>1</sup>

There are two upcoming regulatory actions where the Tribe might get meaningfully involved. The first is the Chloroform Groundwater Corrective Action Plan that will require coordination between the Tribe and the Utah DEQ. To the extent that EPA is involved with that developing conversation, my colleagues in EPA Region 8 will be happy to coordinate with the Tribe. The second is the pending review of the "acceptability determination" for the White Mesa Mill as a recipient of CERCLA waste under the "Off-Site Rule." *See* 40 C.F.R. Part 300.440.

I appreciate your making the effort, on relatively short notice, to make the trip to Washington to inform me of the Tribe's specific concerns about the process of tribal consultation and the substance of the Subpart W rulemaking. I take seriously my commitment to working side-by-side with you, and your colleagues who serve as tribal counsel, to engage respectfully, openly, and honestly on matters of mutual interest. As for the matter at hand, I hope that I have addressed in some fashion the concerns you raised and that the upcoming consultation proves more useful to the Tribe. Should you have further questions on the subjects addressed here, or any others, I encourage you to contact Robert Ward in Region 8 or Carol Ann Siciliano, who is the Associate General Counsel of the Cross-Cutting Issues Law Office here at headquarters. Contact information for both of them is provided below.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> At the listening session, you mentioned the upcoming revisions to the Health and Environmental Protection Standards for Uranium and Thorium Mill Tailings and Uranium In Situ Leaching Processing Facilities at 40 C.F.R. Part 192. EPA officials from both the Region and the Office of Air and Radiation would be happy to discuss this rulemaking with you and hold a consultation at an appropriate point in time. However, I have been told that the White Mesa Mill is not an in situ recovery (ISR) facility and therefore may not be affected by the proposed revisions.

I sincerely hope that we are able to forge a strong and respectful relationship going forward. To that end, I look forward to more opportunities to engage with you and other tribal counsel.

Sincerely,

Avi S. Garbow General Counsel

cc: Robert Ward, Region 8
Alfreda Mitre, Region 8
Carol Ann Siciliano, OGC
Pat Childers, OAR