Preserving America's Heritage

HUD'S TRIBAL DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE TOOL (TDAT)

Effective Section 106 consultation with Indian tribes starts with sound research into which Indian tribes have an interest in the project area. There are multiple sources for such information including certain websites such as the Native American Consultation Database (NACD) maintained by the National Park Service.[1] Other Internet sources include the Library of Congress Indian Land Cessions document Web site,[2] which has information on historic Indian land areas. The State Historic Preservation Officer may have information about which Indian tribes are ancestral to that state and other local federal agencies can identify the Indian tribes with whom they consult. [3]

Another source of information is the newly updated Tribal Directory Assistance Tool (TDAT) developed and administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development's Office of Environment and Energy (HUD). It is a web-accessible tribal contact database that contains information about the geographic areas of current and ancestral interest to federally-recognized Indian tribes. TDAT links tribes' areas of interest down to the county level and lists names and contact information for tribal leaders and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPOs) as well as links to tribal websites. Users can query the database by street address, county, state, and tribe and can send emails to tribal contacts. Information generated from TDAT can be exported in spreadsheet format for use in other programs.

TDAT was designed to help HUD's grant recipients quickly identify Indian tribes and provide contact information to initiate Section 106 consultation for HUD-assisted projects. The system does not include confidential information such as specific locations of archaeological or sacred sites. TDAT is updated periodically with information submitted by Indian tribes and is accessible on mobile devices.

Benefits:

- It is an easy to use system to find Indian tribes that should be invited to coordinate or consult on projects.

- TDAT has the capacity to email tribal contacts from the system.

- There are multiple ways to search for information about Indian tribes: by county or state; by individual tribe.

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[1] Available at http://ulpeis.anl.gov/documents/dpeis/references/pdfs/DOI_2011.pdf

[2] Available at http://www.memory.loc.gov/ammem/amlaw/lwss-ilc.html

[3] It is important to understand that the identification of Indian tribes with ancestral connections to an area is not a "one stop shopping" endeavor in which any single source can be depended upon to fulfill the agency's legal responsibilities. Agency officials should also bear in mind that while Internet sources are convenient and can be useful, their informational content may be incomplete.

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- TDAT is free and accessible online.

- It can perform a variety of queries related to Indian tribes, includes a user manual and is updated quarterly.

What it does not do:

A federal agency should not rely solely on TDAT to identify Indian tribes that should be invited to consult in the Section 106 process and should consider as well other sources of information regarding areas of tribal interest.

Using TDAT does not substitute for consultation with Indian tribes in the Section 106 process. It is one resource for identifying which Indian tribes to consult and sending an initial notification or invitation to consult.

It does not identify specific areas of concern or historic properties of religious and cultural significance to an Indian tribe. Rather, it identifies the counties within which an Indian tribe wishes to be consulted.

It is important to note that tribal information in TDAT was compiled by directly contacting Indian tribes in 2015-16. It has been updated periodically using updates submitted by individual tribes and other users of the system. The user should verify the information in TDAT and in other sources with individual Indian tribes.

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