



**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS**

Northwest Regional Office
911 NE 11th Avenue
Portland, Oregon 97232-4169

AUG 14 2015

In Reply Refer To:
NATURAL RESOURCES

Dear Sir or Madam:

Section G of Article IV of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribes of the Flathead Reservation (Tribes) Montana Water Rights Compact (Compact) that was approved by the Montana legislature and signed into law by the Governor on April 24, 2015, entitled "Implementation of Compact," provides for the creation of a Compact Implementation Technical Team (CITT). Appointments are to be made and the CITT is to be formed by October 24, 2015. Appendix 3.5 to the Compact spells out the qualifications and duties of the CITT. The Tribes, Montana, and the United States are entitled to appoint one member each. In addition, the Project Operator is a member of the CITT.

The Compact provides that all irrigators served by Flathead Indian Irrigation Project (FIIP) may select a "CITT irrigator team member." Appendix 3.5 sets forth two options for appointing an irrigator team member. Under Section 2.c.i, the irrigators may select a representative who at minimum, owns 40 acres served by the FIIP; has ten years of experience in irrigated agriculture; and is in compliance with applicable Bureau of Indian Affairs rules and guidelines for the FIIP. Alternatively, the irrigators can hire a consultant to be their technical representative on the CITT. If irrigators choose this option, the consultant must meet the qualifications of Section 2.b, which requires a bachelor's degree and three years of related experience in one or more of the following areas: water resources management, hydrology, hydrogeology, geology, environmental sciences, biological sciences, agricultural engineering, or civil engineering with an emphasis on water resources.

Please note that Section 2.c of Appendix 3.5 states that the irrigator team member “shall be selected by all irrigators served by the FIIP pursuant to a procedure of their choosing.” The Compact leaves the selection process to the irrigators. Given that the CITT will be formed by October 24, 2015, it seems prudent to remind all FIIP irrigators that they have an opportunity to make an appointment to the CITT.

This notice is for information purposes only; the BIA and FIIP management will not play a role in the selection process. The Compact and all appendices are available on the website for the Tribes at <http://www.cskt.org> and also on the Montana Department of Natural Resources and Conservation website at <http://dnrc.mt.gov/divisions/reserved-water-rights-compact-commission/confederated-salish-and-kootenai-tribes>.

Sincerely,



Northwest Regional Director

cc: Chairman Vernon Finley, CSKT
Governor Steve Bullock, State of Montana
John Tubbs, DNRC Director
Ann Yates, DNRC Counsel
Rich Janssen, CSKT NRD Director