



# United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



September 4, 2008

To: Steven Lindschied, Chief Administrative Law Judge  
Office of Hearings and Appeals

From: George T. Skibine,  
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary - Policy and Economic Development

Subject: Notification to Exercise the Authority at 25 C.F.R. § 2.20(c) and 43 C.F.R. § 4.332(b)

This memorandum will serve as notification that on August 20, 2008, I received the Notice of Appeal filed on by the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma (UKB), dated the same day. This memorandum will also serve as notification to all parties that on May 23, 2008, the Deputy Secretary delegated to me the authorities of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs, which office is currently vacant, and I will exercise my authority consistent with that delegated authority to decide this Appeal pursuant to the Code of Federal Regulations, Chapter 25, Part 2, Section 2.20(c) and Chapter 43, Part 4, Section 4.332(b).

The UKB, through its attorney, Michael Rossetti, is appealing the decision of Jeanette Hannah, Eastern Oklahoma Regional Director, dated August 6, 2008, to deny its application under 25 C.F.R. Part 151 to have the United States take certain land into trust for the benefit of the Tribe.

I certify that copies of this notice have been provided to Michael Rossetti, Attorney for the UKB; Jeanette Hannah, Eastern Oklahoma Regional Director; Jerry Gidner, Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs; and Chadwick Smith, Chief, Cherokee Nation of Oklahoma.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, contact this office at the above listed address.

Distribution List: