

Detail Opportunity – Tribal Consultation Process Review and Improvement

Office: Office of External Affairs (OEA); State, International, and Public Affairs Division (SIPAD)

Length of Detail: 6 to 12 months (180 to 360 days), with the option for an extension

Position Title: Special Adviser on Tribal Engagement and Consultation Strategy

Mid-career level: equivalent to GS 12/13

Location: Washington, DC (Temporarily Remote)

Who May Apply: Federal and state agency employees and employees of a Tribal government; This is a non-reimbursable detail and detailee's salary and benefits will continue to be paid by the home agency/organization

Description:

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (Commission) is an independent federal agency that regulates the interstate transmission of electricity, natural gas, and oil; reviews proposals to build LNG terminals and interstate natural gas pipelines; and licenses hydropower projects.

The Commission is engaging in an agency wide effort to examine and improve its Tribal consultation practices. Numerous offices across FERC are engaged in this effort including the Office of External Affairs Office of Energy Projects, Office of General Counsel, and Office of Public Participation. To steer this effort, the Commission has formed an internal working group that is responsible for examining the Commission's Tribal consultation policy and processes, identifying potential improvements, and working toward multi-office implementation of recommendations. This effort is directly related to the Chairman's prioritization of integrating environmental justice and equity considerations into FERC's decision-making processes.

We are seeking a detailee with consultation experience who can substantively contribute to the effort to improve Commission's consultation practices. The detailee is hosted by the Office of External Affairs and reports to the director of the State, International, and Public Affairs Division. Because of the collaborative nature of this effort, the detailee will work across the Commission and support numerous offices and subject matter experts, as well as the Senior Counsel for Environmental Justice and Equity in this effort.

Skills and Knowledge:

The detailee should understand Federal Indian Law, the federal trust responsibility, and tribal consultation, and be able to apply a critical lens to the interaction of these doctrines and an agency's regulatory responsibilities. The ideal candidate will have experience working on tribal consultation issues with a federal or state agency or a Tribal government. Experience developing a tribal consultation policy or internal training materials, reviewing and updating existing consultation policies and materials, or representing either federal or state or Tribal interests during consultations is highly desirable. Creative thinking and the ability to actively listen are valued.

Roles and Responsibilities:

- Critically review the agency's Tribal consultation practices, work collaboratively to develop recommendations aimed at improving the processes, and execute implementation of recommendations across multiple agency offices
- Engage with internal and external stakeholders on the Commission's consultation practices

- Develop written communications and provide verbal briefings to senior agency officials summarizing efforts and next steps
- Expand the Commission's outreach capabilities to Tribal Nations, including developing outreach materials such as newsletters, web postings, email listserves, among others