



DEPARTMENT OF THE AIR FORCE
HEADQUARTERS 28TH BOMB WING (ACC)
ELLSWORTH AIR FORCE BASE SOUTH DAKOTA

OCT 05 2011

Colonel Mark E. Weatherington
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing
1958 Scott Dr., Ste 1
Ellsworth AFB SD 57706-4710

Northern Cheyenne Tribe
Mr. Leroy Spang, President
PO Box 128
Lame Deer, MT 59043

Dear President Spang

As you know, the United States Air Force proposes to expand and enhance the existing Powder River Airspace near Ellsworth Air Force Base (AFB) SD. The proposal would create the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). The PRTC would more effectively use limited resources by providing local the realistic training needed by B-1 and B-52 aircrews flying from Ellsworth AFB SD and Minot AFB ND, respectively.

The Air Force originally contacted the Northern Cheyenne Tribe 15 Feb, 2008 regarding this undertaking. That letter from Colonel Vander Hamm announced the pending Notice of Intent, Public Scoping, and offered to open a dialog with your Tribe; that meeting took place in Lame Deer 24 Jun, 2008. After compiling scoping concerns, the Air Force adjusted the original proposal and introduced the revised proposal to your Tribal Council in a Government to Government meeting in Lame Deer on 17 Aug, 2009. On 13 Jul, 2010, Colonel Taliaferro forwarded a documentation package (dated May 2010) and requested continued consultation with the Northern Cheyenne Tribe under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and 36 CFR 800, Protection of Historic Properties. A Public Hearing was held in Lame Deer 7 Dec, 2010, as part of the ongoing Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process to meet National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requirements.

I am contacting you now to request a Government to Government Section 106 Consultation to continue dialog regarding this proposed action. I would like the opportunity to explain the revisions and hear if they have satisfied your Tribe's concerns as detailed in: The 24 Jun, 2008 Scoping Meeting; President Small's letter of 8 Sep, 2008; the 17 Aug, 2009 Government to Government meeting; the 7 Dec, 2010 Public Hearing; and your letter from 22 Dec 2010. These meetings and letters conveyed Tribal concerns over Pollution (Air, Land, Water, and Noise), Fire Danger, hazards to wildlife, effects on spiritual activities, possible economic impacts, current and future local air traffic, and risk of aircraft accidents.

I look forward to meeting you.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark E. Weatherington", written over a horizontal line.

MARK E. WEATHERINGTON, Colonel, USAF