



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

Colonel Kevin B. Kennedy
Commander, 28th Bomb Wing
1958 Scott Drive, Suite 1
Ellsworth AFB, SD 57706-4710

31 MAR 2015

Crow Tribe
Mr. Shawn Backbone, Vice Secretary
P.O. Box 159
Crow Agency MT 59022

Dear Vice Secretary Backbone

The purpose of this letter is to update you on the progress of the Powder River Training Complex (PRTC). Several events have transpired since we last spoke:

1. Perhaps most important was the implementation of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) last September. I want to relay my appreciation to the Crow Nation for signing the PRTC PA.
2. In accordance with the stipulations of the PA, I have designated Colonel Ty Neuman, my Vice Commander, as our Senior Tribal Liaison. Colonel Neuman was my choice not just due to his Vice Commander position; he will also have continuity when I am reassigned this summer, and he was born and raised in rural Montana.
3. Also stipulated in the PA is an annual request for information pertaining to any additional historic properties identified within the past year. If you or your staff have additional information, please contact Col Neuman via the contact information below.
4. On 28 Nov 2014 the Air Force released the PRTC Final Environmental Impact Statement.
5. On 16 Jan 2015 the Air Force issued its Record of Decision approving PRTC.
6. On 24 Mar 2015 the Federal Aviation Administration approved PRTC as well.

There are still important steps remaining before the Air Force can begin training within the expanded airspace. The FAA will require time to incorporate PRTC into the electronic databases as well as paper and electronic charts and publications that make up the National Airspace System. Although we do not know the precise timeline of these actions, rest assured that we will coordinate with you and your staff to officially notify you prior to the first training flight into PRTC.

If you have any questions, please contact me directly at 605-385-2801, or my senior tribal liaison, Colonel Ty Neuman, at 605-385-2801, or ty.neuman@ellsworth.af.mil.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K-BK" followed by a stylized flourish.

KEVIN B. KENNEDY, Colonel USAF

cc:
Ms. Katharine Kerr, ACHP