



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

Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe
Mr. Kevin Keckler, Chairman
P.O. Box 590
Eagle Butte, SD 57625

Dear Chairman Keckler

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

1. Perhaps most important was the implementation of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) last September. We previously discussed a letter of agreement with you and Mr. In the Woods and drafted one for initial coordination. The thought process at that time was that Ellsworth understood the Tribe preferred the No Action Alternative. However, as PRTC has come to fruition, an agreement would enhance coordination and communication between the base and the Tribe. Although the PA has been executed by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, there are stipulations which would allow the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe to enter into the PA at a later date if it so chose.
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 is my choice not just due to his Vice Commander position, he will also have continuity when I am reassigned this summer.
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


KEVIN B. KENNEDY, Colonel USAF

cc:
Ms. Katharine Kerr, ACHP