



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

March 18, 2024

Dear Tribal Leader:

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) invites you to consult on the development of the DOI Scientific Integrity Policy. Pursuant to President Biden's [Memorandum on Restoring Trust in Government Through Scientific Integrity and Evidence-Based Policymaking | The White House](#), the National Science & Technology Council (NSTC) has created new policies and procedures pertaining to scientific integrity for the whole of the Federal Government. Those new policies in turn call for each federal agency to develop its own scientific integrity policy.

As DOI prepares its own policy, we seek to engage with you to hear your concerns and understand what you would like to see included in the policy. NSTC's framework for all federal agencies is available at [A Framework for Federal Scientific Integrity Policy and Practice \(whitehouse.gov\)](#). To facilitate our consultation, enclosed are some questions for your consideration.

We will hold three consultation sessions, which will be open to all federally recognized Tribes, Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act Corporations, and Native Hawaiian Organizations. We invite you to register for one or more of the sessions listed below using the links provided.

Date	Time	Registration Link
Monday, April 22, 2024	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Eastern	Register for Session 1
Friday, April 26, 2024	2:00 pm – 4:00 pm Eastern	Register for Session 2
Tuesday, April 30, 2024	8:00 pm – 10:00 pm Eastern	Register for Session 3

You may submit written comments to DOISIPConsultation@usgs.gov. Written comments must be received by 11:59 p.m. EDT on May 31, 2024, to ensure timely consideration.

If you need further information, please contact Chris Hammond, Head of the Office of Tribal Relations at the U.S. Geological Survey, at chammond@usgs.gov or 703-648-6621.

Sincerely,

William H. Werkheiser
Scientific Integrity Officer
U.S. Department of the Interior

**Questions for Consideration
for the Consultation Sessions on the
DOI Scientific Integrity Policy**

- What, if any, issues relevant to federally recognized Tribes are not adequately addressed in the [federal policy](#) that you would like to see addressed in the DOI policy?
- How can DOI implement its scientific integrity policies and procedures in a way that is meaningful and effective for Tribes?
- What more can DOI do to promote the transparency and free flow of scientific information to Tribes?
- What concerns might Tribes have about DOI mechanisms for reporting scientific integrity violations?
- What factors should DOI include in its scientific integrity policy about Indigenous Knowledge?