



## BLACKFEET NATION

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via email: IEED@bia.edu

February 5, 2007

James E. Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary  
Department of the Interior  
Section 1813 ROW Study,  
Office of Energy and Economic Development  
1849 C. Street N.W., Mail Stop 2749  
Washington, D.C. 20240

RE: Recommendations on the Draft Report of the Energy Policy Act of 2005

Dear Mr. Cason:

This letter is written to comment on the recommendation on the Draft Report on the Energy Policy Act of 2005. The draft report is generally positive for tribes overall. Specifically, in it, the Department found no demonstrable or adverse impact on consumers or issues for handling national emergencies. However, the fact that the Departments provide a series of options for legislative action is of serious concern. This particularly is true because nothing in the draft report supports legislative action or other reform. Therefore, the Blackfeet Tribe encourages the Departments to make an overall finding that no action is needed by Congress in Section 7, Congressional Approaches to Address the Issue of the Report. In addition, the report should state that there is no problem of national concern that should be addressed, since the draft report currently fails to affirmatively state the lack of a problem and the case studies summarized in the report elude to the existence of some problems or difficulties involved in negotiating energy ROWs.

The Blackfeet Tribe recognizes that while there may be some problems there are no major problems that could not be handled by tribes, the industry, and the Departments. In fact the Blackfeet Tribe has recently completed three IMDAs, all of which require right of ways from either tribal members or the Tribe. In addition, Glacier Electric has had to move its line because of new road construction on Highway 2 without or with very little problem. The report sets forth facts which indicates that this is the same result on other reservations. The Blackfeet Tribe knows the current system works.

**James E. Cason, Associate Deputy Secretary – Office of Energy and Economic  
Development**

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In general, the study affirms the major message points that the tribes encouraged in the comment process. Although the study is not perfect, it does embrace some of the issues put forth by the tribes and is generally more favorable for tribes than it is for El Paso and the industry.

Sincerely,



Roger Running Crane – Vice-Chairman  
Blackfeet Tribal Business Council

RRC/eko