



NOV 22 2017

Dear Tribal Leader:

Many of you have shared with me your concerns about sanitation facilities project needs for Indian Tribes and communities. Next Spring, in 2018, the Indian Health Service (IHS) will initiate a Tribal Consultation on our *Working Draft Sanitation Deficiency System- Guide for Reporting Sanitation Deficiencies for Indian Homes and Communities* (SDS Guide). The last formal update of this working draft document was May 2003.

While the Agency has engaged Tribes on the SDS Guide in a variety of forums since the working draft was released, it is timely to conduct a formal review now as the update of the SDS Guide is finalized. As you are aware, the IHS uses the SDS Guide and data gathered from Tribes to submit an annual report to Congress in accordance with the Indian Health Care Improvement Act. The IHS *Annual Report to the Congress of the United States on Sanitation Deficiency Levels for Indian Homes and Communities*, catalogues sanitation deficiency levels for each sanitation facilities project of each Indian Tribe or community.

**Please watch for updates on the SDS Guide Tribal Consultation in early 2018.**

If you have any questions, please contact RADM Mark Calkins, Director, Division of Sanitation Facilities Construction, IHS, by telephone at (301) 443-1046 or by e-mail at [mark.calkins@ihs.gov](mailto:mark.calkins@ihs.gov).

Sincerely,

/Michael D. Weahkee/

RADM Michael D. Weahkee, MBA, MHSA  
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