

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA**

ELOUISE PEPION COBELL, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Plaintiffs,)	
)	
v.)	Civil Action No.
)	1:96CV01285 (TFH)
)	
SALLY JEWELL, Secretary of the Interior, <i>et al.</i> ,)	
)	
Defendants.)	
)	

**PLAINTIFFS’ STATUS REPORT REGARDING PROGRESS ON
EFFORTS TO COMMENCE TRUST ADMINISTRATION CLASS PAYMENTS**

Plaintiffs, through Class Counsel, provide this Status Report regarding the efforts that have been undertaken to commence the Trust Administration Class payments pursuant to this Court’s order of May 28, 2014 [Dkt. No. 4044], allowing distribution of those payments prior to expiration of pending appeals.

1. As Plaintiffs set forth in their motion to permit commencement of the Trust Administration Class payments [Dkt. No. 4043 at ¶ 7], and confirmed at the Status Conference on May 30, 2014, the Department of Interior (“Interior”) and its consultants had identified a problem with the March 2014 land records update which affected the eligibility of thousands of potential Trust Administration Class members. Interior anticipated that it would require approximately 30 days to correct the issue with its land records and verify the accuracy of the information.

2. Accordingly, assuming the land records were corrected within the time frame identified by Interior, it was estimated it would take approximately sixty to ninety days from the

date of the Status Conference before distributions commenced. This estimate was based on Interior correcting the land records and finalizing the calculations of the amounts due each of the Trust Administration Class members within approximately one and one-half months. As of the Status Conference on May 30, 2014, this would have put Interior's furnishing of the distribution data information to the Garden City Group ("Garden City"), the Claims Administrator, in the second half of July. Upon receipt of the calculations from Interior, Garden City is able to commence distribution of the settlement checks to the Trust Administration Class within two to three weeks. Accordingly, at the time of the Status Conference, it appeared that the distributions would commence in August following further approval by the Court.

3. During the month of June, however, Plaintiffs became increasingly concerned about Interior's progress in addressing the land records issue and requested a status conference with the Special Master, the Honorable Richard Levie (ret.), which was held on Monday June 23, 2014. Judge Levie continued to hold status conferences to monitor Interior's progress on June 25, June 27 and July 11, 2014.

4. Based on the most recent information provided by Interior, Interior reports it has corrected all land records information with the exception of 17 land tracts that affect approximately 200 landowners. Interior has discussed segregating the 17 tracts and providing the information regarding those land interests at a later date, but because the information is so interconnected Interior believes that would be more difficult and time consuming than correcting the issue now. Based on the status conference with the Special Master on Friday, July 11, 2014, Interior now expects to provide the distribution calculations to Garden City no later than August 30, 2014. Garden City will be able to make the Trust Administration Class distribution within

two to three weeks after receipt of data from Interior that has no readily apparent material discrepancies.

5. Because of the additional time required by Interior to address the land records issue and provide the distribution calculations to Garden City, the estimated timeframe for distribution of checks has changed from that anticipated at the May 30, 2014 Status Conference. It now appears that, assuming no further material issues are identified in the Trust Administration Class data and Interior provides the distribution data to Garden City by the end of August, commencement of the distribution of the Trust Administration checks may begin in September 2014. Given the uncertainties which exist in when Interior will be able to furnish the distribution data, Class Counsel is unable to provide any assurance as to when the distributions will definitely occur, but Class Counsel and the Claims Administrator will continue to work with Interior and the Special Master as he continues to monitor this matter. Class Counsel and Garden City stand ready, with the Court's further approval, to commence those distributions within two to three weeks from receiving proper distribution data from Interior.

6. During this time, Plaintiffs and Garden City have continued their outreach efforts. In addition to responding to calls from Class Members or potential class members, Plaintiffs and Garden City have been actively contacting and working with tribes and Native American Corporations to continue to try to locate Whereabouts Unknown (WAU) members of the classes and obtain correct addresses for other Class Members who are not formally shown as WAU but for whom Interior could not provide contact information.

Additionally, day-long sessions have been held or have been scheduled at the following locations during which Class Counsel have or will be present to answer any questions and as many as five Garden City representatives have or will be on-site with computers to answer

specific questions Class Members may have regarding their claims. These sessions were or will be at the following locations:

June 2, 2014	Anadarko, Oklahoma
June 3, 2014	Durant, Oklahoma
June 4, 2014	Red Rock, Oklahoma
June 09-10, 2014	Anchorage, Alaska
June 26, 2014	Belcourt, North Dakota
June 27, 2014	New Town, North Dakota
July 09, 2014	Eagle Butte, South Dakota
July 10, 2014	Pine Ridge, South Dakota
July 16, 2014	Red Rock, Oklahoma
July 19, 2014	Kamilche, Washington

Additional meetings may be scheduled in other locations where there are a substantial number of WAUs and estates where distribution documentation has not yet been received by Garden City.

Respectfully submitted, this 14th day of July, 2014.

/s/ William E. Dorris
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CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that a copy of the foregoing **PLAINTIFFS' STATUS REPORT REGARDING PROGRESS ON EFFORTS TO COMMENCE TRUST ADMINISTRATION CLASS PAYMENTS** was served on the following via facsimile, pursuant to agreement, on this 14th day of July, 2014.

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