

Where is the BCCM Technical Assistance (TA) letter and Proposed Finding (PF)?

The Department considers the United Houma Nation's (UHN) TA letter of December 12, 1986, and the UHN PF of December 13, 1994 to be the TA letter and Proposed Finding of the BCCM petitioner.

The Department received a letter of intent to petition for acknowledgment from the Biloxi, Chitimacha Confederation of Muskogees (BCCM) on October 24, 1995. The group claimed ownership of the petition submitted by United Houma Nation (UHN), a petitioner that received a negative proposed finding for acknowledgment December 22, 1994 (59 F.R. 66118). Most BCCM members had been on the membership list of UHN at the time of its proposed finding. The Department took the position that the BCCM, another group that was previously part of UHN known as the Pointe au Chien Indian Tribe (PACIT), and UHN would be treated as "three separate, independent petitioners sharing a common original petition...."

The Department advised the BCCM petitioner in 1996 of its decision to issue an "amended Proposed Finding" for BCCM, saying that, "[p]rocedurally, BCCM is being treated as a petitioner with a proposed finding...." The Department informed the BCCM petitioner that it would treat the petitioner as being "covered by the documented petition which was previously submitted" by the UHN petitioner and set a period for BCCM to respond to the UHN proposed finding and submit its own petition documentation.

The BCCM petitioner, therefore, has no specific Technical Assistance (TA) letter as provided by the regulations at 25 CFR § 83.10 (a) – (b). Rather, the Department considers both the UHN TA letter of December 12, 1986 and the UHN PF of December 13, 1994 to be the TA letter and PF of the BCCM petitioner before its separation from the UHN. These UHN documents are available on the Acknowledgment Documents Compilation (ADC), filed among the compiled documents of the UHN petitioner.