



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF INDIAN AFFAIRS  
Indian Energy Service Center  
13922 Denver West Parkway, Bldg 54, Suite 300  
Lakewood, Colorado 80401

January 11, 2023

Dear Tribal Leader,

The U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) is extending the deadline for all Tribal Orphan Well Grants under Bipartisan Infrastructure Law (BIL) Section 40601 from Friday, January 20, 2023 to Tuesday, February 21, 2023. This action is in response to requests from Tribes to provide additional opportunity to develop proposals and allow applicants to brief Tribal leadership in advance of submission. As part of this extension, additional office hours and training opportunities will be scheduled.

Additionally, on January 10, 2023, the Secretary of the Interior issued a [Secretarial Order](#) to establish a new, stand-alone Orphaned Wells Program Office (OWPO) within the Office of Policy, Management and Budget (PMB), to provide increased support for the Secretary's responsibilities under Section 40601 of the BIL. The intent of this new office is to ensure successful program outcomes through strong communication with partners, including Tribes, and to provide appropriate management and oversight of the orphaned well grant programs. The staff currently working on the orphan well program will be transferred from the Department's Office of Environmental Policy and Compliance (OEPC) to the Orphaned Wells Program Office (OWPO). The Indian Energy Service Center (IESC) will also continue to support the program.

Information on these changes will be updated to the Tribal Orphaned Well Grants web sites at <https://www.doi.gov/oepec/tribal-orphaned-well-grants> and <https://www.bia.gov/service/orphaned-wells>. For further information, you may also contact Ms. Johnna Spriggs, IESC Trust Reform Liaison, at [johnna.spriggs@bia.gov](mailto:johnna.spriggs@bia.gov) or 720-484-3331.

Respectfully,

*Carla H. Clark*

Director  
Indian Energy Service Center

cc: Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs  
DBD-Trust Services  
DBD-Field Operations  
DBD-Indian Services  
Regional Directors