



Homeland
Security

December 21, 2017

Andrew Knife Chief, Executive Director
Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma
657 Harrison Street, P.O. Box 470
Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058

Dear Director Knife Chief:

As you are aware, the Department of Homeland Security published a draft Environmental Assessment in November, 2017 for proposed tests to be conducted at the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School near Newkirk, Oklahoma. The proposed tests were part of a program to protect the nation by evaluating the ability of buildings to protect occupants from outdoor biological hazards. Using several non-hazardous materials, the tests were to be conducted by the University Multispectral Laboratories, LLC (UML) on grounds leased from the Council of Confederate Chilocco Tribes. Proposed testing was planned for the months of February and June/July 2018, and in turn a public comment was opened through December 8, 2017.

During the public comment period, the Department received many comments objecting to the proposed tests at the Chilocco Indian Agricultural School. Based on the comments received from tribes, states, and local governments, as well as the concerns expressed from residents in the proposed test area, the Department of Homeland Security is suspending plans to perform the proposed tests. While the work remains very important for the security of our nation, further evaluation will be conducted to identify the best location for future testing.

The Department appreciates the engagement and work of tribal leadership and staff in this effort and looks forward to our continuing government-to-government partnership with each tribal nation. Please contact the Office of Partnerships and Engagement at (202) 447-4239 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Best Regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William N. Bryan". The signature is written in a cursive style.

William N. Bryan
Senior Official Performing the Duties of the Under
Secretary for Science and Technology