

**Rural Development** 

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

## USDA to Host Listening Sessions with Tribal Historic Preservation Offices on How to Improve Rural Development's Environmental Review Process

**WASHINGTON**, July 16, 2021 – The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) today announced it is hosting listening sessions on Aug. 4 and Aug. 12, 2021, to solicit feedback from Tribal Historic Preservation Offices on ways to improve USDA Rural Development's (RD) environmental review process.

USDA recognizes the unique circumstances that govern the environmental review process for projects on tribal lands. The Department encourages integral feedback from individuals who may participate in consultation for projects funded or authorized under Rural Development's Rural Utilities Service, Rural Business-Cooperative Service and the Rural Housing Service.

The Department is inviting feedback on environmental review policies and procedures in <u>7 CFR Part 1970</u>, including compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

These listening sessions are part of a series designed to gather input from a broad range of Rural Development customers and perspectives.

This first session will be held virtually on Wednesday, Aug. 4, 2021, at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register, visit: <u>https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/5475352818354044429</u>.

The second session will be held virtually on Thursday, Aug. 12, 2021 at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time. To register, visit: <u>https://attendee.gotowebinar.com/register/320851103433192205</u>.

Registrants will receive an email with instructions to join online or by phone. For questions about the listening session, please email <u>RD.Innovation@usda.gov</u>.

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