



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

NOV 01 2013

Mr. James Fretty
7601 N. Perry
Baytown, Texas 77521

Dear Mr. Fretty:

Thank you for your mailing that the Office of Federal Acknowledgment (OFA) received on October 30, 2013. The mailing pertains to the group known as the "Atakapa-Isbak Nation of Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana" (Petitioner #309) that is petitioning for Federal acknowledgment as an Indian tribe.

The mailing included 23 pages of articles published about Petitioner #309 or Atakapas history in general (all printed from the same website) and about 523 consent forms, signed in September and October 2013 by what appear to be the group's current members (we have no current membership list to consult). On the consent forms, the members indicated whether they belong to federally recognized tribes or non-federally recognized groups and also identified the group's current leader as "James Fretty and council members." However, the mailing did not include a cover letter signed by all members of the governing body. The OFA received a similar mailing on July 26, 2013, consisting of meeting minutes and sign-in sheets, but without a cover letter certification by all members of the governing body.

As you are aware, OFA requested Petitioner #309 to submit specific documentation by May 14, 2013, that would assist OFA in determining the proper governing body with which to conduct business. We advised Petitioner #309 in a letter dated May 17, 2013, that the materials it submitted were insufficient, and that OFA had placed the group on "inactive status" until such time that we receive and evaluate all the requested documentation. Meeting minutes and members' consent forms constitute part of the requested documentation but these documents represent the activities of only part of the group as submitted by two former or current members of the governing body.

At this point, we are unaware of whether there is any movement to reconcile current and former governing body members. We will keep the July and October 2013 submissions in the group's administrative correspondence file until such time that Petitioner #309 provides the

documentation identified in our letter dated May 17, 2013. Petitioner #309 continues on "inactive status" in the meantime.

Sincerely,

(sgd) R. Lee Fleming

Director, Office of Federal Acknowledgment

cc: ~~Edward Chretien~~
Michael Amos
Rena Simon



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