

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT ON THE ENVIRONMENT AND
NOTICE TO PUBLIC OF REQUEST OF RELEASE OF FUNDS

April 26, 2024

Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe
190 Sailstar Dr. NW
Cass Lake, MN 56633
218-335-3769

TO ALL INTERESTED AGENCIES, GROUPS AND PERSONS

These notices shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be undertaken by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about June 1, 2024 Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe will request the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to release Indian Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) to be used for the project known as the Leech Lake Distribution Center Remodel and Expansion, for the purpose of enhancing the food distribution capabilities for the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe, located in Cass Lake, MN.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe has been determined that the project referred to herein will not constitute an action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment nor the natural environment. Accordingly, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required.

An Environmental Review Record (ERR) pertaining to the proposed project has been made by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe which documents the environmental review of the project and more fully sets forth the reasons why such statement is not required. This ERR is on file and is available for public examination and copying, upon request. You may contact Bryan McCoy, Senior Planner at the Leech Lake Tribal Development Office 108 Balsam Ave NW Cass Lake, MN 56633, 218-335-3769 between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency may submit written comments on the ERR to the Leech Lake Tribal Development Office 108 Balsam Ave NW Cass Lake MN 56633. All comments received by May 14, 2024 will be considered by the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

ENVIRONMENTAL CERTIFICATION

No further environmental review of such project is proposed to be conducted prior to the Request for Release of Funds. The Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe is certifying to HUD that Faron Jackson, in his official capacity as Chairman of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe consents to accept the jurisdiction of the federal court if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental review of decision-making action relating to this project, and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe may use the Block Grant Funds and HUD will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969.

OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS

HUD will accept an objection to its approval of the release of funds and acceptance of this certification only on one of the following bases: a) That the certification was not in fact executed by the chief executive officer of the Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe; or b) That applicant's Environmental Review Record for the project indicates an omission of a required decision, finding or step in the application of the project in the environmental review process; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the development process have committed funds, incurred costs or undertaken activities not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by HUD; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. All interested agencies, groups or persons disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration in accordance with the required procedure (24 CFR Part 58) to HUD at U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, Eastern/Woodlands Office of Native American Programs, Ralph H. Metcalf Building, 78 West Jackson Boulevard, Room 2400, Chicago, IL 60604-3507. Potential objectors should contact HUD to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

Signed:

Faron Jackson Sr., Chairman
Leech Lake Band of Ojibwe