



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT  
WASHINGTON, DC 20410-5000

OFFICE OF PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING

May 8, 2018

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am pleased to announce that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development's Environmental Review Online System (HEROS) is scheduled to be rolled out to all Native American housing programs in the fall of 2018. This letter invites comments from Tribal Leaders and Indian Housing Officials regarding the system's implementation.

The HEROS system will make it easier for the Tribe (as the responsible entity) and its partners (for example, Tribally Designated Housing Entities (TDHEs), and contractors) to develop, document, and manage environmental reviews. HEROS will guide users through the analyses, determinations, and documentation required by the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and the related environmental laws and authorities. HEROS is internet-based, and closely resembles the existing HUD environmental review worksheets and formats, which will ease the transition for users already familiar with HUD's processes.

Several training resources and a HEROS User Guide are available to introduce and demonstrate the system. There are also several recorded Question-and-Answer sessions on HEROS, and it is possible to practice using HEROS in a separate training environment. The following link will take you to these training resources:

<https://www.hudexchange.info/programs/environmental-review/heros/>.

Tribal Leaders and Indian Housing Officials are invited to comment on any aspect of the HEROS rollout. However, HUD's Office of Native American Programs (ONAP) is especially interested in tribal feedback and input on the following three items:

- HEROS will be tested by a few tribes from June until October 2018. Area ONAP Offices will select two or three tribes with a variety of projects to test and provide feedback on the system.
- On November 1, 2018, HUD plans to make HEROS available to all Tribes (the responsible entity) and their partners (for example, TDHEs and contractors). HEROS will serve as the environmental review record for projects. Tribes and TDHEs will use HEROS to develop, document, and manage their environmental reviews.
- HUD proposes to require the use of HEROS, once it is fully implemented, because of its benefits to recipients and ONAP staff. Recipients who lack reliable internet access would

still be able to use the applicable HUD format.

Please address your comments on HEROS to Hilary Atkin, ONAP Environmental Clearance Officer, within 60 days of receipt of this letter. Ms. Atkin may be reached by email at [Hilary.C.Atkin@hud.gov](mailto:Hilary.C.Atkin@hud.gov), or at the following address:

Ms. Hilary Atkin  
Office of Native American Programs  
451 Seventh St., SW, Room 5156  
Washington, DC 20410

I look forward to receiving any comments or observations you may have regarding HEROS. Thank you for your continuing participation in HUD's Indian housing programs.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Heidi J. Frechette". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Heidi J. Frechette  
Deputy Assistant Secretary  
for Native American Programs