PROGRAM:  Indian Housing Block Grant (IHBG) and Indian Community Development Block Grant (ICDBG)

FOR:  All Tribal Government Leaders and Tribally Designated Housing Entities

FROM:  Rodger J. Boyd, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Native American Programs, PN

TOPIC:  Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) - Renovation, Repair, and Painting (RRP) Rule – Correction/Update

PURPOSE:  On April 22, 2010, Guidance 2010-01 was issued which provided information on EPA’s rule requiring the use of lead-safe work practices aimed at preventing lead poisoning in children. The purpose of this guidance is to correct two items in that guidance. The first is a typographical error. Please note that the correct phone number for the EPA National Lead Information Clearinghouse is 800-424-LEAD (5323). The second is the EPA’s fee for the certification for an employee of a tribe or tribally designated housing entity (TDHE). Please note that the fee is $20. Please refer to Program Guidance 2010-01 for additional information.

In addition, on June 18, 2010, EPA provided supplemental guidance on the enforcement of the RRP Rule. Since the RRP Rule became effective on April 22, 2010, concerns have been raised by the regulated community regarding difficulties experienced in obtaining the rule required firm certification and renovation worker training. EPA is offering additional and sufficient time for renovation firms and workers to obtain the necessary training and certifications to comply as follows:

- Until October 1, 2010, EPA will not take enforcement action for violations of the RRP Rule’s firm certification requirement;
- For violations of the RRP Rule’s renovation worker certification requirement, EPA will not enforce against individual renovation workers if the person has applied to enroll in, or has enrolled in, by not later than September 30, 2010, a certified renovator class to train contractors in practices necessary for compliance with the final rules. Renovators must complete the training by December 31, 2010.

In view of the paramount importance of ensuring that all contractors follow the lead-safe work practices in the RRP rule, EPA will continue to enforce the work practice requirements in the rule which protect children and reduce lead exposure. Information concerning lead-safe practices can be found at http://www.epa.gov/lead/pubs/renovation.htm#requirements.