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INDIAN LAW ALERT
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SURFACE LEASING REGULATION REFORM: FINAL RULE

The Secretary of the Interior announced this afternoon that the DOI is issuing its final rule for residential, commercial and renewable energy surface leases. This rule, which will be effective 30 days from its publication in the Federal Register, is the first overhaul of 25 C.F.R. Part 162 in 50 years. The new rule is intended to streamline surface leasing of the more than 56 million acres of Indian land over which the United States has oversight, to reduce the role of the BIA in the leasing process and to lead to greater tribal self-determination and self-governance.

I have attached for your convenience copies of the Secretary's press release, the new rule and the BIA's "Fact Sheet" that summarizes the rule. I also am happy to consult with you if you have questions about the impact the new rule will have on your current and future leasing transactions in Indian country.