



U.S. Department of Justice  
Office of Legal Counsel

cc: Luttig Ret.  
Flanigan Fil  
Cox  
Harrison  
McGinnis  
Movsesian  
Murphy  
R. File

Office of the  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General

Washington, D.C. 20530

August 29, 1990

Carl Kunasek  
Commissioner  
Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation  
P.O. Box KK  
Flagstaff, AZ 86002

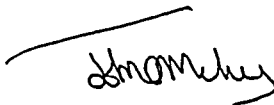
Dear Commissioner Kunasek:

This responds to your request for our opinion on the question whether the Office of Navajo and Hopi Indian Relocation (the "Office") is an independent entity within the Executive Branch rather than a constituent part of the Department of the Interior. See Pub. L. No. 100-666, § 4(a), 102 Stat. 3929-30 (1988), codified at 25 U.S.C. § 640d-11.

We have reviewed the relevant statute and its legislative history. See H.R. Rep. No. 1032, 100th Cong., 2d Sess. (1988); S. Rep. No. 425, 100th Cong., 2d Sess. (1988). On the basis of that review, we conclude that you are correct in your opinion that the Office is an independent entity within the Executive Branch, not a constituent part of the Department of the Interior. We note that the Department of the Interior has advised us that this is its view as well.

Please let us know if we may be of further assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,

  
John O. McGinnis  
Deputy Assistant Attorney General  
Office of Legal Counsel