

ANCSA land CONVEYANCE

The path to a final land patent is long and can be affected by many factors, including discrepancies in surveys, reinstated native allotments, accounting for buffer zones when abutting national parks and refuges, and appeals. Adjudicators at the Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are responsible for the bulk of the work. Over the last few years, the number of adjudicators covering ANCSA statewide has dwindled to six, with two support personnel.

DATA RETRIEVAL

Adjudicators gather the case file, status and survey plats, historical indices, easement maps, entitlement numbers, Certificate of Good Standing, and more.

GENERATE DIC OR NIP

After organizing data, adjudicators review land status, go through an adjudication checklist and finally prepare either a Decision (DIC) or a Notice of Intent to Patent (NIP).

FINAL PACKAGING

The final version of the approved documents are prepared. A notice for publication in the Federal Register is sent to BLM's Washington Office; upon publication, the DIC and newspaper notice are issued. DICs are appealable documents; corporations have 30 days from the date of receipt to file an appeal. All else being regular, the conveyance documents are issued about 15 days after the last appeal period ends. NIPs and draft patents are sent to surface and subsurface landowners for a 30-day review. DICs and NIPs are typically signed by the Deputy State Director or State Director.

REVIEW PROCESS

The draft DIC package or NIP and draft patents go through several levels of internal review. A peer reviewer and final reviewer are involved at this step.

APPEALS/COMMENTS

If a DIC is appealed, it enters the appeal process and conveyance documents cannot be issued until the appeal is resolved. If not appealed, the DIC becomes final and the conveyance documents are issued. If comments are received on NIPs, they are researched and addressed before the final patents are issued. Conveyance documents (interim conveyances and patents) are typically signed by the Deputy State Director or State Director.

ISSUING/RECORDING

Conveyance documents are stamped with a unique identification number and the seal of the Department of the Interior is affixed. The original documents are sent to the corporations; the corporation is generally responsible for having the document recorded with the State of Alaska.



Developed by
BBNC Land Department
111 West 16th Avenue, Suite 400
Anchorage, AK 99501

907.278.3602

