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Subject : Aurene - Review&edit w/principals and get this to Eric in the AM...D

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DRAFT

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY - INDIAN AFFAIRS
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Interior Department Statement on Neal McCaleb's
Notification to Court on E-mail Retrieval

WASHINGTON - U.S. Department of the Interior (DOI) ~~spokesman Dan DuBray~~ today issued the following statement relating to a DOI notification to federal court officials on behalf of Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs Neal A. McCaleb. DOI has notified the court that an independent information technology firm will retrieve official e-mail messages of Assistant Secretary McCaleb from November of 2001 until this month.

"Assistant Secretary McCaleb learned this past week that, despite his understanding to the contrary, he cannot ensure that a full and contemporaneous printed record of his sent and received e-mail messages has been adequately maintained since November of 2001. ~~Although the Assistant Secretary believed this task was being performed on his behalf by a professional assistant in his office, he has acknowledged to his staff, his colleagues and to Secretary Norton that the misunderstanding was solely his own. He has accepted full responsibility for the oversight.~~ Once it was detected it was immediately and fully disclosed to the court. *and*

"Through a separate investigation into the matter, the Department ^{is confident} ~~has determined~~ it will be able to retrieve, print and file Assistant Secretary McCaleb's e-mail messages from its voluminous library of computer backup tapes. The federal contractor Zantaz of Pleasanton, California will process the original tapes and retrieve the affected e-mails from the Bureau of Indian Affairs' internal intranet system.

"In addition, a Department-wide effort has been launched to provide renewed training and reinforcement of the detailed e-mail retention, printing and filing policies required to be observed by all DOI employees if they are to fully comply with court orders and federal regulations. This reported oversight and the Department's quick response to it will serve as a vivid reminder to all Department of the Interior employees that these record-keeping requirements are of primary importance."

-DOI-

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The Assistant Secretary has ~~fully~~ acknowledged his misunderstanding to Secretary Norton and has accepted full responsibility for oversight the oversight.

*What I should have said paper e-mails until
the After Dec. 5, only internal e-mail on intranet*