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ATTORNEYS AT LAW

MHA Nation Celebrates Thunder Butte Petroleum Refinery Groundbreaking



New Town/ Little Shell Segment Representative Ken Hall celebrates groundbreaking with FPM Senior Partner Tom Fredericks

MAKOTI, ND – The Mandan Hidatsa & Arikara Nation (MHA Nation), held a groundbreaking for a new oil refinery in North Dakota. Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP (FPM) acted as legal counsel to the MHA Nation during the planning stages of this historic project. The groundbreaking marked more than 10 years of work since the MHA Nation first started making plans for a refinery which will be named Thunder Butte Petroleum. The name was chosen to honor Thunder Butte, one of the most sacred sites on the Fort Berthold reservation.

The process for the oil refinery was delayed at times due to the various federal permits and other approvals that the MHA Nation had been required to obtain for the project. FPM assisted the MHA Nation in this process by

working to place the refinery land into trust. During the ceremony, numerous accolades were made to the MHA Nation and its leaders for their persistence in following through on the project.

The completed facility will refine Bakken Formation crude oil at the site in southwest Ward County, where the MHA Nation owns 469 acres of land, with a portion of that land specifically for the refinery. It is conservatively estimated and projected to cost \$450 million. The facility will be capable of refining 20,000 barrels a day into diesel fuel, propane and naphtha products.

Currently, the tribal business council has \$40 million set aside for the first phase of the project that is scheduled to begin this summer. This phase includes the construction of a transload facility. The MHA Nation's refinery will be one of the first refineries to be built in the United States in many years. The last similar refinery constructed in the U.S. is in Garyville, Louisiana; it began operations in 1976.

About Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP-Fredericks Peebles & Morgan LLP serves as legal counsel to the MHA Nation in North Dakota, and is dedicated to the representation of American Indian tribes and Native American organizations throughout the United States. Legal services include a wide spectrum of services related to Indian concerns in the areas of business transactions, litigation and governmental affairs.