

§ 1775h. Judicial review**(a) Jurisdiction**

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, during the period beginning on October 19, 1994, and ending on the date that is 180 days after October 19, 1994, the United States District Court for the Southern District of Connecticut shall have exclusive jurisdiction over any action to contest the constitutionality of this subchapter or the validity of any agreement entered into under the authority of this subchapter or approved by this subchapter.

(b) Deadline for filing

Effective with the termination of the period specified in subsection (a) of this section, no court shall have jurisdiction over any action to contest the constitutionality of this subchapter or the validity of any agreement entered into under the authority of this subchapter or approved by this subchapter, unless such action was filed prior to the date of termination of the period specified in subsection (a) of this section. (Pub. L. 103-377, § 10, Oct. 19, 1994, 108 Stat. 3507.)

SUBCHAPTER X—CROW LAND CLAIMS
SETTLEMENT

§ 1776. Findings and purpose**(a) Findings**

Congress finds the following:

(1) Under the treaty between the United States of America and the Crow Tribe of Indians concluded May 7, 1868 (commonly known as the “Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868”; 15 Stat. 649), the eastern boundary of the Crow Indian Reservation was established as the 107th meridian for approximately 90 miles from the Yellowstone River to the boundary between Montana and Wyoming.

(2) Under Executive orders issued in 1884 and 1900, the western boundary of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation was established as the 107th meridian. The 107th meridian was intended to be the common boundary between the Crow Reservation and Northern Cheyenne Reservation for approximately 25 miles.

(3) From 1889 through 1891, a survey was conducted of the eastern boundary of the Crow Reservation. The 1891 survey line strayed to the west, and resulted in the exclusion from the Crow Indian Reservation of a strip of land of approximately 36,164 acres. Approximately 12,964 acres of such strip of land were included in the Northern Cheyenne Reservation. Deposits of low sulphur coal underlie the land excluded from the Crow Indian Reservation, including the land included in the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

(4)(A) The erroneous nature of the survey was not discovered for several decades. Meanwhile, the areas along the 107th meridian to the north and south of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation were opened to settlement in the late nineteenth century and early part of the twentieth century. Patents were issued to non-Indian persons and to the State of Montana for most of the surface land and a significant portion of the minerals in these areas between the 107th meridian and the 1891 survey line.

(B) The 12,964 acres included in the Northern Cheyenne Reservation have been treated as part of the Northern Cheyenne Reservation and occupied by the Northern Cheyenne Tribe and the Northern Cheyenne allottees, and their successors in interest.

(5) Legislation to resolve the 107th meridian boundary dispute was introduced in Congress in the 1960’s and 1970’s, and again in 1992, but no such legislation was enacted into law.

(b) Purpose

The purpose of this subchapter is to settle the 107th meridian boundary dispute created by the erroneous survey of the eastern boundary of the Crow Indian Reservation made by the Federal Government described in subsection (a)(3) of this section.

(Pub. L. 103-444, § 2, Nov. 2, 1994, 108 Stat. 4632.)

SHORT TITLE

Section 1 of Pub. L. 103-444 provided that: “This Act [enacting this subchapter] may be cited as the ‘Crow Boundary Settlement Act of 1994’.”

§ 1776a. Definitions

As used in this subchapter:

(1) Crow Tribe

The term “Crow Tribe” means the Crow Tribe of Indians, the duly recognized governing body of the Crow Indian Reservation.

(2) Disputed area

The term “disputed area” means the approximately 36,164 acres of land, including the minerals, located between the 107th meridian on the east and the 1891 survey line on the west from the Yellowstone River on the north to the boundary between the State of Wyoming and the State of Montana on the south.

(3) 1891 survey

The term “1891 survey” means the survey of the eastern boundary of the Crow Reservation conducted by the United States Government from 1889 through 1891.

(4) 1891 survey line

The term “1891 survey line” means the erroneous boundary line resulting from the survey of the 107th meridian which was completed in 1891.

(5) Northern Cheyenne Tribe

The term “Northern Cheyenne Tribe” means the Northern Cheyenne Tribe of Indians, with the Northern Cheyenne Tribal Council as the duly recognized governing body of the Northern Cheyenne Indian Reservation.

(6) 107th meridian boundary dispute

The term “107th meridian boundary dispute” means the dispute resulting from the disparity between the location of the 107th meridian and the location of the 1891 survey line.

(7) 107th meridian escrow fund

The term “107th meridian escrow fund” means the revenues that arise from, or are derived from, parcel number 2, including all accrued interest on such revenues, which are held by the Bureau of Indian Affairs in an escrow account as of November 2, 1994.