

(S.D.)-Tribe Ponders Options In Alcohol Lawsuit

By: Roxie Graham-Marski Posted at: 10/03/2012 10:45 AM

LINCOLN, Neb. (AP) - The Oglala Sioux Tribe in South Dakota is considering a state lawsuit against four Nebraska beer stores and global beer makers, now that a federal judge has dismissed their case.

Tribal attorney Tom White says he will urge the council for the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation to continue with the lawsuit against stores in the Nebraska border town of Whiteclay.

Critics say Whiteclay profits from alcoholism on the impoverished reservation, which bans alcohol. The town with a dozen residents sold the equivalent of 4.3 million 12-ounce cans of beer last year.

Tribal councilman James Toby Big Boy says members knew the lawsuit was a long-shot. He says they will discuss how to proceed, but he plans to introduce a tribal ballot proposal to allow alcohol. Past legalization measures have failed.