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NIGC revises Draft Consultation Policy to streamline process for tribes

WASHINGTON, Feb., 21, 2013 – Today, the National Indian Gaming Commission released a revised draft Consultation Policy in an effort to maximize the effectiveness and efficiency of the tribal consultation process. The NIGC has scheduled two consultation dates in March to accept comment on the new draft.

"We know that tribes consult with many Federal agencies," said NIGC Chairwoman Tracie Stevens. "We want to maximize the benefit of consultation with tribes while remaining mindful of tribal resources."

The new Draft Policy streamlines the consultation process and adopts appropriate guidelines from the Department of the Interior's Consultation Policy, while retaining those necessary to maintaining the unique relationship between the NIGC and tribes.

"We want tribes to know what to expect and to hold us to those expectations when consulting with the NIGC," said Chairwoman Stevens.

The Commission will accept written comments until April 22, 2013. Please submit comments by email to reg.review@nigc.gov, mail to 1441 L Street NW, Suite 9100, Washington, D.C. 20005, or by fax to (202) 632-0045.

The <u>National Indian Gaming Commission</u> is committed to the prompt and efficient regulation of the Indian gaming industry spanning more than 420 gaming establishments, associated with nearly 240 tribes across 28 states. The Commission's dedication to compliance with the <u>Indian Gaming Regulatory Act</u> ensures the integrity of the \$27 billion Indian gaming industry. Visit our website at <u>www.nigc.gov</u> for additional information.

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The NIGC is an independent regulatory agency established within the Department of the Interior pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988.