

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY

Community Government

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August 9, 2011

Ms. Tracy Stevens, Chairperson
National Indian Gaming Commission
1441 L Street, NW, Suite 9100
Washington, D.C. 20005

Re: ***Comments of the Ak-Chin Indian Community regarding NIGC's Regulation Revisions***

Sent via U.S. Mail and to reg.review@nigc.gov

Dear Chairperson Stevens,

The comments below are submitted on behalf of the Ak-Chin Indian Community ("Ak-Chin") regarding the National Indian Gaming Commission's ("NIGC") Regulation Revisions ("Revisions"). First and foremost, we applaud the NIGC for utilizing a *meaningful* tribal consultation policy. This is a welcomed change from the past NIGC administration. We also appreciate the numerous consultation meetings that the NIGC has conducted with tribes to review and discuss the Revisions. Our comments are as follows:

A. Part 558 - Gaming Licenses for Key Employees and Primary Management Officials.

Ak-Chin commends the NIGC for a more efficient approach to licensing Key Employees and Primary Management Officials. We appreciate the more streamlined licensing process of §558.2 where a tribe provides the results of a background investigation and the NIGC may rely on the investigation of the tribal gaming agency. In §558.2(c)(2), we prefer "shall" so that NIGC will have a complete set of records tribes can access through the Indian Gaming Individuals Record System.

B. Part 556 - Background Investigations for Primary Management Officials and Key Employees.

We agree with the addition of §556.4(b). This provision would make it more efficient for Primary Management Officials and Key Employees to move from one tribe to another, and for tribal gaming agencies to utilize the investigation and investigation report of the initial regulator.

With regard to §556.7(b), we believe it is more appropriate for the NIGC to develop one, uniform way to accept electronic notices and not leave it to each Regional office to develop its own separate and/or different formats and means of transmissions.

C. Part 537 - Background Investigations for Person or Entities with a Financial Interest In, or Having Management Responsibility For, a Management Contract.

Ak-Chin currently has a Management Contract with Harrah's, now, Caesar's Entertainment, Inc. to manage our Tribal casino. We have been working with Harrah's for many years. Over time, Ak-Chin, its Tribal Gaming Agency, the NIGC, and all the states and other jurisdiction where Harrah's owns and/or manages a gaming facility have conducted numerous background investigations regarding Harrah's personnel. As you can imagine, over that time there has been tremendous duplication of resources spent as each jurisdiction performed background investigations on practically the same set of Harrah's people. This has resulted in a huge waste of money and resources. Ak-Chin, therefore, welcomes §537.1(d), but respectfully requests that the provisions also add "any entity" after "institutional investor" which would include entities like Harrah's. In that way, the NIGC can rely on the background investigation and licensure of a state and/or tribe which has already conducted such investigation and not replicate the entire process that such state and/or tribe has completed.

D. Part 571 - Monitoring and Investigations.

We are fine with the addition of §571.4. We, however, defer to Class II Gaming Facilities on the changes to Subpart B.

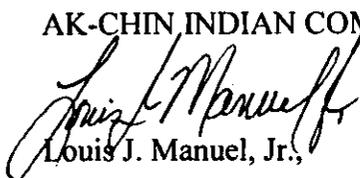
E. Part 573 - Enforcement

We welcome the NIGC's new §573.2 provision, which should foster greater communication and collaboration between tribes and the NIGC. In this regard, tribes and the NIGC will hopefully work together to direct resources where and when concerns and/or non-compliance issues arise, instead of an initial notice of violation for many issues which can be resolved according to the proposed §573.2.

We believe that incorporation of the above will more fully complement the NIGC's draft Revisions to move toward more pragmatic and reasonable regulation by the NIGC, as well as to foster more meaningful government-to-government relationship between the NIGC and tribes. Again, we thank you for the opportunity to comment on the development of these important Revisions.

Sincerely,

AK-CHIN INDIAN COMMUNITY



Louis J. Manuel, Jr.,

Chairman