United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, D.C. 20240

FEB 12 2003

Honorable Arlyn Headdress
Chairman, Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes
of the Fort Peck Reservation
P. O. Box 1027
Poplar, Montana 59255

Dear Chairman Headdress:

On January 17, 2003, we received the Extension to the Class III Compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation (Tribe) and the State of Montana (State). We have completed our review of this Extension and conclude that it does not violate the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Federal law, or our trust responsibility. Therefore, pursuant to my delegated authority and Section 11 of IGRA, we approve the Extension. This Extension shall take effect when the notice of our approval, pursuant to Section 11(d)(3)(B) of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(3)(B), is published in the FEDERAL REGISTER.

We wish the Tribe and the State success in their economic venture.

Sincerely,

/sgd/ Aurene M. Martin

Acting Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs

Enclosure

Similar Letter Sent to: Honorable Judy Martz
Governor of Montana
State Capital
Helena, Montana 59620

cc: Rocky Mountain Regional Director
National Indian Gaming Commission
Montana United States Attorney

2003 MAR 19 PM 2:17
RECEIVED
NATIONAL INDIAN
GAMING COMMISSION

EXTENSION AND AMENDMENT OF AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION AND THE STATE OF MONTANA REGARDING CLASS III GAMING ON THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

RECEIVED BY
DEC 2 0 2002
GAMBLING CONTROL DIVISION

RECITALS

The State of Montana ("Montana") and the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation ("Tribes") entered into an Agreement ("Agreement") dated April 6, 1992, to authorize under specific conditions Class III gaming on the Fort Peck Reservation. This Agreement was extended by letter amendments to July 5, 2002, September 30, 2002 and December 30, 2002. The Tribes and the State are continuing their good faith negotiations to agree on terms and conditions for another long-term compact.

To enable the Tribes and others to continue gaming on the Reservation pursuant to the existing Agreement while the parties continue to negotiate, the parties hereby agree to extend the Agreement for approximately 180 days, until June 30, 2003, on the terms and conditions set forth below. Further, the State has amended its rules applicable to state licensees, allowing licensees to offer for play video gaming machines equipped with bill acceptors capable of accepting $20 bills. This extension and amendment amends the Agreement, effective immediately, to allow the Tribes to offer for play machines with the same bill acceptors.

This Renewal is entered into in furtherance of the goals of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2701 et seq. and Montana Governor Judy Martz's Proclamation affirming the principle and integrity of government-to-government relationships between the State of Montana and federally recognized tribes located within the borders of Montana.

AGREEMENT

In furtherance of good relations and mutual cooperation between the parties, and in accordance with Article VIII. A., "Effective Date and Term," of the existing Agreement as previously amended and extended, by this writing the parties hereby renew and extend the term of the Agreement to June 30, 2003.

Further, pursuant to Article VIII B of the Agreement, Appendix A (1) (d) (v) (B) is amended as follows:

(B) The machine may have a machine manufacturer mechanism that accepts cash in the form of bills that do not exceed $20;

All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain in full force and effect and shall govern the conditions of Class III gaming on the Reservation until June 30, 2003, or until a revised or new compact has been executed by the parties, whichever first occurs.

Montana and the Tribes indicate their consent to be bound to this Extension and Amendment by signature of their authorized representatives below.

ASSINIBOINE AND SIOUX TRIBES OF THE FORT PECK RESERVATION

ARLYN HEADRESS, Chairman

STATE OF MONTANA

JUDY MARTZ, Governor

Approved Pursuant to Montana Code Annotated § 18-11-105 (2001).

MIKE McGRATH, Attorney General
State of Montana

APROVED:
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

BY: Aurene M Martin DATED: 2/12/03 ~~, 2002~~

~~NEAL McCALEB~~
Acting Assistant Secretary--Bureau of Indian Affairs

separate guidance on the establishment of karst preserves. Additionally, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, with the Service as a partner, will include "no take" guidance for these listed invertebrates as part of the species accounts that will be developed as a priority update to the revision of the 1995 Endangered and Threatened Animals of Texas document published by the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. The Service will incorporate the "no take" guidance into the draft recovery plan for the species, which will be available for public review and comment.

(4) With regard to recommendations for protection of water quality of the Edwards Aquifer, the Service does not intend to issue separate guidance. Instead, the draft Barton Springs Salamander Recovery Plan, which is scheduled to be completed in 2003, will include recommendations for protection of water quality in the Barton Springs Zone.

The Service states that prior versions of the Karst Protocols and Water Quality Recommendations are not rules, regulations, requirements, or project evaluation criteria of the Service and will not be used as such by the Service. The documents that have been used in the past as guidance do not create any legal obligations and have no binding legal effect, nor do they establish minimum standards or criteria required to be adopted by state or local governments. Should at any future time the Service decide that guidance on these subjects, other than as outlined above, is needed, the Service will make the draft guidance available for public review and comment for a period of not less than 60 days. At the conclusion of this period, the Service will determine whether to publish any final guidance documents on these topics and, if so, in what form.

Authority: The authority for this action is the Endangered Species Act, as amended (16 U.S.C.1532 *et seq.*).

H. Dale Hall,

Regional Director, Region 2, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

[FR Doc. 03–4612 Filed 2–26–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–55–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved amendment to a Tribal-State compact.

SUMMARY: Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Pub. L. 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, has approved the Amendment to the Class III gaming compact between the Assiniboine and Sioux Tribes of the Fort Peck Reservation and the State of Montana.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 27, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03–4656 Filed 2–26–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved amendment to a Tribal-State compact.

SUMMARY: Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Pub. L. 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts of the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, has approved the Amendment to the Class III gaming compact between the Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs Reservation and the State of Oregon.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 27, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03–4655 Filed 2–26–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approved amendment to a Tribal-State compact.

SUMMARY: Under section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988 (IGRA), Pub. L. 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of the approved Tribal-State compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through her delegated authority, has approved the Amendment to the Class III gaming compact between the Crow Tribe and the State of Montana.

EFFECTIVE DATE: February 26, 2003.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: February 12, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Acting Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03–4657 Filed 2–26–03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–4N–M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[AK–931–1310–DP]

Draft Northwest National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: In response to a request from the interested public the Bureau of Land Management is adding to its schedule one meeting for accepting public comments on the Draft Northwest National Petroleum Reserve—Alaska Integrated Activity Plan/Environmental Impact Statement (IAP/EIS). The meeting location and time will be provided to the public through appropriate media outlets in the Washington, DC area.

DATES: March 13, 2003, 2 p.m. till 5 p.m.

ADDRESSES: Courtyard Marriott, 1600 Rhode Island Avenue, Northwest, Washington, DC.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Curtis J. Wilson (907–271–5546;