



Date: 9 March, 2023

RE: EPHS focus day, NIGC National Training Conference,
Miccosukee

This morning I opened the third day of NIGC's National Training Conference (NTC) at the Miccosukee Nation near Miami, FL. The third day's day-long discussion on preparedness in the Indian gaming regulatory community involved tribal gaming regulators from across the country as both in-person and virtual attendees. The NIGC panels and case study exercises included a number of federal and tribal officials with respected expertise on topics related to preparedness.

As we discussed emerging needs related to community safety it was clear that gaming floors can often be the largest and most technologically complex spaces in many communities. Critical event responses in areas such as human trafficking, active shooters, natural disaster response and cyber security, gaming regulators can support tribal law makers decision making on appropriate measures and standards for each community.

I am especially grateful to Mr. Eddie Ilko, NIGC's Safety Occupation and Health Manger (SOHM), for all his work, including assembling many experts to participate in the sessions and share their decades of industry experience. The Agency established the SOHM position after building on lessons learned during the early stages of the pandemic. As an external facing part of the Agency's work and its overall compliance strategy, the SOHM is an important part of advancing the NIGC's strategic goal of promoting preparedness across Indian gaming's regulatory community. Mr. Ilko's expertise and leadership has helped to promote the tools and awareness related to a number of the topics necessary for risk assessment and mitigation at the local level.

This well attended portion of NIGC's NTC is a positive addition to the Agency's growing outreach through its training program. I look forward to continuing to build this area of the Agency's work with important and valued insight from tribes and respected experts.

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Visit www.NIGC.gov to learn more about the NIGC 3 For 35 Project- a year-long project emphasizing the importance of conversations among the tribal gaming regulatory community about workforce preparedness.

