



January 6, 2017

**Via email: gbrownell@abqsonosky.com
And First Class Mail**

Gary F. Brownell, Esq.
Sonosky, Chambers, Sachse, Mielke & Brownell, LLP
500 Marquette Avenue NW, Suite 660
Albuquerque, NM 87102

Re: Review of the 2016 Loan Documents for the Pueblo of Isleta

Dear Mr. Brownell:

This letter responds to your December 16, 2016 request, on behalf of the Pueblo of Isleta, for the National Indian Gaming Commission, Office of the General Counsel, to review certain financial transaction documents and to provide an opinion as to whether or not the submitted loan documents are management contracts requiring the NIGC Chairman's approval pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act of 1988. You have also asked for my opinion as to whether or not the loan documents violate IGRA's requirement that a tribe have the sole proprietary interest in its gaming operation.

In my review, I considered the following submissions (collectively, "the 2016 Loan Documents"):

- *Loan Agreement between Pueblo of Isleta and BOKF, NA dba Bank of Albuquerque Dated as of __, 201[6/7]* (marked at bottom left as "Loan Agreement (NIGC Submission 12-15-16) (W2842242x7A92D).doc" and at top right as "NIGC Submission Draft 12/15/2016");
- *Promissory Note* (marked at bottom left as "Promissory Note (NIGC Submission Draft 12-15-16) (W2842252x7 A92D).doc" and at top right as "NIGC Submission Draft 12/15/2016");
- *Security Agreement* (marked at bottom left as "Security Agreement (NIGC Submission 12-15-16) (W2842245x7 A92D).doc" and at top right as "NIGC Submission Draft 12/15/2016"); and
- *Deposit Account Control Agreement (Bank of Albuquerque Deposit Account)* (marked at bottom left as "Deposit Account Control Agreement (NIGC Submission Draft 12-15-16) (W284225 I x7 A92D).docx" and at top right as "NIGC Submission Draft 12/15/2016").

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The 2016 Loan Documents contain terms similar to other agreements that OGC has previously reviewed and analyzed. Some of these opinion letters may be found on the NIGC's website located at <www.nigc.gov>. Applying the same analysis here, it is my opinion that, collectively, the 2016 Loan Documents are not management contracts and do not require the approval of the NIGC Chairman. It is also my opinion that they do not violate IGRA's sole proprietary interest requirement.

It is my understanding that the 2016 Loan Documents are represented to be in substantially final form, and any further changes will not be material to OGC's analysis. This opinion shall not apply if the 2016 Loan Documents change in any material way prior to closing or are inconsistent with assumptions made herein. Further, this opinion is limited to the aforementioned 2016 Loan Documents and does not include or extend to any other agreements not submitted for review.

Please note that it is my intent that this letter be released to the public through the NIGC's website. If you have any objection to this disclosure, please provide a written statement explaining the grounds for the objection and highlighting the information that you believe should be withheld. 25 C.F.R. § 517.7(c). If you object on the grounds that the information qualifies as confidential commercial information subject to withholding under Exemption 4 of the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552(b)(4), please be advised that the information was voluntarily submitted and, as such, any request to withhold will be analyzed in accordance with the standard set forth in *Critical Mass Energy Project v. NRC*, 975 F.2d 871 (D.C. Cir. 1992). Any claim of confidentiality should also be supported with "a statement or certification by an officer or authorized representative of the submitter." 25 C.F.R. § 517.7(c). Please submit any written objection to <FOIASubmitterReply@nigc.gov> within thirty (30) calendar days of the date of this letter. After this time elapses, the letter will be made public and objections will no longer be considered. *Id.* If you need any additional guidance regarding potential grounds for withholding, please see the United States Department of Justice's *Guide to the Freedom of Information Act* at <<http://www.justice.gov/oip/doj-guide-freedom-information-act-0>>.

If you have any questions, please contact Armando Acosta, Senior Attorney, at (202) 632-7003.

Sincerely,



Michael Hoenig
General Counsel

cc: John Valentine (via email only: jvalentine@bankofalbuquerque.com)
Ruth M. Schifani (via email only: rschifani@modrall.com)