

**NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT  
PROPOSED CYPRESS BAY CASINO EXPANSION PROJECT**

AGENCY: National Indian Gaming Commission

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ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY:

The Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana (Tribe) has submitted a request to the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) for the approval of a Modification to the Management Agreement between the Tribe and RAM, LLC for management of a gaming facility on existing tribal land.

The proposed expansion of Cypress Bay Casino will add approximately 49,200 square feet to the Class II and Class III gaming facility. The proposed federal action is the approval of a Modification to the Management Agreement between the Tribe and RAM Holdings, LLC (RAM) by the NIGC. Approval of this document will allow the Tribe to construct and operate the proposed gaming facility as planned, subject to the conditions of the existing Tribal/State Gaming Compact and this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Christine Nagle, NEPA Coordinator  
National Indian Gaming Commission  
1441 L Street NW, Suite 9100  
Washington, DC 20005  
(202) 632-7003

PUBLIC AVAILABILITY:

The Environmental Assessment was reviewed during a thirty-day public comment period and no comments were received. This FONSI and the Final Environmental Assessment on which it is based will be available upon request at the following address.

Chitimacha Tribal Offices  
155 Chitimacha Loop Road  
Charenton, LA 70523

BACKGROUND:

Gaming is a unique opportunity for the Tribe to develop an economic base. This opportunity is afforded the Tribe under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.) and was sanctioned by the State of Louisiana through a State/Tribe Gaming Compact approved by the Governor and the Secretary of the Interior.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

The expanded Cypress Bay Casino will be a 146,000 square-foot facility; the existing facility and the proposed expansion will be separate structures attached by ground level connection. The expanded facility will be open 24 hours a day and offer musical entertainment, off-track betting and a poker room as well as 30+ slot machines. A new parking area with 342 spaces will also be added.

Development will occur on 6.5 acres of land held in trust by the Tribe. The land is located in north St. Mary Parish, Louisiana.

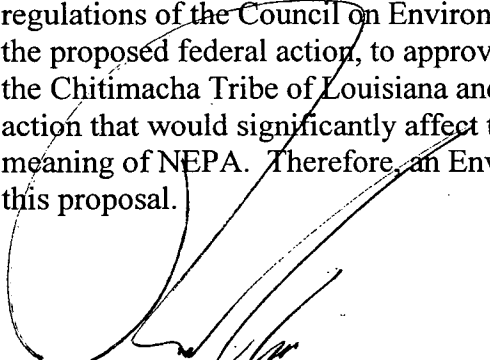
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS:

An Environmental Assessment (EA) documenting the planning process and analyzing implementation impacts of the proposed project has been completed. No significant unmitigated adverse environmental impacts are indicated by the EA.

The impact on the quality of the human environment is judged to be of minor adverse impact and significant beneficial economic impact to both the Tribe and the surrounding communities. There are no significant unmitigated impacts on public health and safety. The site contains no eligible or listed National Register of Historic Places sites or any known significant archeological resources that will be adversely impacted by the project. There are no significant unmitigated adverse impacts on endangered species or their critical habitat. The proposed land use will have no significant unmitigated impacts on declared wetlands. The proposed land use will not significantly impact water quality or air quality. There are no significant unmitigated impacts on traffic flow.

DETERMINATION:

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and implementing regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 C.F.R. 1500-1508), I find that the proposed federal action, to approve the Modified Management Agreement between the Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana and RAM, LLC does not constitute a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of NEPA. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this proposal.

  
Philip N. Hogen, Chairman  
National Indian Gaming Commission

2/1/05  
Date