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11	October 4, 2012
12	2:00 p.m.
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15	HELD AT: SANDS EXPO and CONVENTION CENTER
16	201 Sands Avenue
17	Veronese Room 2504
18	Venetian/Palazzo Hotel
19	Las Vegas, Nevada
20	Job No. NJ1334454
21	Reported by:
22	KENDALL HEATH, CCR No. 475
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2	APPEARANCES
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4	STEFFANI COCHRAN, NIGC Vice Chairwoman
5	DAN LITTLE, Associate Chairman
6	DAWN HOULE, Chief of Staff
7	LANCE VALLO, Region Director
8	SARAH WALTERS, Counsel to Chair
9	NICOLE ASPA, Auditor
10	SALLY VIRAG, Administration
11	MIKE McBRIDE
12	JOE MURILLO
13	STEVE RALLAVA
14	NORM HANSON
15	KIM SNYDER
16	JOE MARINKO
17	SHEILA MORADO
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THURSDAY, OCTOBER 4, 2012, 2:00 P.M.

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MS. COCHRAN: I know many of have been here for quite some time because I know the meeting times was listed by the hotel for one o'clock. I apologize for that confusion. We did move it to 2:00 o'clock to accommodate the Tribal luncheon. For those of you here, I thank you so much for your patience.

We're going to get started because I know you've been here all week, and I know things you want to move on to. So I'm going to first thank you and welcome many of you to the consultation. If any of you want to come join us at the table -- I almost want to move down that way. So if you want to come sit at the table, please do so.

We have Tribal, we want you here. But anybody is welcome to sit with us. We'd like to have you at the table.

I'm going to introduce myself and give you background information, then I'm going to turn it over to Commissioner Little.

For those of you that don't know, I'm Steffani Cochran, and I'm the vice chairman. My home for me right now is outside of DV is Santa Fe, and that's where I came from prior to accepting my role on the

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commission. I was working as general counsel for the Public Works in Santa Fe. That's where my home is, and I plan on returning at some point in my endeavor.

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So I am at the end of my three-year term which will be ending soon. Hard to believe three years has passed since I first accepted my position, but January 4th is the end of the three years. So it's been very rewarding, very challenging and very exhausting position, but it's gone by quickly.

I'm going to turn it over now to Commissioner Little, and I'm going to ask him to introduce himself, then we're go around the table and make some other introductions.

MR. LITTLE: Thank you Vice-Chairman Cochran.

I'm Dan Little, the associate commissioner here at NIGC.

I too am quickly approaching the expiration of my term.

So I expire in April of next year. I appreciate you all sticking around here on the last day, then sticking around for at least an hour. I came from the Tribal luncheon and I'm not sure if any of you were there, but it was a good group there also.

I'm originally from Connecticut. Prior to coming on the commission I served with the Masquequat Tribe and provided affairs and assistance and guidance. Prior to that I worked for the State legislature in

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1 Harvard, Connecticut, and was 10 years in the Army and 2 Reserves.

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I'm happy to be here. Once again, grateful for you all for sticking it out here today. We'll try to move on as fast as we can, and I'm going to turn this over to the vice-chairman.

MS. COCHRAN: I also note we have some former commissioners in the audience here. Terry House is here. Very rewarding to have commissioners here. I know they've done a lot of great things in the industry.

We have a couple of staff members with us, so I'm going to go around the table. And ask you to introduce yourself. I'll start with Nicole, if you would introduce yourself then we'll on to Lance.

MS. ASPA: Good afternoon. My name is Nicole Aspa, the senior internal auditor for NIGC, Navajo and day member of the Colorado River Indian tribes.

MS. HOULE: Good afternoon. I'm Dawn Houle.

I'm Chippawa Creek from Rockaway, Montana, and the chief
of staff for NIGC.

MR. VALLO: Good afternoon, everyone. I'm Lance Vallo. I'm the Region Director of the Phoenix Region.

And outside in the admin assistance is Sally Virag from the Phoenix office.

MS. COCHRAN: We also have Sarah Walters here on behalf of the Chairman. Chairman Stevens is not with us. She's in D.C. on personal matters she has to take care of. She regrets she's not able to be with us, but hope we'll be able to cover everything that we need.

The purpose of this meeting -- consultation in particular as you know, relates to the strategic plan, and it is part of our ongoing effort to consult with tribes pursuant to Executive Order 1375, which does require that we consult with the industry in the Tribal governments in substance of taking action which substantially impact them.

And the strategic plan does impact tribes. It does set forth things you can expect from the Agency next couple of years where we're going to measure our success or failures if it comes to be.

We also do this early in advance of making final decisions, and the strategic plan is being done in the same manner. It is in a draft format, and we are trying to get engaged with tribes early on so as we make revisions as the final plan comes out, it is something that you recognize.

I'm going to ask Commissioner Little to talk a little bit about the history of the process that we've gone through, and then we're going to turn it over to

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1 ask the staff to do the presentation.

> MR. LITTLE: This is fun to talk about. And I get to make fun of myself.

> Back in 2006 when there was a bill going through Congress, tribes at the wishes of NIDA requested that the NIGC file a GPRA, Government Performance and Results Act. And I see Sheila back there, and we were all saying, yeah, this is a great idea. We need to have the NIGC to present a strategic plan and present with tribes and come to before all of you.

So here we are today. We have a strategic plan to cover the years 2014 to 2018. We have a draft that's been online. I hope many of you have had a chance to read it. We'll go through it and talk about little bit. There's packets here.

And to continue the process we did go through the regulatory review. We're trying it in draft form. We want to hear your thoughts and ideas. We want to hear about it before we move forward with finalizing the strategic plan.

It may be a little dry, but guess what, it's what we wanted, right? So here we are today. We all take it very honestly. The commission is fully funded by the fees you all provide us. We take that very, very seriously. We're putting into the strategic plan the

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four initiative items that we've been working off over the last two and a half years.

So I think you've all heard these a number of times. We're codifying into the strategic plan. We really want your feedback, some of your thoughts, and we will take those into consideration before we move forward with it.

I think that covered everything about the history of GPRA. The format of the consultation, Dawn is going to walk through a Power Point presentation. And that will kind of lay out the draft. Will talk about the current strategic plan, do some comparison, look at some measurements and key areas so you have an idea how we're going to measure, how you are going to actually measure our success and how we're carrying along filling the goals of the strategic plan. So that's kind of it in a nutshell.

So we'll turn it over to the vice-chair to take care of the housekeeping things and we'll start the presentation.

MS. COCRAN: I'm sorry. Sarah Walters just joined us. I'm going to ask you to introduce yourself then I'd like to go through and make the rest of our introductions before we begin. We'll start with you, Sahara.

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MS. WALTERS: Good afternoon. My name is Sarah Walters. I'm member of Cheyenne Rivers tribe from Cheyenne, South Dakota and member of staff.

My name is Brad Simmons, I'm MR. SIMMONS: Chairman of the Nottawaseppi Huron Gaming Commission.

Robert Durant and MR. DURANT: secretary-treasurer of Tribal counsel for the White Earth Nation.

Because of the scheduling, I thought it was at one o'clock, but I just want to ask if this is the place where we'll be discussing some of the issues as far as what the IRS is doing to our casinos or applying the taxing on the benefit to members, stuff like that.

This is my first NIGC, so it's really important to us. I need to know if there's any assistance or help, whatever information or data law. Is there groups that help explain these issues, because double standard is not going to happen to us, as far as stuff like that.

MS. COCHRAN: Thank you for bringing that up because it's part of the housekeeping, because in particular of the change that we did in the time, if we have anybody who has statements that they need to make before they have to catch a flight or some other commitments, we certainly want to offer that up to you

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This particular consultation is only about the strategic plan. Now that being said, we do have people on staff. I want to make sure -- Sarah Walters sitting right here, she would be an excellent person to connect you with the people that we need to talk, because we want to make sure we get the resources and the right people to talk to.

The way this commission has structured on consultations is to provide notice and make sure what we talk about is what we put out in the public and people are prepared to respond to.

I apologize if this isn't the right time, but we will make time. And I thank you for coming, and I apologize again for the confusion in time. Had I known that this was going to happen, certainly would have done everything to avoid it.

MS. WALTERS: If you need to leave, I can step out with you right now.

MR. MCBRIDE: Good afternoon. I'm Mike

McBride of Crowe & Dunlevy, Tulsa, Oklahoma. I'm here

today on behalf of the Oklahoma Tribal Gaming

Commission.

MR. MURILLO: My name is Joe Murillo, executive director for the 29 Palms Gaming Commission.

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They spent a lot of time preparing it for you.

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We do have a transcriptionist with us, a court reporter, and she will ask that you identify yourself before you ask questions or speak so she can make appropriate notes in the records. And the transcript will be put up on the agency website so you can refer back to them or if somebody can't participate, you can go in and read the transcript.

This is a official government consultation, not open to the media as standard practice, again, with all of our consultations. We do have one final consultation date coming up on the 23rd in Joplin. Setting that up and that will be the final of our five consultations on this.

So if you want to attend that as well, we look forward to seeing you. Then the comment period closes on October 31st. If you have comments, get them to us by the 31st. Just like all the other consultations, this commission is committed to reviewing every single comment that comes in, and I have to say between the 543 and 547 comments, I can handle just about anything.

So they are all read, and it does not go into a black hole and it's very important to us and do factor into our decisions. So we thank you in advance for any written comments that you give or any comments you provide to us during your consultation.

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I have said enough. I'm going to turn it over to Nicole and Dawn to do the presentation.

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MR. LITTLE: One more comment: In the event you do have to leave as we progress through the Power Point, if you have a particular question, you can ask it right then and there. You don't have to wait until the end of the Power Point. Or if you want to wait until the end, if you do want to ask questions, go ahead and come to the mic and fire away.

MS. HOULE: Like they said this should be a very brief and exciting, intriguing, and I'm sure you guys are going to be thrilled with the presentation. Hold on here we go.

As the outline, here's the commissioners,

Tracie Stevens from Tulalip, our chairwoman. Steffani

Cochran, our vice-chairwoman from Chickasaw, and Dan

Little our associate commissioner.

As both of the commissioners have outlined, this is an official Tribal consultation, and we are doing that between Tribal governments and the federal government. Only tribes are allowed to participate. These meetings are not open to the public, but the public is able to provide comments but only through our website.

As outlined, Executive Order 13175 is the

consultation and coordination with Indian Tribal governments, and we are holding this in accordance with that. Any time we are undertaking anything to formulate and implement policies that have Tribal implications, the agency shall reach out and encourage tribes to provide their own policies to provide program objectives, and where possible will defer to the tribes in establishing those standards.

As the commissioners outlined, our commission is committed to a clear and transparent process. So if you were involved with the regulation review, you clearly know that we are serious about that, and all the regulations have been posted on our website.

And speaking of our website, for some reason I keep getting stuck with the wrong Power Point presentation. What you have is missing about three or four slides. Once we get there, I'll highlight those. But everything is on our website that is current, so bear with us, please.

I do have to say as a former forrester, we have killed many, many trees with all our reg process reviewing all the comments. Steffani was right on when she said they review all of those they are received in the printed format.

Jumping right in, what is Strategic Planning?

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There's a book by John Bryson, Strategic Planning of Public and Nonprofit Organizations. The second bulletin is the most important, I think. And it says, it's the disciplined effort to produce fundamental decisions and actions that shape and guide what an organization is, what it does, and why it does it, with a focus on the future. That's what we hope to achieve with this new Strategic Plan.

What's the purpose of a Strategic Plan? I have a former employee that was on the original Strategic Plan Committee, and I'd like her to review all the acts and why we have to do this, and kind of give you a quick overview. So Nicole Aspa will do that.

MS. ASPA: Good afternoon. The government Performance and Results Act of 1993, it provided a framework or a foundation for performance planning, reporting and budgeting for federal agencies. And what it also did was it focused on results on customer service, on service quality of federal agencies. And it requires six years of planning that where an agency had to create a Strategic Plan, had to create an annual performance plan and annual performance reporting and it had to be updated every three years.

But what it did, it was applicable to the large federal agencies and it was not applicable to the

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NIGC until the Native American Technical Corrections Act of 2006, in which it required that the NIGC comply with the requirements within GPRA of 1993.

Once NIGC started creating their strategic planning process back in 2008 and created their current existing Strategic Plan covering 2009 through 2014, what the Strategic Plan did, it set forth the guidelines as well as those planning requirements of what is going to be done in the future, what they plan to do. And also set those requirements within their budget.

And that's what OMB Circular A-11 did. It expanded on that budging process. So within that budging process it formed federal agencies that linked the Strategic Plan directly to the budget.

What areas with the budget are they going to focus on that's included in the Strategic Plan? Are you focusing on technical assistance and training? Look at the budget and see what you will accomplish with that.

So set forth in those administrative guidelines and requirements on reporting through the budget justifications.

The GPRA Modernization Act of 2010 was enacted in January of 2011. What it did, it modernized GPRA of 1993. It refined the process to make those strategic goals that they had first set to make them more clear,

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more oriented, results orientated to focus it to more on the agency's priorities. What are the main priorities of the agency?

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And within setting those main priorities of the agency, make your strategic goals more results oriented, make them more refined where the public understands exactly what you plan to do and how you plan to do it.

It also require that agencies publish their Strategic Plan and all the documents related to the Strategic Planning process on their website, such as the Power Point presentation, our drastic change of plan, any consultations we have in regards to the Strategic Planning process, included on our website.

The plan also require that it not cover less than four years. So our proposed Strategic Plan covers from 2014 to 2018. So what we did is we're creating this process right now and changing what our existing Strategic Plan is into this draft Strategic Plan. If you recall, our current Strategic Plan runs from 2009 to 2014. So we're overlapping that one year.

The existing Strategic Plan that we had, it covered six years and it contained three broad strategic goals. The first one, increase compliance with gaming law; second, increase service to Tribal governments and

gaming operations; and, third, maximize the use of Commission resources.

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Within that Strategic Plan, those strategic goals were just too broad. If you look at the objectives that were listed under each one of those goals, now, those objectives were actually the true strategic goals of the NIGC, what were they going to accomplish.

So with this draft Strategic Plan that we have created, is that the objectives became the new strategic goals, because we wanted to become more focused and be able to show the public as well as show the tribes that is exactly what we want to do and that is how we're going to achieve it.

So as you go through the draft Strategic Plan, you'll see a lot more focused areas, a lot more areas that have decreased that broad scope, such as technical assistance and training. Exactly what are we going to provide with technical assistance and training. And Dawn will go through that as we go through this draft plan.

MS. HOULE: So the current Strategic Planning effort currently aligned with what the commission has said since day one, they have four priorities. And if you heard any one of them speak, they have reiterated

these four priorities and highlighted them, so it should be very clear what the four priorities are.

And they are the consulting relationship building with Tribal governments; the second, provide technical assistance and training; three, continue regulatory review; and four, review Agency internal operations.

So like Nicole has outlined, we went from broad to more focused and developed strategies to actually show what those results will be. And if you look at the actual plan that's on the website, it will show the various benchmarks we're aiming for in the four-year time period.

We also identified key performance measures that definitely align with these priorities.

So in the current plan, we also highlight that the stakeholders are the key part of this process, just like we did with regulatory review, and we hope to gather input and support for collaborative effort.

To get us to this point, we had an internal team that created the draft that's being proposed today, and we spent April through September coming up with that. We reached out to senior management in July and September, and provided draft documents, and now we are in the not near final stage, because you'll see the

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various next steps, but we are in the consultation So that gives you a little overview of the efforts that went into getting us to this part.

Getting to the guts of the Strategic Plan, the prior mission statement highlighted monitoring and participation in the regulation of Indian gaming pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act. broaden that. To me it was broad, but we broadened it to make it more specific, to outline what IGRA's goals One, to promote Tribal economic development, self-sufficiency and strong Tribal government; two, to maintain integrity of the Indian gaming industry; and three, insuring that the tribes are the primary beneficiaries of their gaming activities.

So you can see right here we're moving from that, here's everything to here's how we're actually going to meet those missions. And we do that with the vision. The prior vision statement was broad, but had the substance in it. And we're proposing in this strategic plan the following statement: To adhere to the principals of good government, including transparency and agency accountability; to promote fiscal responsibility; to operate with consistency and clarity to insure fairness in the administration of IGRA; and to respect the capabilities and

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responsibilities of each sovereign Tribal nation in order to fully promote Tribal economic development, self-sufficiency and strong Tribal governments.

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So we've already received some comments on some missing words that maybe the mission could reinforce the vision a little bit more, and we're going to take those into consideration.

At the other two Tribal counsultations, tribes caught on to that real quickly, and that's why we do this. You guys are part of the team in developing a lasting good useful document.

So there's five strategic goals, as Nicole outlined, that we're proposing that are based on that mission and priority. And the way we hope to achieve those are the Ace Initiative: Continue the Assistance, Compliance and Enforcement initiative, as well as improve technical assistance and training for stakeholders.

Dan gave a presentation at the Tribal leaders' meeting we had far exceeded in 2012 what we've done in 2011 because of the outreach our staff has done to the tribes, and what the tribes have been reciprocal and said we need X, and have reached out to us a lot more. And we're already seeing alot already being implemented.

No. 3, Improve and update NIGC regulations.

Over the last year and a half, you guys were done a fantastic job getting those done.

Improve consultation, communication and relationship building with Tribal, federal, state regulatory agencies.

And the fifth is improve efficiency, transparency and accountability.

We're proposing in this plan that the strategy which focuses on pursuing those strategic goals, the five I just outlined, expressing the priority, implementing the vision, identifying the immediate issues, which tribes are not afraid of sharing those.

So we definitely have been collecting those over the last couple of years, and identify core agency processes for improvement. So we have been doing that as well as we're moving through this.

We don't know the future and regardless of the commission, the new one or the old one should be able to pick this Strategic Plan up and run with it. And that's hopefully the goal that we'll get at the end of this.

So there are 12 strategies developed to represent the planning and implementation, and basically describing how we're going to achieve those.

The key measures we'll outline that we're proposing will be meaningful, meaning, why would we do

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it? Measurable: If we're not accountable, then why are we coming to work every day? And why are we routinely collecting?

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We collect a lot of data and as we are required, so it should be meaningful and measurable and how do we report that back and how is it useful to not only the Agency but to the tribe.

The Agency will focus on key measures to guide success in achieving these goals through short term and long-term actions. And anybody that's been involved with Strategic Planning knows these are basic principals. I apologize for reading them to you, but for those who have never done Strategic Planning, it outlines how we're going to get there.

Goal one, the Ace Initiative, which is the Assistance, Compliance, Enforcement, outlines three mains areas, which is like I outlined, increase the availability of technical assistance and training.

Provide timely responses to tribes on audit findings.

We've had a couple of audits that were done years ago and were never presented. So we're trying to clean some of that up. Why did we spend all the time and effort if we're not going to give you the report back in a timely manner to come into compliance?

So we're going to conduct site visits, audits

and evaluations with particular focus on improvements in Tribal internal control to maintain the integrity in the industry, again supporting your guys effort that you guys are already doing. So that's what we're proposing under Goal 1.

In comparison -- and this is the slide that you do not have in your packet -- you might not even have the previous slide. I lost track.

So this is the first of a couple of slides you don't have, but it's only a few. If you see a blank spot from the current strategy, that means we've either achieved it or we're currently doing it, or we're expanding on it. So it's either been, like I said, achieved or been folded into the current strategy.

Under the existing plan -- it's still current. Under the existing plan, it outlines or talks about insuring that tribes meet prerequisites to gaming under IGRA. You guys are doing that. That's when you guys first had to do that. What we did is combine or expand on we're going to conduct site visits, audits and evaluations with focus on improvement on Tribal internal controls. That agains moves us from a broad statement to the particulars.

As you see under the existing plan, it says perform regulatory enforcement action, well, this is the

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increase availability of technical assistance. So that's how we're doing this. You guys, we're already doing Ace, the assistance compliance and enforcement.

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Then further under the existing plan, it talks about improving external commission response time at headquarters. We're expanding that to say specifically the audit findings. So, again, going from broad statements to more specifics.

Goal 2 is to improve technical assistance and training for stakeholders. As we talked about, this provides guidance and technical assistance, training, and other forms of assistance to tribes to build and sustain capability to prevent and respond to and recover from weaknesses in internal controls and violations of IGRA and NIGC regulations.

I think No. 2 is a more important proposal that we are offered today, is that let's continue to reach out to all the regions. I know it's nice to go to all the metropolitan areas, but Indian country is not next to a freeway. At least Rocky Boy sure was not.

We've been approached by many of the tribes in Oregon and in the Northwest and said thank you for coming to us instead of going to always to Sacramento or going to Las Vegas, which we all love. Paiutes would like it, but there's not too many that live there. So

we're expanding where we reach, and we're getting positive feedback on that.

So the existing strategy under the current plan says provide formal and informal guidance. What does that mean?

Well, we're proposing in this plan that it read something to the effect of provide guidance, technical assistance, and training in other forms of assistance, what I just went over. So we're expanding it again.

Under the existing plan it talks about establish and implement training. Well, we did that.

Since 2009, clearly anybody who has taken any of our training, and I think we have a 98 percent rate, but our participation rate of the tribe, 250 some tribes has been pretty good. And we've implemented the program. That's why it's blank. Doesn't mean that we're not going to continue to do it, but what it means, it's been achieved. Now, what we're proposing under the draft Strategic Plan, is provide opportunities for tribes in all locations.

The third on here under the existing plan, is provide applicant background information for Tribal gaming agencies. We're been doing that in various venues. TIMS, if you've ever been on a website --

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TIMS and TAPS -- Tribal access portal system, that's been achieved. We've established a data base system you can log in...

If you've never heard of this program, see Lance afterwards and he'll get you hooked up with that. And it's instant gratification of any background information that you have provided us to run for you and the results are put on that portal data base. And we hope to expand what that offers too as we get our technology improved.

So Goal 3 is to improve and update NIGC regulations. Like I've highlighted many times, the Tribal team and the federal team have done an outstanding job. We have just posted six regulations -two regulations -- four. It's an average, so four. Those are all on our website. So if you have not seen those, please visit or website.

So with this goal, we want to finalize those, and we want to continue to implement new and revise regulations. As you know, this industry is a revolving industry. Regulations are going to be needed to monitor them and revise them as necessary.

So under the existing plan, the strategy was to promulgate regulations as necessary. It's a broad statement. We're offering and proposing under this

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draft Strategic Plan, let's finalize them, implement them, and continue to revise as necessary.

So Goal 4 is improve consultation communication relationship building with Tribal, federal and state regulatory authorities and agencies.

We're proposing that this goal will outline, that we can continue to conduct consultations with tribes, regulations, rulemaking, legislation, guidance, policy formulation or actions that may have a substantial or direct effect on one or more tribes on the relationship between tribes and the federal government, or on the distribution of power and responsibilities between tribes and the federal government.

Two, we're proposing that the responsibilities under an open government initiative as defined by the Office of Management and Budget, Open Government Directive of 2009 and improve the NIGC website to provide information about the agency and its work.

That's something we've been struggling with for quite a while. Our technology is not the best, and we are hoping to get there at some point. Regardless, we are trying to be open and transparent by posting everything that we do, but I know there's lot of work that we could do and we are making a huge effort trying

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And the third component of this goal is coordinate and collaborate with Tribal, federal and state regulatory authorities and agencies using a variety of methods.

So as a quick comparison, under the existing plan, it says, improve the government-to-government consultation process. Well, how? And so under what we're proposing with this plan is what I read previously, is we'll conduct these consultations on all of those various, those items of that an effect on the Tribal relationship or direct effect on the tribes.

And then the existing plan talks about improve and expand the external communications. Well, how?

We're offering, of course, we're a federal government, so the open government initiative is mandatory for us, but make sure that we're in compliance with that and make sure we're providing you the information that is required on our website.

We're also coordinating with Tribal, federal, and state agencies, so our proposal is what I had read to you previously.

Finally, like I said, it's going to be a fast ride. Finally, our fifth goal is to increase efficiency, transparency and accountable. And we're

proposing that it would include three components: to update and provide further -- update and further develop policies that enhance agency, employees' abilities to perform their jobs effectively. Implement and monitor performance measurements system to enhance employee performance, as well as develop and maintain an integrated information system and processes that support the NIGC staff and its functions.

In comparison, Goal 5 in the existing plan talks about enhancing fiscal discipline and transparency to stakeholders as well as improve and expand internal communication. So we've not only -- I notice there's a blank spot. So we've enhanced fiscal discipline and transparency to stakeholders by providing you guys information on what we're doing, how are we doing it, as well as internally improving the way we communicate with our staff.

We have an Intranet that we provide resource information to our staff. If there's any new federal program, they may be eligible for resources that are available for them. Thus the blank spot. We're achieving that. It's currently in the works.

So, the third strategy the existing plan out highlights is develop and implement technological resources. How we're doing that is developing more

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integrated information systems and processes. An example of that is we recently had -- not recently, but within this last year have had a lot more webinars to reach some of the very remote tribes that have limited resources.

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So we're going to hopefully partner with the Department of Interior with their DOI learning system that other tribes already have access to, so we can provide resources, whether it be forums or -- Mr.

Twitter over here, our associate commissioner, would like to even see Twitter. So we're reaching tribes on, hey, we just posted this website, getting into social media.

And using our partnerships with DOI since we are an independent federal regulatory agency. Let's provide more partnership with them, or let's get -- that's not final, but we're looking at how do we take advantage of their multi-million dollar investments in IT, and can we ride on the coattails and can we do partnership where it benefits the tribe and agency. So that's what this integrated information system would looks like.

And one of the concerns that another tribe had brought up is the security of the data. The IG is currently at DOI, and have their own server, their own

room, and that would be the same system the DOI could not crack into the system if held separately. It's held separately in a separate room. So your information is safe and secure.

The current or the existing strategy highlights develop and implement policies and procedures, including internal compliance programs. Ιt also talks about establishing employee development programs and encouraging native American cultural awareness.

What we've done over the last couple of years is definitely enhanced our Agency's ability to perform jobs effectively. And that means updating our internal policies. Every tribe I've ever worked for, and I've only worked for tribes, in my last two jobs in the government, we've always had personnel policies and procedures. So we're making sure ours are relevant.

And Lance and Sally and Nicole do their job effectively and efficiently. And that's a nonstop process. The government likes changing policies all the time.

Nicole and I proposed one late December of last year, and come January they changed the entire regulation. So we had to start over, which is fine. We already had a draft, but the government changes, so we

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Instead of encouraging native American cultural awareness, anybody that has been to D.C. there's cultures all over the world. And we definitely wanted to highlight the native American cultures, but we highlight all cultures. And in the month of November, we clearly celebrate native American culture.

But we invite every Tribal member that works for NIGC to provide a welcome word, or we've done some recipes, anyway we can to encourage the staff that works for us to learn more about the people of the tribes that we come from. And we post that on the Intranet. Notice the blank. Doesn't mean we're not doing it. We're constantly doing it, and we're expanding to all cultures.

So what are the next steps? Clearly we finished a couple of consultation dates now. And we have the next one on October 23rd in Quapat. And if you think this was a stimulating presentation, wait until that one. It will be exactly the same. So we encourage your participation.

So during the month of October and November, we will revise the plan based on the comments received, and we are required to submit our plan to OMB by December, thus the time frame of October 31st, the

cutting off for comments deadline.

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Come January, once the revised plan has been revised, we'll submit that plan to Congress in February. So it's pretty short cycle, not a lot of wiggle room in there, but I think the proposal that we're offering gives you guys a good opportunity to weigh in on, are we on target or are we not. So we definitely would encourage you to say this is crap or we love it or here are some ways of improving it.

So once we finalize a plan in February, we as an agency have to develop action plans of actually implementing it, and making it happen and being accountable to the tribes and to the federal government of how are we doing this.

And that leads into or annual performance plans as well as reviewing and providing those annual budget justifications.

So anybody that has a lot of spare time and is very interested about what we do -- our green book is the budget justification, that was one of the questions asked last week in Portland. It's on our website. You can see everything we have done in the green book. The Strategic Plan is linked. That's what our budget justification is. We try to make it a little more friendlier to find.

So it's under About Us, IGRA. Want to see what in the last years says, the 18 years, all of those are in there and that's what we keep referring to when we say budget justification. The green book is our budget justification. Here are the various ways to submit your comments. E-mail, fax, postal service, pony express or express service. Draft.plans@NIGC.gov.

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So I'll entertain any questions you may have.

Comments?

MS. COCHRAN: Thank you, Dawn. Is there any observations or comments or thoughts?

MS. POUST: Teri Poust an attorney here on behalf of various Tribal clients.

A question regarding after the plans are implemented, for example, your existing plans that you have, is there ever a requirement that you publish something that says this is how we did? I know that you've done performance measures built into these plans, and I know you track it internally, but are you required at all to publish here's how we did and here's our report to Indian country?

MS. HOULE: Yes, we are. The government loves reports, and that is the budget justification. So the highlights are in there. And because we haven't had to do -- the latest one is 2012, or when did it end? I

can't remember.

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MS. ASPA: We have the 2013 budget justification is on the website, and if you look at the 2013 budget justification, it contains the annual performance plan and the performance report. And the annual performance report is the highlight of fiscal year 2011.

So when the 2014 budget justification comes out, it will contain the annual performance report for fiscal year 2012. So it goes back several years because you have to do the budget justification before.

MS. COCHRAN: That does raise a good point.

Thanks, Teri. We need to perhaps think about how we direct people to the right place. Anybody going on the website so would know this is where I go to find out what happened. So thank you. Any more questions?

One of the things I know that we worked on within the Commission, even with the existing Strategic Plan was trying to find ways, measurable ways to measure success, whether we achieved the objective under the existing Strategic Plan. Some of it we've been able to capture a little better. It's still a process for us. It can be anything from working on at a budgetary, how we account for money that is spent. It could be measuring training hours, it could be expenses, travel

1 expenses for training.

Trying to capture that is we have a measurable ways, so that's definitely ongoing process and we're working closely with the auditors and other people on the staff to make that happen. So we can report that back out in a clear way.

MS. WALTERS: If you don't feel comfortable making comments here, we encourage you to submit comments by e-mail, post mail and fax, and we look forward to reading those and we'll take into consideration every comment that we receive.

MS. COCHRAN: Thank you. Again, I appreciate your time and I appreciate your patience in listening.

And with that we'll go ahead and conclude the meeting.

And I wish you a very safe travel back to your home.

(Whereupon, the proceedings were concluded at 3:01 p.m.)

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3	STATE OF NEVADA )
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7	I, KENDALL D. HEATH, a Certified Court
8	Reporter, do hereby certify that I took down in
9	Stenotype all of the proceedings had in the
10	before-entitled matter at the time and place indicated
11	and that thereafter said shorthand notes were
12	transcribed into typewriting at and under my direction
13	and supervision and that the foregoing transcript
14	constitutes a full, true and accurate record of the
15	proceedings had.
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17	IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto subscribed
18	my name at Las Vegas, Nevada, this 16th day of October,
19	2012.
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24	KENDALL D. HEATH
	CCR No. 475
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