



April 4, 2011

Dear Tribal Leader:

On behalf of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), we are pleased to provide the attached Notice of Regulatory Review Schedule. This Notice is the result of the NIGC's review and consideration of comments received in response to the Notice of Inquiry published in the Federal Register on November 18, 2010 concerning the NIGC's comprehensive regulatory review. We greatly appreciate the tribal participation during the January and February 2011 consultations. We know that the best results can be achieved after meaningful consultation with Indian tribes and we look forward to your participation.

The NIGC recognizes and respects the sovereignty of Indian tribes and the government-to-government relationship that exists between the United States and tribal governments. Accordingly, the NIGC committed to implementing the President's November 5, 2009 Executive Memorandum on Tribal Consultation with Indian tribes and Executive Order 13,175 prior to and during any rulemaking process.

The Commission has divided the regulations to be reviewed into five groups. Those groups are:

Group 1:

- (a) A Buy Indian Act regulation;
- (b) Part 523 – Review and Approval of Existing Ordinances or Resolutions;
- (c) Part 514 – Fees;
- (d) Part 559 – Facility License Notifications, Renewals, and Submissions; and
- (e) Part 542 – Minimum Internal Control Standards for Class III Gaming.

Group 2:

- (a) Part 573 – Enforcement; and
- (b) Regulations concerning proceedings before the Commission, including: Parts 519 – Service, Part 524 – Appeals, Part 539 – Appeals, and Part 577 – Appeals Before the Commission.

Group 3:

- (a) Part 543 – Minimum Internal Control Standards for Class II Gaming; and
- (b) Part 547 – Minimum Technical Standards for Gaming Equipment Used with the Play of Class II Games.

Group 4:

- (a) Part 556 – Background Investigations for Primary Management Officials and Key Employees;
- (b) Part 558 – Gaming Licenses for Key Employees and Primary Management Officials;
- (c) Part 556 – Background Investigations “Pilot Program”;
- (d) Part 571 – Monitoring and Investigations;
- (e) Part 531 – Collateral Agreements;
- (f) Part 537 – Background Investigations for Persons or Entities With a Financial Interest in, or Having Management Responsibility for, a Management Contract; and
- (g) Part 502 – Definitions.

Group 5:

- (a) Part 518 – Self Regulation of Class II Gaming;
- (b) A Sole Proprietary Interest regulation; and
- (c) Part 542 – Minimum Internal Control Standards for Class III Gaming.

The Commission intends to utilize a three phase approach to the regulatory review process. The first phase is a preliminary drafting phase. During this phase, tribal consultation meetings have been established so that NIGC can consult with Tribes on any preliminary draft rule. The second phase is the Notice of Proposed Rulemaking Phase. If a draft rule has been developed during the first phase, the NIGC may decide to publish a proposed rule. The proposed rule will remain open for comment for approximately 60 days after publication. NIGC intends to consult with Tribes during this second phase and has scheduled meetings to receive comments and concerns on any Proposed Rule. The third and final phase is the Final Rule phase. After the comment period for the Proposed Rule has closed, the Agency will decide whether to issue a final rule and will take a minimum of thirty days to consider comments received before issuing any final rule. If issued, the rule generally will become final approximately 45 days after a Notice of Final Rule has been published in the Federal Register. Each Group will proceed through these phases.

It is important to note that at any given time the Commission may address more than one Group of regulations in a single meeting. We have made every attempt to streamline the process while providing adequate time to address changes, if any, to the regulation. We also attempted to balance those regulations that we anticipate may have only minor changes with those regulations that may undergo more substantial revisions.

We invite all Tribal leaders to participate at any of our 33 scheduled consultations during our Regulatory Review Schedule. The Commission has attempted to schedule consultations in every region and to hold those consultations either before or after other events widely attended by tribal officials. The purpose of scheduling consultations in this manner is to both encourage participation of tribal officials and to conserve tribal resources by reducing the amount of travel of participants. The enclosed Federal Register Notice and consultation schedule provides the anticipated dates and locations of our

meetings. For those Tribal leaders unable to attend these consultations, we invite you to submit written comments by e-mail to [reg.review@nigc.gov](mailto:reg.review@nigc.gov), or by U.S. mail to National Indian Gaming Commission, Attn: Regulatory Review, 1441 L Street, NW, Suite 9100, Washington, DC 20005.

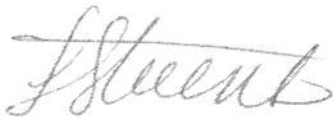
The Commission intends to post all comments received and transcripts of each consultation on the NIGC website under the heading "Tribal Consultation," on the left-hand side of the NIGC home page, [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov).

For planning purposes, and to accommodate all who want to attend the consultations, please RSVP to Rita Homa, Executive Secretary, at (202) 418-9807 or by e-mail at [consultation.rsvp@nigc.gov](mailto:consultation.rsvp@nigc.gov). Information regarding the time and location of each tribal consultation will be posted on our website.

We are committed to working together on a government-to-government basis to maximize the results of this regulatory review process. We look forward to meeting with you should your schedule allow.

Thank you for your interest and participation in this regulatory review process.

Sincerely,



Tracie L. Stevens  
Chairwoman



Steffani A. Cochran  
Vice-Chairwoman



Daniel J. Little  
Associate Commissioner

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