



AUG 16 2001

Mr. Frank Bari
Attorney at Law
305 Broadway, Suite 602
New York, NY 10007

RE: Game Classification Request-"Hand Rolle"

Dear Mr. Bari:

We are in receipt of your letter dated May 18, 2001, in which you request that the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) approve the dice game invented by your client called "Hand Rolle."

The NIGC does not approve games for play in casinos. Rather, the Office of the General Counsel issues advisory opinions whether games are Class II or Class III under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act.

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) governs gaming on Indian lands. IGRA defines Class II gaming in relevant part to include:

(i) the game of chance commonly known as bingo (whether or not electronic, computer, or other technologic aids are used in connection therewith)—

(I) which is played for prizes, including monetary prizes, with cards bearing numbers or other designations,

(II) in which the holder of the card covers such numbers or designations when objects, similarly numbered or designated, are drawn or electronically determined, and

(III) in which the game is won by the first person covering a previously designated arrangement of numbers or designations on such cards, including (if played in the same location) pull-tabs, lotto, punch boards, tip jars, instant bingo, and other games similar to bingo[.]

25 U.S.C. § 2703(7)(A)(i).

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It also includes certain non-banked card games. 25 U.S.C. § 2703(7)(ii). All other forms of gambling --except Class I gaming which consists of social games for prizes of minimal value and gaming by individuals in connection with tribal ceremonies-- are considered Class III games and may be lawfully played only pursuant to a Tribal-State compact. 25 U.S.C. §§ 2703(8) and 2710(d)(1)(C).

The game that your materials describe is similar to the table game of craps. It is played on a table specially designed for the game and utilizes a 12-sided die. The layout of the table is similar to a craps table in that the player bets by placing money value chips in a certain position on the table indicating his bet. The outcome of each game is determined by a player's roll of the die. According to the procedures manual accompanying the game description, the game requires a bankroll of \$58,200.00 in order to pay winners. As such, "Hand Rolle" is a Class III game under IGRA and may only be operated pursuant to an approved compact between a state and a tribe.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Penny Coleman". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Penny J. Coleman
Deputy General Counsel