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National Indian Gaming Commission Lowers Gaming Operations Fee Rate

WASHINGTON, February 29, 2016 – The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) announced today that it will again lower the preliminary annual fee rate for Indian gaming operations.

Effective March 1, 2016, the annual fee rate for Indian gaming operations will be:

- 0.00 percent for tier 1 operations
- 0.062 percent for tier 2 operations
- 0.031 percent of Class II revenues for self-regulating tribes under 25 CFR part 518

"The tier 2 preliminary annual fee rate represents the lowest fee rate adopted by the Commission in the last five years. We are able to reduce the rate and work efficiently to expand our commitment to compliance with the mandates of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and the NIGC's regulations. We will continue to provide new and increased services to the tribal gaming industry and our regulatory partners, such as new training and technical assistance for rural, smaller operations, to ensure that they have all the tools they need to stay in compliance. We will also continue to focus on our priorities of staying ahead of the technology curve and working to protect against gamesmanship on the backs of tribes," said Chairman Jonodev Osceola Chaudhuri.

The NIGC is funded by tribal nations through Indian gaming operation revenue pursuant to IGRA and its regulations. The agency bases fees on a percentage of assessable gross gaming revenues, which are paid quarterly to the agency. See Fee Rate Bulletin.

In addition, the Commission annually reviews the cost of processing fingerprint cards and sets a fee based on the amount charged by the Federal Bureau of Investigation and costs incurred by the Commission for processing. The Commission continues to hold the NIGC fingerprint processing fee at \$21 per card, as adopted last year on March 1, 2015.

The Indian gaming industry includes more than 450 gaming establishments, associated with nearly 242 tribes across 28 states. The Commission's dedication to compliance with the <u>Indian Gaming Regulatory Act</u> ensures the integrity of the \$28.5 billion Indian gaming industry. To learn more, visit <u>www.nigc.gov</u> and follow us on <u>Facebook</u> and <u>Twitter</u>.

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