

# National Indian Gaming Commission

Northwest Gaming  
Law Summit  
2010

# Commissioners



Tracie Stevens (Tulalip)  
June 2010  
*Chairwoman*

Steffani Cochran (Chickasaw)  
January 2010  
*Vice-Chairwoman*



Dan Little  
April 2010  
*Associate Commissioner*

# Senior Staff



Larry Roberts (Oneida of Wisconsin)  
*General Counsel*



Paxton Myers (Eastern Band Cherokee)  
*Chief of Staff*



Dawn Houle (Chippewa Cree)  
*Deputy Chief of Staff*



Lael Echo-Hawk (Pawnee)  
*Counselor to the Chair*

# Policy of IGRA

Sec. 2702. Declaration of policy

The purpose of this chapter is -

- (1) to provide a statutory basis for the operation of gaming by Indian tribes as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments;

# Major Initiatives

1. Consultation & Relationship Building
2. Technical Assistance & Training
3. Regulatory Review
4. Agency Operations Review

# Consultation & Relationship Building

*Through meaningful consultation, the NIGC is committed to renewing and building strong collaborative relationships with Tribes to safeguard the Indian gaming industry and foster economic self-sufficiency and strong tribal governments.*

# Consultation & Relationship Building

## *Support Administration's commitment to Indian Country*

- Nation Building
- Empowerment of Tribal Governments
- Honor Tribal Sovereignty & Self-Determination
- Engage in Meaningful Consultation with Tribes
- Assist tribal leaders build safer, stronger, healthier and more prosperous communities

# Consultation & Relationship Building

## New Approach:

- Group consultations
  - Broad policies that affect ALL tribes throughout Indian Country
- Individual meetings
  - At the tribes' request to address matters specific to their needs

# Consultation & Relationship Building

- *Executive Order 13175, Sec. 3, Policy Making Criteria*
  - Discuss with tribes the NEED for change prior to beginning rulemaking process
- *NIGC Consultation Policy Revision*
  - Summer 2010 Consultation
- *Department of Interior Tribal Consultation Team (DOI TCT)*

# Consultation & Relationship Building

## Relationship Building

- Day-to-day course of business with tribes via our DC office AND Field offices
- Sister agencies
- State Regulatory Agencies
- Stakeholders

# Technical Assistance & Training

*The Commission views training and technical assistance as an essential component of our mission and our commitment to collaboration with Tribes.*

*Successful regulation depends upon a properly trained and informed workforce.*

*Well targeted training and technical assistance programs provide a foundation that maintains the integrity and success of Indian gaming.*

# Technical Assistance & Training

- Statutory Requirement
- Preventative Measure
  - Preempt violations
  - Decrease enforcement actions & compliance issues
  - Reduce need for additional regulations
  - Enhance operations & performance
  - Cost effective measures

# Technical Assistance & Training

- Survey 2011 (what we know since 2008)
  - Course offerings
  - Locations
  - Regional trainings
- Review & Evaluation
  - Tribal needs and obstacle
  - Agency resources
- Partnerships
- On-line Registration

# Agency Operations Review

*The NIGC is as concerned with how it runs its own operations as we are about how Tribes run their operation*

*Top-down review of Agency*

# Agency Operations Review

- Budget
  - Funded primarily by tribal fee assessments. Agency must be good stewards of these fees
- Internal Policies & Procedures
  - Top to bottom review
- Indian Preference
  - Primary mission of Agency benefits tribes
- Strategic Plan
  - GPRA compliance
- Operations
  - Streamline, Human Capital Assessment, DC HQ Move, Website

# Regulatory Review

## *Notice of Inquiry (NOI) - What is it?*

- Method to engage with stakeholders
  - Ask questions
  - Solicit input
  - Prior to initiating Rulemaking Process
- Published in the Federal Register
- EO 13175 Sec. 3

# Regulatory Review

- November 18, 2010 Publication
  - 86 Day Comment Period
  - Comment Deadline February 12, 2011
- Agency's Assessment of Regulations
  - Changes NIGC identified that would further assist our responsibilities
- Questions to Tribes:
  - WHICH regulations need to be addressed?
  - In what order (PRIORITY)?
  - How should we do this (PROCESS)?

# Regulatory Review

- Cast a wide outreach net
- Posted on Website
  - Link to NOI & Regs
  - Link to submit comments on-line
- Consultations
  - 8 cities in January & February 2011

# Regulatory Review

- Compile & review all comments
- Create & publish a priority list, timetable & transparent process
- Then the FUN begins....
  - Engage in the process
  - Limited time to accomplish priority regulations
  - EO 13175 Sec. 3, Policy Making Criteria

# Closing

1. Consultation & Relationship Building
  - Engage through consultations & day-to-day
2. Technical Assistance & Training
  - Return the Survey
3. Regulatory Review
  - Participate & provide feedback
4. Agency Operations Review
  - Efficiency & better service

# Contact Information

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