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9	BEFORE THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION
10	TRIBAL CONSULTATION
11	July 20, 2011
12	Route 66 Casino Hotel
13	14500 Central Avenue, SW
14	Albuquerque, New Mexico
15	
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17	Members of the Commission:
18	Ms. Steffani A. Cochran, Vice Chair
	Ms. Lael Echo-Hawk, Counsel to the Chairwoman
19	Ms. Jennifer Ward, Office of the General Counsel
	Mr. Lance Vallo, Field Investigator
20	
21	Reported by: Karen Lee Clark, RPR, New Mexico CCR 227
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23	
24	Job No. NJ340546
25	(1469K) KLC

Page 2 1 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Good morning. That woke 2 me up. 3 Thank you for your patience this morning. We had a couple things we needed to take care of, and a 4 5 couple people we were hoping would show up. So I appreciate your patience this morning. 6 7 We're going to go ahead and get started. And I, first and foremost, want to begin with our 8 9 introductions. I'm looking for the agenda. I thought I had 10 11 one handy. 12 Thank you. 13 We have Governor Luarkie here with us, and 14 he's agreed to open up our meeting this morning. 15 I'm going to start with you, Governor, and 16 thank you for having us here. I look forward to a very 17 productive meeting. And I'm going to turn it over to 18 you for a few comments and opening. 19 GOVERNOR LUARKIE: Good morning, everyone. 20 THE AUDIENCE: Good morning. 21 GOVERNOR LUARKIE: It's good to see all of you Thank you, and welcome to the Route 66 Casino. 2.2 here. We appreciate you taking the time to come out this 23 24 morning and -- and today and tomorrow, and spending some time with the group, here, going through this process. 25

1 And so we are very appreciative to all of you. 2 Before we get any further, just some 3 housekeeping. If you haven't already found them, the bathrooms are right across the hall, here, as long as 4 5 you go out the door to your right. And there's -- when we break today for lunch, there's restaurants and -- and 6 7 whatnot down the -- down the side here. So with that, again, we're very appreciative. 8 9 With me here today is our Special Lieutenant 10 Governor, Charles Poncho, our councilman, Virgil Siow. 11 And there also are the Pueblo Laguna delegates to -- to 12 all gaming initiatives for us, and -- and NIGA, and 13 whatnot, so they -- they represent us. 14 Also, in the room we have Andrew DeLoris, a 15 tribal council member present with us today. And any of 16 the other pueblos? We've got Mr. George Pradt, who is, 17 also, one of our board members for Laguna. I saw Bob 18 Johnson here somewhere. He must have left. Oh. He's 19 on the phone outside. So if I missed anybody from the Pueblo, I 20 apologize. If you're here, please stand up. 21 2.2 So again, thank you, everyone for -- for being 23 here. 24 But before we go any further, let's offer a 25 few words of prayer and guidance this morning.

1	(A silent prayer was given.)
2	GOVERNOR LUARKIE: Again, I wish all of you a
3	great meeting today. And, again, thank you for having
4	it here at the Route 66. We do appreciate it.
5	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Governor.
6	Governor, I was reading that you're very
7	heavily involved in the economic initiatives of the
8	Pueblo, and that is a firm commitment you've made. And
9	so I I look forward to watching the Pueblo grow and
10	seeing it prosper. Thank you for having us.
11	I know many of you in the room, but there are
12	many other faces that are new to me, so I'm going to
13	introduce myself. But, first and foremost, I do want to
14	introduce the other tribal leaders at the table, or ask
15	them to introduce themselves, please.
16	And any tribal leadership elders or others
17	that are remaining in the other chairs, if you would
18	introduce yourself, as well. Then I will introduce
19	myself and the staff that are here.
20	MR. HINTON: Good morning, ladies and
21	gentlemen. My name is Timothy Hinton. And I am the
22	vice chairman of the White Mountain Apache Tribe. Good
23	morning.
24	MR. KESSAY: Good morning, ladies and
25	gentlemen. My name is Clinton Kessay, Jr. I'm the

1 Tribal Council for the White Mountain Apache Tribe. MR. BEACH: Good morning, everybody. My name 2 is Arnold Beach. I'm the Tribal Council for the White 3 Mountain Apache Tribe. 4 5 MR. SIOW: Good morning. Virgil Siow, Pueblo of Laguna Tribal Council. 6 7 MR. PONCHO: Once again, good morning, everybody. I am Charles Poncho. I'm the Second 8 9 Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Laguna. 10 MR. TORINO: Good morning, everybody. My name 11 is Kino Torino. I'm representing District Three, Tribal 12 Counsel, White Mountain Apache tribe. 13 MR. APODACA: Good morning everybody. My name 14 is Albert Apodaca. I'm the Executive Director of the 15 Mescalero Apache Tribal Gaming Commission. 16 MR. TORIVIO: Good morning, everybody. I'm Mike Torivio from the Pueblo of Acoma. I'm one of the 17 18 gaming commissioners. 19 MR. SHANNAHAN LARGO: Good morning, everybody. I'm Shannahan Largo. I'm the gaming commissioner, 20 Jicarilla Apache. 21 2.2 MR. PHILLIP LARGO: Good morning. My name is 23 Phillip Largo. I'm the Chair for the Jicarillo Gaming Commissioners. 24 25 MR. GREEN: Good morning. I'm not a tribal

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Page 6 1 I'm an attorney. I come from Oklahoma. leader. Т 2 represent a number of tribes there, and they send me to 3 watch the NIGC regularly to make sure they don't do anything that hurts or offends them. 4 5 MS. CHINO: Good morning. Carlene Chino, Navajo Nation. I'm the executive director for the 6 7 Regulatory Commission. MS. BEGAYE: Good morning. My name is Karis 8 9 Begaye. I'm an attorney for the Navajo Nation. 10 MR. DING: Good morning. Mickey Ding, Navajo 11 Nation, Department of Justice. 12 MS. PADILLA: Good morning. I'm Angela 13 Padilla for the Pueblo of Pojoaque. MR. ZUCKER: Good morning. Stewart Zucker, 14 15 Executive Director of the Pueblo Pojoaque Gaming 16 Commission. 17 MR. GALLEGOS: Good morning. Manny Gallegos, 18 the duly appointed Chair of the Tesuque Gaming 19 Commission. 20 MR. QUIGLEY: Good morning. I'm Daniel 21 Quigley, General Counsel for the Tohono O'odham Gaming 2.2 Enterprise. 23 MR. TENORIO: Good morning. Joe Tenorio with the Chestnut Law Offices. 24 25 GOVERNOR GARCIA: Good morning. David Garcia,

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1 First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Acoma. 2 MR. DeLORIS: Good morning. I am Andrew I'm the internal auditor of the Pueblo of 3 DeLoris. 4 Laguna Gaming Regulatory Authority. 5 GOVERNOR CHEWIWI: Good morning. My name is Antonio Chewiwi, Second Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of 6 7 Isleta. 8 MR. GOMEZ: Good morning. Eddie Gomez. I'm 9 the Executive Director of the Gaming and Regulatory 10 Agency at the Pueblo of Isleta. MS. GARCIA: Good morning. My name is Coleen 11 12 I'm from the Santa Ana Gaming Commission. Garcia. 13 MR. ROYBAL: Good morning. Ed Roybal, 14 attorney for the Ak-Chin Indian Community. 15 MS. WANYA: Good morning. I'm Cheryl Wanya, 16 Compliance Officer, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise. 17 MR. LOCKETT: Good morning. My name is Eddie 18 Lockett, Director, Casino Operations, Hon-Dah Casino, 19 Special Advisor on Gaming Affairs, White Mountain Apache 20 Tribe. MS. TRUJILLO: Good morning. My name is 21 2.2 Yvonne Trujillo. I'm the Executive Director for the 23 Taos Gaming Commission. 24 MS. MARTINEZ: Good morning. Maria Martinez, Pueblo of Taos Gaming Commission. 25

Page 8 1 MS. MARTINEZ: Good morning. Gaylene 2 Martinez, Pueblo of Taos, Gaming Commissioner. 3 MS. SANCHEZ: Good morning. Barbara Sanchez, Pueblo of Isleta, Tribal Council Secretary. 4 5 MR. PRADT: Good morning, again. George Pradt. I'm from the Pueblo of Laguna Gaming Commission. 6 7 MR. ALBEITA: Fernando Albeita, Tribal Council, Pueblo of Isleta. 8 9 MS. PADILLA: Good morning. Josephine 10 Padilla, Pueblo of Isleta Council. 11 MR. YELLOW EAGLE: Good morning. My name is 12 Glen Yellow Eagle. I'm here for the Rosebud Sioux 13 Tribe. MR. BACA: Good morning. Elijah Baca, 14 Executive Director for the Santa Clara Pueblo Gaming 15 16 Commission. 17 MR. WILLIAMS: Good morning. Chris Williams, Internal Auditor for the Santa Clara Hotel and Casino. 18 19 MS. ORTIZ: Good morning. Maylenie Ortiz, from San Felipe Gaming Commission, Licensing Specialist. 20 21 MS. VELASQUEZ: Good morning. I'm Maxine 2.2 Velasquez, In-House General Counsel for the Pueblo of 23 Tesuque and the Chair of the Community Control Board. 24 MR. LEWIS: Good morning. My name is Russell Lewis, and I'm with the Navajo Nation Gaming, and gaming 25

1 agent.

2 MR. WHITEMAN: Good morning. My name is 3 Darwin Whiteman, and I'm a compliance investigator, Ute Mountain, Ute tribe. 4 5 MR. LESLIE: Good morning. Roger Leslie, Gaming Commissioner, Sandia. 6 MR. PIERCE: Good morning. Jim Pierce, 7 Executive Director for Sandia Pueblo Gaming Commission. 8 9 MS. CHAVARRIS: Good morning. Loretta Chavarris, Santa Clara Pueblo Gaming Chair. 10 11 MR. NARANJO: Roger Naranjo, Santa Clara 12 Gaming Commission. 13 MS. TAYLOR: Good morning. Andrea Taylor, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Gaming Commission. 14 15 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Okay. Good morning. 16 I feel so small sitting up here so far away. 17 There's a lot of familiar faces out there, and 18 it's always a pleasure to see faces I haven't seen in a while, like the Councilman from the Pueblo of Isleta. I 19 appreciate your time, and I appreciate you coming out. 20 21 For those of you who don't know me, my name is 2.2 Steffani Cochran. I'm a member of the Chickasaw Nation. I was born and raised in Oklahoma, but home for me, now, 23 24 is Santa Fe, New Mexico. I started out as a lawyer by trade. Jess follows me around. 25

1	But I started out my middle career was with
2	the Pueblo of Isleta as an associate judge, and then
3	took the position in the State of Oregon as an
4	administrative law judge, and then found myself back in
5	New Mexico several years ago, as Special Counsel for
6	Indian Affairs. And my last position prior to taking on
7	the NIGC work was as counsel, general counsel, for the
8	Pueblo of Pojoaque. So it's a pleasure to see the
9	Pueblo here, as well.
10	This is home for me, and it's it's always a
11	pleasure to come home. And it's always a pleasure to
12	get an opportunity to to spend some time with people
13	whose issues and progress is very familiar to me. So I
14	look forward to our dialogue.
15	I have several staff here with me. And I'm
16	going to let them introduce themselves, those that are
17	sitting at the table. In addition, we have staff from
18	our Phoenix region, so I'm going to have you introduce
19	yourself, as well.
20	MR. VALLO: Good morning, everybody. Lance
21	Vallo, a field investigator from the Phoenix office.
22	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: And Sally is outside, I
23	believe. Sally, as well, is here.
24	MS. WARD: Good morning. I'm Jennifer Ward,
25	and I am an attorney with the Office of General Counsel

Page 11 out of DC. Generally, I work in the Great Plains region, so it's really nice to be out here and see a lot of new faces. MS. ECHO-HAWK: So the fancy -- the fancy one isn't working. Good morning. My name is Lael Echo-Hawk, and I'm a member of the Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma. I'm an attorney. I'm currently counsel to Tracie Stevens, but my primary responsibility is dealing with this regulatory review. I very much appreciate the welcome that we have here. And I love being in the Southwest, and look forward to your comments. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: As most of you know, the Commission agreed and has set a very aggressive consultation schedule to review our existing regulations to make sure that they are relevant, make sure that they're not duplicative, make sure that they're not overly burdensome. And we set a consultation agenda of 33 consultations. And in that process, I believe we're on number eleven, if my memory serves me correctly. I spent this week earlier, and I spent last week, up in Tulalip, and then we had a public meeting in Oklahoma. And, now, we're here.

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The -- the Commission is very excited about this process. And we believe that it is going to produce the best that we can offer in the form of regulatory review. The other commissioners were hoping to join me today, as this is one of the very first sessions that we've opened up to all of our groups for discussion.

8 But as is the case, the work of the Commission 9 does necessitate that sometimes we break up. And so on 10 behalf of the Chairwoman and on behalf of Mr. Little, 11 they do wish us a very productive session.

12 The agenda is quite extensive. And we've 13 broken it up into two days. And we've also broken it up 14 into various groups so that we can, hopefully, take each 15 topic individually, give it the attention that it 16 deserves, and then move on to the next one.

That being said, we are firmly aware of the commitment of tribal leadership, and if there are tribal leaders that cannot stay or cannot be here tomorrow, or for whatever reasons want to offer some statements into the record in advance, that's certainly acceptable since we're cognizant that you have very demanding schedules.

23 So before we begin, is there anyone that wants 24 to open up with a statement, or can't stay and -- and 25 wishes to offer a statement before we get into the 1 agenda?

2	Okay. As I said, at some point in time, if
3	you do need to leave, and there's things to say, please
4	let us know, and we will make sure that we write it into
5	the program.
6	Lael has been tasked with this process. And
7	it is a daunting process. There is a lot of information
8	going on.
9	(Interruption in the proceedings.)
10	I think they found the right button.
11	There's a lot of information being generated
12	right now, a lot of discussions happening all throughout
13	the country, all throughout Indian country. And she has
14	this daunting task of keeping track of it all, having it
15	make sense, and, of course, keeping the commissioners
16	where we need to be at, at what time, and making
17	decisions when we need to make them.
18	So I'm going to turn this over to Lael, and
19	she's going to give us an overview of of the agenda,
20	do introductions to the topics so that you have a
21	working knowledge of where we're at. And then we'll
22	begin our discussions.
23	(Interruption in the proceedings.)
24	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. Okay. Sorry. We're
25	trying not to kill your ears this morning. It's too

1 early for that. We'll slowly bore you to death, but -2 okay.

So good morning, again. We are here today at 3 this part of the consultation policy -- the consultation 4 5 process that the Commission has undertaken. And I think as we've gone forward with the regulation review, as 6 7 most of you will recall, beginning in November of last 8 year, the Commission began asking questions through a 9 Notice of Inquiry, and then later published a notice of 10 regulatory review schedule, which this is one of 33 consultations identified in that schedule. 11

12 The Commission first asked the question, "What 13 issues do we need to look at? What regulations?" And 14 then, second, "How do we do that?"

15 We're currently in the drafting phase of these 16 consultations, and -- and talking about the various 17 topics as they've arisen. One sort of housekeeping 18 thing, but very important to note, is that the tribal 19 consultation meetings are between tribal governments and the -- tribal governments and the federal government. 20 21 Only tribes and their designees can attend and 2.2 participate in these meetings, and that they're not open 23 to the public. This is important for us to note. This 24 is government-to-government consultation, and it's something that the Commission wanted to emphasize. 25

1 This consultation is part of the mandate given to federal agencies under the Executive Order 13,175. 2 3 Particularly, this process is part of the section that you can see underlined up there, where it says that 4 5 prior to developing -- prior to determining whether to establish federal standards, the federal government, the 6 7 NIGC in this instance, consults with tribes first. So before we begin drafting, before we begin rulemaking, we 8 9 talk to you and ask whether or not these standards are 10 appropriate.

The Commission has divided, basically, 21 different topics into five regulations -- five -- five groups that we're reviewing. These groups were formed by a number of factors, including a lot of time and resources estimated that they might take to look at, what the subject matter was, and the comments that we received from the Notice of Inquiry.

The group numbers do not indicate priority, something that we've been asked before. Just to clarify, that group one doesn't indicate it's a higher priority than any of the other groups.

We've divided the drafting phase as the drafting, the actual ruling, and the review of the rules into three different phases: The preliminary drafting phase, which we are currently in today; the proposed --

1 the proposed rulemaking phase, in which a notice of proposed rulemaking would go out. We haven't yet begun 2 that phase for any of the rules. But once we do enter 3 that phase, the Commission is going in for at least a 4 5 60-day written comment period, so if you were unable to comment on any of the discussion drafts as they've come 6 7 out, there is going to be at least a 60-day written comment period available for you if we go into the 8 9 notice of proposed rulemaking. And then, finally, the 10 final rule.

11 All of the preliminary discussion drafts are 12 available on our website. Currently, we have seven 13 posted. They are initial working drafts only. They are 14 a -- they are our attempt to put into regulation draft 15 form the comments that we've received from tribes and 16 the comments that we've received internally from our 17 staff addressing the issues that we've seen come up. 18 But, again, they are only initial working drafts.

All of these consultations are transcribed. All written comments and transcripts are posted on our website at www.NIGC.gov. If you have -- if you have an issue or it's difficult for you to find where that information is located, please don't hesitate to reach out to us, and we can get you that information. I will say this again, at the end of this

first session, probably throughout the day -- but because these meetings are transcribed, when you do speak, we need for you to speak into the microphone, state your name and your tribal affiliation so that our transcriptionist, over there, can make sure that the transcript is accurate.

7 The commitment by the Commission is that every 8 comment will be reviewed and considered. I can speak 9 from personal experience, watching Steffani cart around 10 a giant binder that's about the size of her, and taking 11 it home and reading these at night, so -- so that 12 they're up to speed and they know what your comments 13 are.

14 We, also -- we have posted on the website, and 15 we are sending out letters, receipt letters, so that you 16 know that your comments reached us and that we are 17 considering them. We've heard comments about sort of 18 this black hole that the NIGC becomes, that the tribes send their letters in to. And we certainly don't want 19 that to be the case here and are trying to be 20 21 responsive.

Any proposed or final rule also commits to including a summary of comments. And the Commission is committed to a clear and transparent process, so you will be able to see what their decisionmaking process

was and any preamble to any proposed or final rules.
And you will be able to see all the documents that they
used -- they will be on our website -- to make any final
decisions.

5 So we have quite an aggressive agenda today 6 and tomorrow. We're going to be reviewing all four 7 groups. Group one and group two are behind us. We'll 8 go over them throughout the day. Groups three and 9 four -- we'll review group four today, as well. We're 10 saving group three and group five for tomorrow.

11 So that's the schedule that's -- it's in your 12 handout, so I won't read through them. You will hear 13 about them throughout the day.

14 So this morning, we're going to begin with a 15 discussion on group one. Group one includes part 514, 16 the fee regulation, which there is a draft regulation in 17 your handouts and, also, on the website. Part 523, 18 which is a potential repeal, there is no handout for 19 that. Part 542, which is Class III minimum internal controls, again, there is no handout for that, aside 20 21 from the PowerPoint. Part 559 is facility license 2.2 regulations. There is a draft rule, and it should be in your handouts that were available on the table outside. 23 24 And, then, finally a potential Buy Indian regulation. 25 So as you go -- as you look at the draft

regulation for part 514, we've done a couple of things, or tried to do a couple of things, and that is, the first -- the first thing that we did was we heard that tribes were interested in, and our comptroller was interested in, seeing tribes submit their fee statements based on audited financials for their fiscal year.

As many of you know, not all operations operate on a calendar fiscal year. A lot of times, your fiscal year ends on September 30th, et cetera. And it's more accurate to base the calculation of fees on a gaming operation's fiscal year. So we made that change in the draft. And that's noted on the PowerPoint in your handout and also in the draft.

The fee rates, instead of publishing it on -the preliminary fee rate on February 1st, we're moving to a March 1st publication date. And that's so that we can gather all the information, get all the audited financials, and make a more accurate projection so that we don't have to change that rate later in the year.

We have removed some terminology just to reflect industry standards, moved back to quarterly payments. A couple of years ago, the Agency moved to semi-annual payments, and, now, we're moving back. And we've had some feedback from tribes saying that that is helpful, and it is helpful from the agency operation

1 standpoint, as well.

2	We're clarifying so the second point on
3	this page is a little bit confusing, but it is a
4	clarification. And we simply are trying to refer back
5	to the actual calculations, how you come up with your
6	fee, with your fee rates, or with the fee that's
7	assessed, so it's just a clarification point.
8	The notification period for if the gaming
9	operation changes, say you're on a calendar year, and
10	you move to a September 30th fiscal year. How do you
11	notify us of that? That's in the discussion draft.
12	And sort of the biggest change, or one of the
13	biggest changes in this particular regulation, is the
14	inclusion of a sort of a we call it a ticketing-type
15	system for when the tribes have submitted their fees to
16	the NIGC late.
17	We've had the instance arise, and I think this
18	happened in 2009, where a number of notices of violation
19	went out to tribes who had submitted their fees to the
20	Agency late. There was a quite a lot of the tribes that
21	were upset about this, and because a notice of violation
22	carries with it some very significant repercussions for
23	their bond rates, those kinds of things.
24	And so the we, internally, and then the
25	tribes, have been very supportive of developing sort of

this ticketing system so if a tribe is late submitting their fees, unless they are 92-plus days late, they won't receive a notice of violation. You would simply receive a ticket-type system and a percentage rate, a percentage or a dollar amount that's escalated the later that you are.

7 So we sort of compare it to getting a parking 8 ticket. If you don't pay your parking ticket within 9 30 days, then you get an additional fee attached to the 10 amount that the ticket actually was. So it's sort of 11 along those lines.

12 One of the questions that we do have, and it 13 is not -- and you will see in your discussion draft, there's a blank there left for how much those additional 14 fees, penalties should be if -- if the fee is late. 15 And 16 we've got several blank marks, I think, that begin on 17 line 13 of that particular section on that page. So if 18 you have comments or you have any ideas on what the 19 percentage rate should be, we would certainly like to 20 hear that.

The key distinction that we make is -- is from a late -- from the fees being submitted late to a failure to pay your fees. So if a tribe fails to pay the fees, which is 92-plus days late, then in that instance, the -- the Chair would be able to issue a 1 notice of violation.

2 The other new section is a section that just sort of formalizes and codifies the 3 fingerprint-processing fees. A number of tribes use the 4 5 Agency to process their fingerprinting cards, and so we just wanted to formalize and lay out clearly how the 6 7 fees would be assessed for tribes utilizing that service. Certainly, not all tribes do that, but for 8 9 those tribes that do use that service, we want to be 10 clear about what those fees will be. 11 So one of the questions we asked in the Notice 12 of Inquiry was whether or not we should use a definition 13 of -- if we should change the definition of "gross gaming revenues" to be consistent with GAAP for the 14 15 purposes of calculating the fees. This discussion draft 16 doesn't make that change because, as we looked at the 17 definition of GAAP, and we looked at the definition of 18 IGRA, we realized the two were not necessarily 19 consistent. And we have a statutory definition of "gross gaming revenue" that we have to abide by, and --20 21 and GAAP was not consistent with that. 2.2 There were additional concerns because GAAP is 23 accounting -- it is an accounting principle, and it 24 could change. And if we simply use a definition of

25 GAAP, that definition could change, and we might not

necessarily be ready to adjust our definition within the
regulation in a timely manner. So we had some concerns
about this, so we didn't include it in the draft.

However, we do know that fee calculations is one of the areas that tribes struggle with for a number of reasons. It is certainly -- we did sort of a "Fee 101" with the audit department. And we've been asking questions since it's -- it's difficult to understand, I know, certainly, from my perspective. And I'm not an auditor.

11 But we do have fee audits that happen 12 frequently for tribes that have miscalculated their --13 their fees that were assessed, and this could be simply 14 because it's not clear what you can deduct, what you 15 should add, how you -- we've received a number of 16 questions on how do you account for -- if the tribe is 17 issuing a match play, for example, and you're basically 18 wagering with the tribe's own money, how do you deduct 19 What is the calculation for the win? It is a that? complicated -- I'm sure your finance people can tell you 20 21 that it's a complicated calculation. And it's something 2.2 that we want to be clear on, and so we've been asking 23 tribes. Perhaps, we need to define better what a 24 "wager" is and what a "payout" is, and, perhaps, that will help clarify that issue. So if you have thoughts 25

1	on that, then we would certainly like to hear them.
2	The written comments period on the discussion
3	draft closed on May 31st. It doesn't mean that we're
4	not taking comments. And, certainly, if we propose a
5	notice of proposed rulemaking, there's a 60-day comment
6	period and additional consultation and an opportunity
7	for you to weigh in on those issues.
8	Part 523, this we all sort of agreed
9	internally. As we received comments from tribes
10	externally that that this regulation, was obsolete
11	and that it could be it should be repealed. And so
12	that's the question on the table. We haven't issued a
13	notice that we're repealing this yet, so if you have
14	comments or concerns about this, we'd like to hear them,
15	as well.
16	MR. GREEN: Can I back you up to 514 before we
17	look at the next one?
18	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Yes, sir.
19	MR. GREEN: Where does it say when you pay?
20	MS. ECHO-HAWK: I'm sorry?
21	MR. GREEN: Where does 514 where does 514.1
22	require we pay?
23	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Where does 514? I'm sorry?
24	MR. GREEN: 514.1 has now been changed, so we
25	have to report our calculations. But I didn't see

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Page 25 1 anything in here that ever said we had to pay you. 2 MS. ECHO-HAWK: 514.1? 3 MR. GREEN: Yes. Where it talks about our annual payments. 4 5 MS. ECHO-HAWK: Uh-huh. MR. GREEN: You replaced -- where does it say 6 7 when we pay? It says -- yeah. It says, in 8 MS. ECHO-HAWK: (c)(4), "Each gaming operation shall determine the 9 10 amount of fees to be paid, and remit them with a 11 quarterly statement required under paragraph (c) of this 12 section"? 13 MR. GREEN: In (c)(4)? 14 MS. ECHO-HAWK: Line 13, on page three. 15 MR. GREEN: Thank you. 16 MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. So moving on to part 17 559, facility license, this is also in your -- this was a handout, so we do have a discussion draft available 18 19 for you to sort of follow along on. 20 The Notice of Inquiry asked whether or not 21 this part should be revised. We received a number of 2.2 comments. We had -- that were unanimous in their 23 support of reviewing this, of re-reviewing this 24 regulation, for a number of varying reasons. Some 25 tribes didn't agree with the regulation's substance.

Some tribes didn't agree with the way the regulation was
enacted.

And so we went back to the drawing board, and we came up with the draft that you have in front of you today. It does a number of things. It changes the time frame for notice of a new facility license.

7 It used to be that tribes were required -well, the current relation requires that tribes submit a 8 9 notice to NIGC 120 days before any new facility is 10 opened. As you can see, on page one, 559.2(b), the chair -- there's a different process. The 60-day 11 12 process with an additional 60 days as -- at the tribe's 13 discretion, and with the ability for an expedited review, if -- if that's possible. 14

And also -- the new draft also requires that a 15 16 newly-issued or renewed license be sent to NIGC within 17 30 days of issuance. We removed the requirement that 18 the -- that the facility license has to be renewed every 19 three years. That's no longer in the regulation. Now, a tribe can renew if -- if it chooses, or issue it once. 20 21 That's up to the tribe's discretion. It's not mandated 2.2 any longer by the regulation.

Additionally, instead of requiring the tribe to send in a lot of information that may be contained in another -- at another federal agency, or somewhere else

within the federal family, the tribe simply has to issue an attestation that the construction and maintenance of the facility and operation is conducted in a manner which adequately protects the environment, public health and safety, which is language verbatim from the Act.

Finally, the last sort of points that we changed within this discussion draft was that the notice of -- the notice to the NIGC would be the tribe would send notice to the NIGC within 30 days when the license is terminated or expires, or just when it closes or opens or reopens.

12 We've had some questions come up, "What does 13 that mean when a -- when a facility opens or re- -- or 14 closes or reopens? What is a temporary closure? What's 15 a seasonal closure?" Those are questions that we have 16 in the draft. In fact, 559.5, there is a blank in the 17 last sentence, and it says, "A tribe need not provide a notification of a seasonal closure or of a temporary 18 19 closure with a duration of less than blank days."

20 Obviously, for the -- for the Agency, we need 21 to know when facilities are closed and not operating. 22 And so what is that trigger? When -- what -- during 23 what time frame would it be reasonable for the tribe to 24 notify us when -- that the facility is going to be 25 closed for a certain amount of time, which is to be

1 determined? And that's why the blank is in there.

We're also trying to move into the 20th -we're hoping maybe the 21st Century one day. And we've provided a section in there that tribes could submit documents electronically. So we're trying to -- to move forward and kind of keep paper down.

7 Written comment on this discussion draft 8 closed on June 17th. Again, that doesn't mean that 9 we're not taking comments. And, certainly, whenever we 10 issue a notice of proposed rulemaking, there will, 11 again, be additional time for consultation, and at least 12 60 days' written comment period.

13 The other issue that came up in group one was whether or not the issue that we asked of whether or not 14 15 the Agency should draft a Buy Indian regulation or 16 policy, something that mandates that the Agency, when we 17 go out and we -- we go out into the field to hold meetings like this, there will be purchasing. We're 18 19 going to be moving. We have to -- our lease expires, and we're going to begin moving, perhaps, our offices in 20 21 a couple of years. So when we go and do that as an agency, that we buy Indian. This is not something that 2.2 we're requiring tribes to do at all. This -- that's a 23 24 question that has come up. This is a mandate for the 25 Agency, that we buy Indian when we go and purchase goods

1 and services.

2	Tribes have been very supportive of this,
3	although there has been some debate about whether or not
4	it should be should be a regulation or a policy. We
5	haven't issued a draft yet, but we're certainly
б	interested in hearing what your thoughts are on that.
7	And then, finally, group three MICS, Class III
8	MICS. This is an issue that, again, we'll discuss
9	somewhere tomorrow. But one of the questions has come
10	up about how we how should we address Class III MICS.
11	It is an issue of attention throughout the country among
12	the tribes in various regions concerned about what the
13	impact could be based on what the Agency could do with
14	Class III MICS, whether we continue promulgating,
15	whether we repeal, whether we issue guidance.
16	It is something that tribes, obviously, are
17	concerned about, and may impact tribes across the
18	country very differently in in different areas. So
19	it is something that we're interested in hearing your
20	thoughts on how we should address that particular issue.
21	So with that, we'll begin taking comment on
22	group one. I will turn it back over to Vice Chair
23	Cochran.
24	One more time, if you do speak, then, please,
25	state your name. Speak in the mike, and state your name

Page 30 1 and tribal affiliation so that we can make sure the 2 transcript is accurate. Thank you. 3 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Lael. We have some councilmen that have joined us. Could I ask you to 4 5 identify yourself? MR. ROMERO: Good morning. Ramos Romero, 6 7 former Governor from the Pueblo of Tesuque. UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Good morning. I'm a 8 councilman of the Pueblo. 9 10 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Good morning. 11 Good morning, Governor. Thank you for joining 12 us. 13 And I also neglected that we have one more staff member in the audience. 14 15 I apologize, I overlooked you. 16 Brett West is one of our auditors, and he has 17 been with the Agency many years, I believe. 18 All right. That is the first group. And as 19 you can see, it's a lot of material to go over. But it is the -- many of these have been in the works for a 20 21 while so we've gotten some discussion drafts out, and 2.2 we've circulated them. 23 One of the things that we, as a commission, 24 agreed to do, as well, is to put out discussion drafts before we put out, even, a proposed notice of 25

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1 rulemaking. And that is an attempt to give the tribes an opportunity to comment, to give you what we're 2 thinking, how it might look. It certainly doesn't 3 reflect how it may look in the end. But it's a way of 4 5 stimulating discussion and showing you kind of where the Agency is coming from initially. And so we get lots of 6 7 feedback on the discussion draft, as well as we encourage you to continue all throughout to -- to 8 9 comment as you see them come in.

Before we break -- we've got about ten minutes -- I'm going to open up the floor, first, to anybody who has particular thoughts on any of these particular parts that we've put out before I begin individually.

Okay. The part 514, the fees, this has been out in the discussion arena for quite some time. And the -- the feedback that we're getting on the discussion draft was very supportive. The item which continues to kind of stir discussion is the provision on using the GAAP definition.

Lael commented that the Agency's fear is, although the auditors use GAAP often, that term is -- is subject to change if we just do a blanket referral to it without consideration for how it impacts our particular industry. And it may also create some problems for us

1 that would not have a favorable impact as far as how we 2 define internally the -- what you're going to pay out. 3 And so the discussion draft that we've circulated does 4 not include that change to a GAAP definition.

5 Is there anyone that has different thoughts or 6 would like to offer different thoughts on looking at 7 that? I know we have some financial people in the room.

8 We also -- right before I started my term last 9 January, the decision was made to go to a semi-annual 10 payment to -- of the fees to NIGC. And I, to this day, 11 still am not clear on why that decision was made. The 12 result, however, has created a lot of uncertainty in how 13 the Agency budgets itself. It also played a little bit 14 of havoc with the tribes and their accounting systems.

15 And so our proposal is to go back to the 16 quarterly system, which will not only allow tribes to 17 set it according to their fiscal years, but will also 18 bring certainty back in the Agency's budgeting. And it 19 created a gap for us that was difficult for us to manage budgetarily. We got through it, but to go -- only 20 21 receiving monies in twice a year, as you can imagine, is 2.2 a difficult task for a federal agency to do.

23 So our proposal is to go back to the quarterly 24 payment system. Our proposal is to allow you to use 25 your definition of what your fiscal year is. Some

1	tribes have asked if they can still pay semi-annually or
2	if they can some tribes pay their fees up front for
3	the year, and then we draw down on it. Those options
4	are still there. They absolutely are. It's just, like
5	I said, an attempt to bring our practices more in line
6	with what you're doing in your own operations and to be
7	more consistent with your fiscal years.
8	Thank you.
9	Good morning, Maxine.
10	MS. VELASQUEZ: Good morning. Maxine
11	Velasquez. I'm in-house general counsel for the Pueblo
12	of Tesuque and Chair for the Gaming Control Board.
13	Just going back to that 514 regarding the
14	issue of GAAP and the definition, I I don't have any
15	conclusions at this point, but I think it is important
16	to note that, as we're going through and looking at
17	using GAAP, of course, we need to also I just want to
18	bring it to your attention that we also are looking at
19	GAAP from different perspectives, such as free play in
20	the state of New Mexico and how we deal with that
21	definition, how it affects us in New Mexico when it
22	comes to revenue shares.
23	So I guess my my dilemma and I think
24	it's important that we start thinking about this is
25	how we use GAAP in definitions such as this and how we

use gap when it comes to interpreting the compact, and what is what, and how the -- how to be consistent. And, also, how are we using it in a -- in a fair manner that actually, in essence, helps the tribe on its arguments? I know that's really vague. We haven't figured that out here.

We're dealing with an issue, here in New Mexico, when it comes to free play and GAAP and the New Mexico Gaming Control Board. So I'm going to have to figure -- talk to some financial folks, as well, and try to figure that out. But I just wanted to bring it to the Commission's attention.

This is an issue we're dealing with now, use GAAP here, and don't use GAAP here. How do we deal with that issue, and how do we set some precise definitions and -- and regulations so that that doesn't ever change, like you just spoke about.

18 MS. ECHO-HAWK: I'm trying to avoid feedback.19 Thanks.

That -- that is a comment that we've heard quite a bit, particularly in these definition parts with the definition of gross gaming revenue and the definition of net revenues, that, oftentimes, the compact and the -- our regulations and the Act don't necessarily match, which makes calculations even more 1 difficult.

2	So from our perspective, the only thing that
3	we sort of have control over is the definitions included
4	in the regulations. If there is a way that we can
5	clarify that, make it easier, either through guidance or
6	regulation, we do want to hear that because that is
7	something we hear frequently, that you're managing sort
8	of two different definitions, and it's difficult to make
9	them mesh. And if there's a way that we can be more
10	consistent or clear, that that we should try to do
11	that.
12	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: All right. Anything else
13	on GAAP?
14	Yes.
14 15	Yes. GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David
15	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David
15 16	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David Garcia, First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Acoma.
15 16 17	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David Garcia, First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Acoma. Thank you, Maxine, for that comment.
15 16 17 18	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David Garcia, First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Acoma. Thank you, Maxine, for that comment. But in relation to the GAAP issue, I mean I
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15 16 17 18 19 20	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David Garcia, First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Acoma. Thank you, Maxine, for that comment. But in relation to the GAAP issue, I mean I don't understand, truly, the emphasis behind GAAP. All of the audits performed across the nation are relative
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15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Thank you. Again, David Garcia, First Lieutenant Governor, Pueblo of Acoma. Thank you, Maxine, for that comment. But in relation to the GAAP issue, I mean I don't understand, truly, the emphasis behind GAAP. All of the audits performed across the nation are relative to being audited under the general accounting accepted principles. I mean that's AICPA practice. So I I

1 identifying, maybe, revenue at this point, or identifying the calculation method. I -- I don't 2 understand the clarity behind "Do we or do we not apply 3 GAAP practice and principles?" In theory, that's all 4 5 AICPA standards, unless there is something other than Then, I think that NIGC needs to go back and 6 AICPA. 7 further do its homework and get up to speed with accounting methods and practices, so I -- I mean that's 8 9 my opinion.

10

MS. ECHO-HAWK: Thank you.

11 That -- it is something that we're -- we're 12 The issue is that we have a statutory considering. 13 definition that basically says, "Gross gaming revenue is 14 wager minus payout, "very generally. That's not the 15 exact words of the Act, but that's -- which is fine. 16 It's sort of oversimplified when it comes to how 17 complicated the industry has gotten in terms of 18 promotions and the way that -- that the operation can 19 sort of encourage additional play through the use of -you know, you get the little match play tickets or comps 20 21 or, you know, the various mechanisms you have at your disposal and use to encourage additional play. 2.2

Where -- where things get confused and where we see that the fees are miscalculated is when -- when the operation tries to -- tries to -- you know, you
1 deduct some things and not deduct others, and you add 2 things that maybe shouldn't be included into what a 3 wager is or what a deduction is or what payout is. And 4 it's -- it's not very clear.

5 Now, we do have this matrix on our website, which, if you look at it alone, is also not as clear as 6 it could be. When we did our little "Fee 101" class, we 7 saw that, plus, we saw the PowerPoint. And we were able 8 to talk to our audit -- audit department. It was more 9 10 clear. But it is certainly something that, within the 11 Agency, we would like to assist tribes in -- in 12 preventing sort of these fee audits and miscalculations. 13 And however we can do that, we want to do that.

14 We -- I think the initial thought behind GAAP 15 was that GAAP -- the -- the accounting -- I don't know 16 the -- I forgot the acronym, but the accounting 17 department or the audit, whatever that group is, had been developing a guideline for how you calculate these 18 19 things for the gaming industry. As we looked more closely at it, our audit division came to the conclusion 20 21 that the way that this was developing would not be --2.2 would not comply with the statutory definition included 23 in IGRA, so we're bound by -- by that.

24 Certainly, there are things that happen within 25 the accounting and financial -- the finance department

1 as you're calculating the -- the fees that -- that 2 follow those guidelines, but we have to be really clear 3 in our definition and the things we include in the regs, 4 that they comply with the Act. So we're sort of walking 5 this -- this fine line right now in trying to be as 6 clear as possible, while maintaining the integrity of 7 what the Act says.

8 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Does that answer your 9 question? Does it respond to your question?

10 GOVERNOR GARCIA: I guess, maybe, as a word of 11 caution, I mean unless the AICPA develops a -- a 12 standard within their activities, you don't want to 13 insert something that could affect the tribes in their 14 accounting practice; otherwise, you're forcing a process 15 that has not been put in place through AICPA, and that 16 could cause repercussions, as mentioned.

17 Here in the state of New Mexico, we are dealing with the issues of an accounting process for 18 19 identifying free play and how we calculate the free play activity. And that's something that I don't think even 20 21 NIGC could explain that process to us without having to 2.2 go back through and sit down with the financial folks 23 and agree, "Here is going to be the process." So you're 24 adding on more -- something that I don't think should be in place. But, clearly, I think the process has to be 25

1 looked at from a different focus.

2 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: The draft discussion that 3 is out would not change anything that's currently in 4 place.

5

GOVERNOR GARCIA: Okay.

6 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: The -- the question that 7 came up is "Should we change to GAAP principles?" So 8 the discussion draft is to maintain what the Agency 9 currently does. I -- and I know Maxine is heavily 10 involved, as many of you are, in this.

You know, look at the current Agency practice, and we would welcome comments coming in from this area to maybe look at the issue differently. But right -what we've got out there right now doesn't change the current practice of the Agency.

MR. APODACA: Good morning. Albert Apodaca
with the Mescalero Apache Tribal Gaming Commission.

18 My concern would be the definition of wager 19 and payout because that -- that will impact us 20 tremendously, not just us, but the tribes across the 21 country. I think you have to tread carefully there.

I kind of see it as a conflict of interest because if you're the NIGC, and you want to increase your fees, the more you include in wagers, the -- you know, the more fees you're going to obtain, right?

1 Whereas, the tribes, on the other side, are trying not to pay for something that we deem not to be a wager. 2 So obviously, we have a lot of concern with a 3 definition of wager and payout being, you know, defined 4 5 by NIGC. Obviously, if the State likes the definition, they would try to apply it. If they don't like it, they 6 7 would try to come up with their own. So it's -- it's going to be a battle no matter what. 8 But from our standpoint, we would be concerned 9 10 about the definitions of "wager" and "payout." That --11 that definitely would -- would be a huge concern to us 12 in how it affects, you know, not only our payments to 13 the State of New Mexico, but other tribes, like I said 14 previously. 15 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you. 16 When I first came onto the Commission, I had 17 the privilege of spending a lot of time in the room with 18 some tribes prior to the other commissioners joining me. 19 And in that course of travels, I spent some time in some areas of Indian country that are more remote, that have 20 smaller facilities. And I really cherish that time 21 22 because I actually got a very clear perspective of what these tribes are facing, even though they are thrown 23 24 into the category of gaming tribes and have the 25 perception that they are like the large ones.

In those travels, I heard from a couple of 1 2 tribes about the NOVs that were issued right before the end of the prior term, the former Commission, and heard 3 the impact that those interviews had on those tribes. 4 5 And to -- to put it in perspective, one of the tribes explained to me that they owed \$1,400 in fees to the 6 7 Agency they were unable to pay for their own very good reasons, or were late in paying, and ended up with a 8 \$25,000 fine. This was just something I couldn't 9 understand for any reason whatsoever. I couldn't 10 11 understand how we got to that place and why we got to 12 that place.

So when the other commissioners came on board and started talking with the tribes, and I shared some of the stories that I had been told from these smaller communities, we agreed, very clearly, that that just isn't the right option.

It is very important, of course, that the Agency receive its funding to continue to maintain operations, but at the same time, we have an obligation to ensure the wellbeing of these casinos and these operations. And the system that was in place doesn't work to achieve that goal.

And so under the fee -- the discussion draft that we put out, this is where you see what we loosely

1 are calling the "ticketing system." I don't know if that form states it or not. But the thought is, just 2 like any financial obligation that we have, either on a 3 business side or on a personal side, if you're 4 5 delinquent in paying your obligations, normally there's some financial cost associated, whether it's a fine, 6 7 whether it's a higher interest rate. I mean there are different ways to deal with it. And we felt like that 8 9 is a better solution than an NOV.

10 And so the draft that we put out and -- and 11 receiving a great deal of support on -- does include 12 this late fee ticketing system, if you will. And in the 13 draft, on page five, starting about page -- or excuse 14 me -- line nine, is the proposed system that we're 15 suggesting, which says, just very simply, "If you're 16 30 days late, there's a cost associated with it. And if 17 you're 60 days late, there's a cost associated with it."

18 What we are looking for is, of course, 19 comments on whether or not this is a good idea in But, also, you will see there's blanks in 20 qeneral. there to get feedback of, "Do we say there's a \$25 fee 21 2.2 or is there a 10 percent fee?" What is -- what is it that seems to be appropriate? What seems to be fair? 23 24 Then, of course, after the 91st calendar day, if a tribe continues to be delinguent, then, at that 25

1 point, then the Chair would have the discretion to issue a NOV. And this process is also designed to -- to --2 all throughout this time period to continue to have 3 conversations with the tribe about what's happening, why 4 5 the fees aren't coming in, so that if we get to the 92nd day, there's no -- no uncertainty as to why we're there 6 7 and whether or not the chair should take more stringent 8 action.

9 And tribes have also said that they believe, 10 "Hey, we pay our fees on time. We expect everybody else 11 to pay their fees on time. And at some point, it 12 becomes intentional. And we do support that the Agency 13 should have an opportunity to be more stringent in their 14 approach with it."

So I -- before we go on break, I want to just offer the -- the floor to comments about this. I wanted to give you some background on why we went there. Our intent, really, is to do something better than an NOV just because you're late. So I open up the floor if anybody has thoughts?

MS. WARD: Yes?

GOVERNOR GARCIA: David Garcia. My interests would be looking at the history. I guess I want to know -- my interest would be are we definitely -- is there a trend in terms of nonpayment of the fee? And -- and

21

what does that history look like within five years? And then, my question, I guess, would be to NIGC, what, if any, have you been -- what -- what were your thoughts in terms of the percentages? I mean because you're looking at a tier activity, much like the tier classifications for levels of gross revenue generated.

7 I don't know. I mean it is very difficult to answer because not knowing, truly, has there been --8 9 what -- what is the trend in terms of none or delinguent 10 fees not being paid by gaming tribes that puts us all in 11 this basket where we're now seeing the repercussions of 12 introduction of the potential for paying interest 13 penalties, I guess you want to call it, by gaming 14 tribes?

15 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Lieutenant, that is a 16 good question. The -- I came into office on 17 January 4th, 2010. The NOVs were issued October, I 18 believe, of 2009. And, again, if my memory serves me 19 correct -- and I have two very intelligent women sitting next to me. If my memory serves me correct, we issued 20 21 33 NOVs for late payment of fees in 2009. And there 2.2 were far fewer before.

In the conversations that we've had with the Agency, the staff who have been around for a while, the part of the decisionmaking to issue the NOVs had to do

with the expensive amount of late fees that were happening at that time. And, again, this is just conversations. I have looked for written explanation as to why the regulation was changed -- or excuse me -- why the NOVs were issued.

33 NOVs out of the 233 gaming tribes, I 6 7 believe, at the time -- I believe we returned 32 at the 8 time, is -- I'm not good at math. That's why I'm a 9 lawyer -- is 10 percent, 20 percent. And the -- the 10 thoughts that we were having, as I was explaining, is the NOV -- NOV is such an extreme measure. 11 That is 12 our -- that's our biggest hammer we have against tribes. 13 It should be used only as a last resort as far as this 14 Commission is concerned. There are so many other things 15 we can do to bring in compliance, whether on a late fee, 16 or any other issue, without resorting to an NOV.

As I was explaining, you have a small tribe with 40 employees who gets hit with a \$25,000 NOV, and it affects so much more than just even the \$25 (sic) fine that came along with their NOV.

21 So that's the best I can give you as to how we 22 got here. That's what the history of the Agency is. At 23 least, the formal record shows there were 33 NOVs that 24 were issued in 2009.

25

The -- as to thoughts on the percentage versus

1	an amount, you know, the Agency, we've not taken any
2	position. That's why we left it open to talk to the
3	tribes to see what their thoughts were. I can tell you
4	the discussions, as I've gone throughout Indian country
5	on the consultations, is a position that fairness seems
6	to dictate that a percentage would be more accommodating
7	to the the tribes.

Those tribes who have more income revenue 8 9 coming, or fees -- larger fees that are owed to the 10 Agency should pay more based on a simple percentage, 11 thereby giving a little more cushion to those smaller 12 facilities who may not be able to pay on time, 13 understanding that there's a fee, but yet can meet 14 those -- meet those requirements without the sledgehammer of an NOV. That's what I'm hearing 15 16 overall. That seems to be the fairness side of it, 17 what's more fair. But, again, that's not the Agency's position. It's just what the consultations are 18 19 suggesting.

20 MR. CHIWIWI: I have a question. Of the 33 21 that were given notice, was there compliance after a 22 short time? Or what was their common factors for 23 noncompliance?

24 MS. ECHO-HAWK: We heard a range of things. I 25 can tell you at the time that I was -- at the time that

1	I was working for a tribal operation, we got an NOV.
2	And it was very short of shocking and upsetting for the
3	tribe at the time. And the reason we got it was we had
4	turnover within our finance department. The new person
5	that came on didn't realize that she had to do this, and
6	so she was late. I think we were late 20 days one time
7	and like 20 days, or something, the next.
8	And but to be hit with an NOV as I'm
9	sure you know is a notice of violation and \$25,000
10	per day per violation. And and it can be very you
11	know, I'm sure if any tribe has ever had to deal with a
12	NOV, it's a very upsetting thing.
13	We heard I heard in the Great Plains that
14	some somebody's I think it was a tribe, that their
15	CPA had a heart attack and had to go to the hospital.
16	It was simply I mean we heard just a range of things,
17	from personnel who didn't know, to really an egregious
18	situation like that, and they weren't able to pay their
19	fees on time and got hit with the notice of violation.
20	So the intent of this section is, really, to
21	prevent the Agency from doing that in the future and to
22	make sure that our response is reasonable based on the
23	situation.
24	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: I can also share with you
25	that the 2010 payments I understand that there were

1	very few that were delinquent in 2010. If the intent
2	was to bring compliance in a very confronting way, the
3	goal was achieved. I don't know what that percentage
4	was, but I remember, at one point, somebody saying they
5	believed that there were only a handful of tribes
6	that that were not timely, the follow-up.
7	Okay. We're still running behind schedule, so
8	we're going to take a short break. If I could ask that
9	we convene in about ten minutes, rather than 15, so that
10	we can try to get us back onto our agenda, I would
11	appreciate it. And we'll see you about 20 till.
12	(Recess.)
13	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: On part 23, as Lael's
14	PowerPoint mentions, this part has to do with the review
15	and approval of existing ordinances and resolutions.
16	This part only applies to tribal ordinances enacted
17	before January 22nd, 1993, that have not been submitted
18	to the Chair for approval.
19	We are consistent with the perspective that
20	the NORs and comments were the tribes', and we were of
21	the mind that this part could be repealed in its
22	entirety. There is no existing ordinances or
23	resolutions that existed prior to 1993 and have not been
24	approved by the Chair.
25	Is there any different thoughts?

MR. BACA: Elijah Baca, Executive Director of the Santa Clara Pueblo's Gaming Commission. I actually have a comment or a question, actually, pertaining back to 514, under the fees.

5 Under the ticketing system that you're 6 recommending implementing, are those -- if a tribe is 7 given a ticket, are you looking at posting those online 8 for public view, as well as you do with the NOVs, or is 9 that something that is generally going to stay in-house 10 and only between that tribe and NIGC?

11 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: That's a good guestion. 12 I was just clarifying with Lael because we talked 13 about -- internally about posting NOVs on the website and what that means to tribes, what the Agency's 14 15 obligations are to transparency. I mean there's a whole 16 lot of factors that go into, kind of, looking at that 17 question. And we hadn't really discussed it in terms of 18 the tickets. I would suspect -- part of what we're 19 trying to do is to get away from that heavy-handed approach to this. 20

It would seem there could be an argument made that part of that would not be making these part of the public discussion, at least not on the website. But, again, it has not been discussed. And I'm certain that is something we'll take back and needs to be discussed.

1 MR. BACA: Thank you. 2 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Were there any other 3 questions on the fees? 4 MR. GALLEGOS: I do. Manny Gallegos, Pueblo 5 of Tesuque Gaming Commission. I was looking at the fees a little closer on 6 your graduated ticketing method. And being a former tax 7 administrator with the State, I find it a little 8 9 confusing, rather than -- the way it's done. 10 I would recommend that you consider, and the 11 tribes consider, that you look at making it much simpler 12 because if you're going to do a percentage, say, for 13 each 30-day period, why couldn't you just summarize it and say that there is a flat, say, 1 percent, 1 percent 14 15 assessable per month, up to a maximum per month, or up 16 to a maximum. And once you hit the maximum, then you 17 would go to the NOV, rather than accrue it on the 92nd 18 day, and the Commissioner may go ahead and issue the 19 I mean you take out a lot of the steps. NOV? 20 Thank you. We're trying to be MS. ECHO-HAWK: 21 clear, and maybe we did a little too much, so we'll take 2.2 that back and take a look at it. Thank you. 23 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Brevity is always a good 24 thing where we can be. Thank you. 25 MR. ROBERT GARCIA: Good morning. My question

1	is on the percentages that you have proposed. My
2	question is it's going to be the amount that's
3	according to the amount that's due or the annual fee
4	based on the percentages that you're going to set?
5	MS. ECHO-HAWK: We've we've discussed that,
6	and I believe that it's going to be based on the amount
7	that's due. We haven't made a decision. That's what we
8	have been talking about internally, that the percentage,
9	or the dollar amount, whatever it would be, would be
10	based on the amount that is due that particular quarter.
11	MR. ROBERT GARCIA: Thank you. That would
12	make sense.
13	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Any other questions on
14	514?
15	Lieutenant Governor?
16	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Again, maybe just for
17	clarity David Garcia, Pueblo of Acoma.
18	Again, for the issue of clarity, the NOV
19	provision is still in the regulation, correct? So it
20	is and I'm trying to understand this. So would there
21	be two penalties assessed at the same time with regard
22	to the NOV penalty, the 25,000? And then, you're
23	assessing a fee for is that a totally separate fee,
24	or is that added to "Is that an add-on to the penalty
25	itself?" I guess, is, maybe, my question. Is that a

1 secondary cost?

2 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: So, you know, a tribe
3 failed to be late --

GOVERNOR GARCIA: If the tribe was delinquent 4 5 one day, and NIGC issues a notice of violation. There's a \$25,000 fee paid. So then, even if that isn't paid, 6 7 you're still implementing the 30-days, the 60-days, the 90-day implementation. Now, is that -- I'm hearing two 8 9 things. One, it's going to be based on whether it's 10 annual or quarterly. I guess, maybe, that's one issue. 11 Or is it going to be solely based on the 25,000, on the 12 issuance of the NOV, or -- I still don't know.

13 I mean -- I guess the bottom line is, "What is 14 the benefit to NIGC?" If the benefit is you're only 15 wanting to collect \$1,800 of that fee, is that a benefit 16 to you? Is that a benefit to the gaming tribe? 17 Probably not. I guess I'm trying to understand the clarity of -- of NIGC's position on wanting to go with 18 19 the 30, 60, 90 days, but you've already got a \$25,000penalty assessment. I don't -- I don't understand. 20

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: I -- the \$25,000 would only be upon the issuance of an NOV. And, of course, the NOV would be the very last step. There is no benefit to the Agency either way because all fees, including the fees that are collected in NOVs, go to the 1 general treasury. They don't go to NIGC.

And so part of our thought process, as well, is when an NOV issues and a fine is associated with that NOV, those monies don't get put back into gaming. They don't get put back in the pueblos. They don't get run back through the Agency. They go to the treasury and the benefit of the general public.

So there's no -- in that respect, the benefit, 8 9 I guess, arguably flows to the tribe in the sense that 10 your money is not going to the general treasury, which 11 is what happens under an NOV payment. The -- I think 12 what you're asking -- I want to make sure because it's a 13 good question -- is if a penalty, a ticketing payment, 14 is applied after 30 days, that increase -- that amount 15 increases after 60, after 90, and then you hit the NOV, 16 is the tribe responsible for those -- those amounts that are applied at 30, 60, and 90 days? -- Is that your 17 18 question? -- in addition to whatever might attach with 19 the NOV? 20 GOVERNOR GARCIA: The question is you've got -- well, let me back up. 21 2.2 The NOV becomes effective when? 23 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Under the proposal, it

24 would be after the 92nd day.

GOVERNOR GARCIA: 90 days after -- 92 days

25

1 after, right. Okay.

2	So in between that period of time, you're
3	wanting you're suggesting, or trying to suggest, that
4	three tiers of penalty assessments, okay? And the
5	question was earlier if where are what what is
6	the basis for it? Is it based on the annual or the
7	quarterly or the semi-annual payments? How is I
8	guess, how are you determining that? And and and
9	then, that should I think, then, we could respond
10	with what the percentages would be, if any.
11	But if tribes continue to be in arrears, what
12	happens if you can't collect it? You're still going to
13	be issuing a NOV, and you're still going to anticipate
14	\$25,000. But even if you can't collect that, then what
15	happens?
16	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Just to respond I'll start
17	from the beginning, the percentage, if that's what we
18	end up using, would be based on the amount that is owed
19	that particular quarter. So it would be based on
20	whatever that quarterly payment would be. The thought
21	is that the percentage would be based on that amount.
22	Then, second, it's not there are the three
23	tiers, but you wouldn't be assessed the first percentage
24	and then add on the second and then add on the third,
25	and then, potentially, go to an NOV. It would end up

being the greater of. So say you pay at the 89th day. You'd be assessed whatever that third tier is. You wouldn't be assessed what the 30 days was, what the 60 day was, what the 90 days was. So it would be -- just be one.

Now, with the notice of violation, the Chair 6 7 always, sort of, has prosecutorial discretion on whether or not she or he wants to issue a notice of violation, 8 9 and, certainly, taking into consideration the 10 circumstances of the tribe. I think you will find that 11 any Chairperson with this responsibility will -- will 12 look at that and make a decision. And, certainly, I 13 can't speak for any Chair, or anyone in that position at 14 this time, but they -- the Chairs do have prosecutorial discretion. 15

Now, if a tribe is unable to pay, or refuses to pay, then there are provisions in our regulations that allow us to just punt that over to the Department of Treasury. And then, they use their collection mechanisms to collect on those -- on those fees which are owed to the NIGC. And, again, those fees don't come to the NIGC. They go to the Treasury.

And the idea for that -- as with any agency, the idea behind that is that the Agency shouldn't be incentivized, sort of, by -- if they were to issue

fines, and those kinds of things, they shouldn't be incentivized to do that with the thought that those fees would, then, come back to their agency. So those fees do not -- and fines don't come back to the Agency. They go to the general treasury so that there is no sort of incentive to issue fines, et cetera.

7 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Any other questions on
8 514? Well, I know that this particular part is going to
9 be important for some of the things happening here in
10 New Mexico, and I really encourage you to make your
11 comments known, in writing, to us.

I was telling Jess, I didn't have these prior to coming to the NIGC. They are read. The comments are read and very carefully considered. And the more that we have to put into the public record and the public domain, we certainly welcome it.

On part 523, as I said, we are recommending a potential, in accordance with the comments that came back on the NOIs, that this particular part is unnecessary to the workings of the Agency and that repeal would be warranted.

Is there anybody who thinks different? Is there is a tribe in the room, by any chance, that we've overlooked that would fit into the definitions? I'm not aware of any, but I wanted to -- you know, I always want 1 to make sure. Okay.

2	Part 559 is our facility license
3	notifications, renewals and submissions. This has been
4	a source of discussion in many other areas of Indian
5	country. And before I get into anything, we do have the
6	form of draft out. The comments were due on June 17th.
7	But, again, we welcome comments at any point in time
8	during the discussion.
9	Is there anyone that wants to open up the
10	discussion on this particular part?
11	The for those of you who who might not
12	have a working knowledge of this particular part, it
13	does, really, have two purposes, general purposes, as we
14	see it. And the first is to receive information from
15	the tribes that the Indian land status about the
16	Indian land status of each facility. And then, the
17	second one is to receive information regarding whether
18	or not the construction and maintenance of gaming
19	facilities are conducted in a manner that adequately
20	protects the environment and public health and safety.
21	The existing part, we collectively agree, is
22	way outside of our lane. And as you can see from the
23	proposed discussion draft, we have significantly scaled
24	this back to bring what we believe is closer to the
25	intent and what our obligations are under IGRA. We are

also looking to -- and what we're trying to achieve under this is we are trying to reduce the submission burden that's required by tribes. And that's why we've eliminated all of it but requirement three of the EPHS provisions.

The part of the discussion that came out, we 6 7 were most recently in Tulalip for consultations. And much of the discussions out in Tulalip centered around, 8 9 on page one, section 5(b), which is the line starting on line 37, about what we -- what -- what this was intended 10 11 to -- you know, this particular section was intended to 12 get at. And this, really, is our attempt to tell the 13 Agency to move it along in these determinations. 14 60 days, we believe, is sufficient, versus the current 15 120 days that we have to make decisions on -- under this 16 section.

17 There was also a suggestion by the tribes during that consultation whether or not there we could 18 19 add in, perhaps, some language that might provide for a notification and consultation process during this 20 21 review. And that would be a provision that would be put 2.2 in if the Chair would find a need to extend beyond the 60 days, so that the tribe understands why it is taking 23 24 the Agency longer to make a decision.

25

Under 559.5 on page five, line four, this has

been another area of discussion, not so much out this way. It's more something that we might see up in the Great Plains, where you have facilities that have seasonal closures, or facilities that might have other reasons for temporarily closing.

And, again, the intent here that we've made is to put in some language which would exempt the tribes from having to provide notification under certain types of conditions. And one of them are seasonal closures or temporary closures.

11 We've got a facility in Kansas that was part 12 of the floods recently, and they're temporarily closed. 13 So the thought was, if we exempt them, what are 14 considered temporary closures, what constitutes, or 15 should constitute, a temporary closure, given that the 16 Agency has an obligation to know which facilities are 17 open and which are closed? And so we've left that blank 18 to get some feedback.

And, again, I'm not sure how much this impacts this area of the country, but we wanted -- I wanted to bring this to your attention in case there are some smaller facilities that, perhaps, may not be open all of the time. It could be a remodel. That -- that would be another thing. What's a reasonable amount of time? If they're closed for less than 30 days, 60 days, that they

1 shouldn't have to notify us? But maybe if they're more
2 than that time? What might you think is reasonable?

And then, the other modifications that we've 3 made, again, are trying to make it clear that our 4 5 obligation is only to attestations from the tribes that they have complied during the construction and 6 7 maintenance of the facilities, that you are in compliance with whatever a judge requires are applicable 8 9 to the tribe, not as we view it, not as other entities, 10 a state or a local entity, but what is applicable to you 11 under your compact under tribal law, and -- and just get 12 that attestation that you are in compliance.

13Are there any thoughts on any of the changes14that we're suggesting? Or have we missed something?

MR. APODACA: I don't think -- Albert Apodaca,
Mescalero Tribal Gaming Commission.

17 I don't think we should have to notify for 18 seasonal closures because I think it's -- given our --19 like our situation. It's only during the ski season. So how do we know how long the ski season is going to 20 Sometimes we close early. Sometimes we start 21 last? 22 early. I mean it is -- it is predicated on the weather. So I think if -- if -- if a tribe has a -- a 23 24 seasonal-type of gaming facility, I don't -- I don't see the need to notify the Gaming Commission, the NIGC, that 25

1 it has been opened or closed.

2	I think once we initially did it. Then we
3	operated, you know, accordingly. I mean most I think
4	most of the tribes that do have seasonal-type of
5	facilities, such as ours, it's going to be small.
6	They're not going to be huge in that sense.
7	So I think if it is a temporary closure I
8	don't have a problem with notification if it's like a
9	remodeling, or something to that effect, but if it is
10	seasonal, you know, that each year you're going to have
11	this come up. So and I would think the National
12	Gaming Commission would be understanding of that, of
13	that condition existing.
14	Thank you.
15	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: And that's exactly why
16	we've put in there that on the seasonal closures, we
17	haven't left any type of a notification time frame.
18	I'm just looking at the language. I want to
19	make sure that that's conveyed in the language that is
20	proposed. It is pretty clear.
21	MR. APODACA: It's just it's kind of like
22	in there.
23	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Right.
24	MR. APODACA: To to me, the way I read it,
25	if you're either going to have a seasonal closure or a

1 temporary closure, you need to notify. That's -- that's 2 the way I read it.

3VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: We'll have our legal4beagles and their great grammatical skills look at it.

MR. GREEN: Jess Green.

In regard to 559.1, where it says that you 6 7 obtained verification, let me suggest that you obtain the verification from the tribe's gaming commission and 8 9 that you also attach a guidance document that says that 10 the tribe's gaming commission could verify every one of 11 these points that are necessary here. It is very 12 important that we not have this section, on behalf of 13 tribes, have a situation where the NIGC has to do an evaluation because, if they do, you may be sued by 14 15 various citizen groups that are trying to slow us down 16 in our development. And, whereas, they can't sue the 17 tribes, they may be able to file a lawsuit against you and drag you into federal court and delay our openings. 18

I have had this experience with Interior. I agree that we need to fill up your file so you have this verification. And their basis was that Interior didn't do their background investigations, or any investigations, and their -- because their file was empty. And since the tribe wasn't a party, we couldn't show them that all of this information had been done.

5

1 And so I -- I agree you need the information.

2 But I think, if you're obtaining verification, that you could obtain that verification from the tribal 3 gaming commission. And I think that if you had a 4 quidance document that said the tribe's gaming 5 commission could certify each of these elements that you 6 7 have and attach those so that your file would be complete and full of these documents, you would not be 8 9 in a position that you made any decision that could 10 thereby cause you to be compelled to go into a federal 11 court. 12 And I hope I have made myself clear. If not, 13 well, then, have your legal counsel contact me 14 afterwards. I can give you specific examples where I've 15 had this problem with Interior having an empty file, 16 because Interior's relationship was, "We know all this 17 already." But they didn't have it in the file, this 18 document. 19 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess.

20

Any other thoughts?

21 Lieutenant Governor?

22 GOVERNOR GARCIA: Lieutenant Governor of the 23 Pueblo of Acoma.

24I guess it's just more of a question. If NIGC25does go next door to Interior, and somebody does the

verification of land-status rights on the information that's submitted by a gaming tribe, or -- or is there no communication there or --

MS. ECHO-HAWK: Well, a couple of years ago, the NIGC and the Department of Interior turned in a memorandum of understanding. And the NIGC details one of our senior attorneys over to the Department of Interior to work there on these issues.

9 Now, there are sort of legal questions sort of 10 pending about when the NIGC has to do these Indian land 11 determinations. And it's certainly something that 12 tribes want. They want -- especially if the lands are, 13 you know, newly-restored land purchased. It wasn't fee and a trust out. There are a number of scenarios where 14 15 a tribe is interested in having the NIGC and the 16 Department of Interior make that determination that it 17 is Indian land eligible for gaming. And so we do work 18 with the Department on that. It can take some time 19 sometimes. Other times, it may not take that long at all. But, again, there are sort of legal questions that 20 we're struggling with internally about when -- when do 21 2.2 we -- when do we make those Indian land determinations. 23 There has been some recent case law that is sort of 24 having impact on -- on when that trigger is. 25 GOVERNOR GARCIA: So going to -- I guess going

1	one step further on the gentleman's question, does that,
2	at any point in time, impede a gaming tribe from opening
3	a facility? And are we are we waiting on you, or are
4	you waiting on us? I mean is that I mean we don't
5	want to get into that kind of game either.
6	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Practically, the implication
7	of a facility license regulation has meant that tribes
8	do wait. And they typically, they put in their
9	notice, give us our notice at 120 days, and they wait to
10	hear back from us. That's been the practical
11	implication of this, of the of the regulation.
12	However, the regulation doesn't say what happens. It
13	just says the tribe has to send us a facility license
14	a facility license notification within 120 days. That's
15	the old regulation.
16	There's a new regulation, there's a new draft.
17	Section B, attempts our intent was, and we're
18	when I think we need to rework it. Our intent is to
19	tell just to have the NIGC move it along. So if the
20	tribe needs or they want an Indian land determination,
21	that we don't sit on it, that we actually have a
22	regulation we can take over to the DOI and say, "Hey,
23	look. We need to get this thing moving," so that the
24	tribes aren't sitting around waiting for 120 days before
25	they can open their facility. We don't want to impede.

So how do we -- we're trying to figure out how to do
 that.

3 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: And that is the -- why you see the recommendation that we go from 120 days to 4 5 60 days, only with a -- preserving, of course, the Chair's discretion, if there's something that 6 7 necessitates going beyond that 60 days, that the Chair has the ability to do that for situations which may have 8 9 their own individual unique issues. 10 GOVERNOR GARCIA: But if it's -- if it's a 11 pre-existing, and all we're doing is renewing the 12 facility, is -- there is no -- there is no break in 13 service, correct? 14 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: (Shakes head.) 15 Are there any other comments on this part? 16 MR. ROBERT GARCIA: Yes. My name is Robert 17 Garcia, and I'm on the San Felipe Gaming Commission. Ι 18 have a question on 559.6. 19 Is that necessary because you already -- we're already providing the information on 559.4, and, in 20 21 part, on 551.1 already? Because 559.6, you're -- you 2.2 are requesting Indian lands or environment public health and safety documentation requiring gaming place, 23

facility, or location where gaming will occur. We are already providing that in the section above, in .4, and,

1 also, in .1, so that my question is, again, "Is 559.6 2 necessary?"

3 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: In five -- in subsection 4 four, this is requiring that the tribe submit its own 5 facility license with its attestation. In subsection 6 six, this is preserving the Chair's right to ask for 7 documentation, specific documentation, regarding the --8 the licensure.

9 So this would be -- the difference is, one, 10 we're taking the tribe -- the tribe has the right to 11 license, so we're accepting the license, plus the 12 attestation. If there is a situation that would 13 necessitate the Chair asking for additional documentation because we've taken all of the 14 15 requirements out that currently are under subsection 16 three, this would preserve the Agency's ability to ask 17 the tribe for that documentation. That was the intent.

MR. ROBERT GARCIA: But the tribe has already taken the necessary steps to ensure that, you know, the land and the environment is already accounted for, and the tribe has already submitted the necessary documents. So is it really necessary for the Chair to continue to ask for more documentation?

24 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: There wouldn't be any25 documents required under four. It is purely the

1 licensure, plus the attestation. And so that's what 2 that -- that's -- at least that's our intent, is to 3 eliminate the need for the documentation, the excess of 4 documentation that is currently provided for, and only 5 have it provided for if there is some situation that the 6 Chair, in his or her discretion, deems that we need to 1 look further into the licensure.

8 MR. ROBERT GARCIA: Can I -- I'll get -- can I 9 get with you afterwards to get more clarification on 10 this afterwards --

11	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Absolutely.
12	MR. ROBERT GARCIA: for more discussions?
13	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Absolutely.
14	MR. ROBERT GARCIA: I have a question.
15	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Uh-huh.

MR. ROBERT GARCIA: Does NIGC have an environmental person on staff, an environmental person that reviews environmental issues? I mean you're asking for documentation on environmental. Do you have a person on staff that looks at and reviews an environmental impact statement, OSHA requirements?

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Yes. Well, part of the discussion that has gone on in reaching the decision to put out a discussion about that includes elimination of all of those requirements because, yes, we do have an

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EPA person on staff, which I don't know if you've seen
 that he has looked at things before he comes out and
 does a lot of trainings.

But the Commission believes that we're not the experts. We shouldn't be the experts. There is OSHA. There is the EPA. There are tribal entities. I mean there are many, many other entities that are experts in these various areas, and we're not one of them.

9 So yes, we have a staff member, but that staff 10 member, we, right now, don't believe is the appropriate 11 person that should be reviewing this. This is, again, 12 why we put out that the attestation from the tribe --13 after it consults with its experts is what we believe 14 will meet the requirements of the statute, not to 15 have us go in and second guess and to do our independent 16 review in areas where we do not have expertise.

17 Is there anybody out there that wants us to do 18 that?

All right. We're doing good.

20 Any other questions? I don't want to cut 21 off -- if somebody has a comment or a concern, I 22 certainly don't want to cut that off.

23 GOVERNOR GARCIA: I'm sorry. If I may make a 24 general statement? 25 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Absolutely.

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1 GOVERNOR GARCIA: You know, this is -- I 2 guess, maybe, the statement should have been made 3 earlier.

This is really ironic from the standpoint that, you know, before I sat -- before I occupied this current position, we never had true consultation. During Mr. Phil Hogen's administration, it wasn't consultation. It was meeting at each casino, and you were given an hour's time, you know, to basically vent.

10 I think that it's really ironic. I mean 11 Albert and I know -- know one another, and we go way 12 back because that was the gist of how the consultation 13 was done. And so it's -- it really behooves somebody 14 like me, sitting in this capacity now, to try to provide 15 comments because how do you approach this issue because 16 it was never provided to you before? Now, I can deal 17 with it, the HHS. I can deal with IHS. I can deal with the ACYF. But it's a -- it's a whole different issue, 18 you dealing with NIGC, because this was never bestowed 19 upon tribes. And so, you know, it's -- it's a 20 cat-and-mouse issue. And so I mean maybe that's why, 21 2.2 you know, we're not getting very -- a lot of comments 23 here.

24 But more so, I think the issue is it will be 25 helpful if we could go through the process, if not step

1 by step, looking at each of what you're proposing. And -- and I think that, you know, maybe that would be 2 helpful where we could because, again, like my question, 3 you're asking about environmental concerns. You're 4 5 asking about health issues. And your explanation was no, we don't have a person that deals 100 percent of 6 7 their time looking at it. So is there a need for that 8 documentation? And maybe not.

9 Now, do you have a realty person on board? 10 Somebody that deals with land classification? Somebody 11 that can say, "Oh, Pueblo of Acoma, you've got township 12 ten north, range five west." Is that proper 13 demographics for the location of the facility? How else are you not going to know, or may not know, unless you 14 15 have somebody like Mr. Vallo coming out to the property. 16 Of course, he can't come out to Acoma. But, again, you 17 know somebody like Mr. Billingsly coming out, unless you have those kinds of individuals on staff that can 18 19 provide you, or the Commission, to verify to say, yes, that that is a good facility license, by all means. 20 21 Otherwise, I think you're quessing from the perspective 22 that you're taking somebody else's opinion about land classification, about environmentals, about health and 23 welfare issues. 24

25

Again, these are just my comments, per se.

1 But, again, you know, without -- because this -consultation was never really instilled upon the tribes. 2 3 Again, it was not anything Mr. Hogen initiated in his tenure as Chairman of NIGC, except for what we initiated 4 5 at some training, an hour's time, et cetera. 6 Thank you. 7 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, I must say, if you got an hour, you did well. I understand that many, many 8 9 places were down to 15 minutes. 10 Lieutenant Governor, it is kind of odd to sit 11 here in some respects, because I understand the history 12 of this Agency and its relationship with tribes. But 13 you have a Commission who is completely devoted to 14 doing, not only what the private executive order has 15 said will happen, but, also, we all come from Indian 16 country. We all -- we all understand the relationship between the federal government and tribes. We also 17 understand that things have not been done well. 18 19 And so the things that we're doing now are an attempt to bring this Agency into current practices, to 20 21 do the right thing, to hold consultations in a 2.2 meaningful manner. And some of the tribes are a 23 little -- they don't know what to do because it is new. 24 But I can tell you that the response that we're

25 receiving, both by tribal leaders showing up and
1 talking, by their experts showing up and talking, by the 2 written comments, only confirms what we knew, which is 3 tribes will respond. They have a very active voice in 4 the process, as they should.

5 And the -- the proposals that you're seeing us put out reflect the Commission's commitment to staying 6 7 within our lane. The Agency has very defined 8 authorities. We have, perhaps, over time, overstepped 9 those authorities. And we're trying to -- to be more 10 realistic because we have a very meaningful role in 11 gaming. And we are experts in certain things in gaming. 12 But we've exceeded those lanes. We've exceeded those 13 roles. And by pulling back and relying upon who we believe to be the experts, which is where we're at now. 14 15 We're deferring to the experts. We'll accept the words 16 of the experts because we don't have the expertise.

And the same is true in some of the licensing 17 decisions that are made for the -- for employees, for 18 19 vendor licensing. These are things that we can do which we believe meet our statutory obligations. IGRA is very 20 clear on what our obligations are. And this is the best 21 2.2 way we know how, through consultation, to -- to bring 23 our Agency into compliance, not only with what IGRA 24 says, with what the Executive Order 13,175 tells us we should do on consultation. And we will walk through 25

1 this process because we understand that this is a 2 different arena. We'll walk through with you the best 3 way we know how.

Thank you, Lieutenant Governor.

5 MR. GALLEGOS: I just need a point of 6 clarification. Manny Gallegos, Pueblo of Tesuque.

I made a note earlier that on part 559 that it removes the requirement that every three years notification or relicensing. Where is it, or where was it? I have been looking this over, and I don't see the section specifically dealing with that, where it was deleted or omitted, or don't I have all of the 559 corrections?

14 It was formerly -- it was MS. ECHO-HAWK: 15 formerly part 559.3, how often must a facility license 16 be renewed. It said at least once every three years 17 after the initial issuance of a facility license, the 18 tribe shall renew or reissue a separate facility license 19 for each existing place, facility, or location on Indian land for a tribe to be allowed gaming. And we struck 20 21 that part.

22 MR. GALLEGOS: Well, here -- I'm sorry. Here 23 it just -- I mean just as one thing, I'm talking about a 24 tribe must issue or a new facility. It doesn't say it's 25 deleted. The other part I -- I mean I see where, in

4

1 other places, you have footnoted the deletions. It's 2 not here. That is why I was asking. 3 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Didn't they have a -- do you not have a version of -- on tribe changes? Okay. 4 5 MS. ECHO-HAWK: We'll take a look at the draft. We have made a lot of edits, which is why it is 6 7 multicolored. And that part might have been deleted from a bubble, but we'll take a look at that. Thank 8 9 you. But it was formerly 559.3 in the -- in the current 10 regulation. 11 MR. GALLEGOS: Okay. 12 MR. GREEN: Jess Green, again. 13 559.6 is particularly the most egregious 14 section you have here because it implies that the Chair can demand any piece of information it wants, and the 15 16 tribes have to go get it. 25 USC 2706(b)(1) through (4) 17 says you can come look at anything we have, but nothing 18 there says you can command us to go get stuff we don't 19 This implies that you can. have. 20 Moreover, keep in mind that we're talking 21 about a license footprint. You can only require us to 2.2 give you information about the license footprint. The 23 reason is that's the limitation of our gaming commission's jurisdiction. Your jurisdiction and the 24 gaming commission's jurisdiction are simultaneous, and 25

1 they cover the same area. You can't ask us about the parking lot if it's not in the license footprint. 2 And 3 while you might want to know where the sewage goes, if 4 it's not in the license footprint, the Commissioner 5 doesn't control it, nor does the tribe, for that point, if they paid to dump it in somebody else's sewage 6 7 system. And to require them to go find out how the city treats sewage, I don't think is an appropriate 8 9 requirement. 10 So if you leave 559.6 in, I think it needs to be limited to the license location, and it needs to be 11 12 limited to the information that is on hand. And I think 13 we need to be very, very careful about giving the Chair, 14 at any point, the authority to demand, "Go get me 15 something," because that's going to be an area that we 16 have immense amounts of conflict. 17 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess. 18 What else? 19 Jess, are you going to put any of your comments in writing to help this whole --20 21 MR. GREEN: Probably not. You've got them 2.2 recorded. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: So I have to go back and 23 24 listen over and over again? 25 No. Your staff -- your staff may MR. GREEN:

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1 call me at any time on this stuff.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Okay. Thank you.
MR. GREEN: And I'll give you -- I will be
able to recite specific examples of why this has been a
problem in the past.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you.

8 The final regulation that's put in this 9 section, as well -- we have not cut out a regulation 10 yet, although I'm sure there are many of you sitting 11 here who are familiar with how other agencies treat the 12 Buy Indian Act.

13 This was based on an internal review of how we 14 purchase things, how we spend our money. And it is also 15 based on underlying comments. And, again, to share with 16 you kind of our thought processes, it makes sense to us, 17 as commissioners, that we are -- since we are funded 18 entirely by tribal fees, that where we were able to, it 19 is appropriate for us to put these fees back into Indian country to support the industry in a -- in a manner 20 21 that's meaningful. And this was consistent with the --2.2 or with, even, the comments that came in on the NOI from 23 tribes was, "Yes, Agency, you should -- you should 24 implement something which requires you to -- to buy Indian. 25

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We've looked at some potential provisions. We've looked at what other regulations are out there with IHS, with the IA, to try to see what they do, see what is looking well.

5 There are some federal requirements that were asked -- we've asked our auditors, we've asked our legal 6 7 people to look at, which dictate how we -- we follow 8 federal purchasing guidelines. So we want to make sure 9 that we don't get crosswired with anything that will --10 will cause problems. So that's the whole debate that 11 we're taking, whether or not we should do the 12 regulation, whether or not it ought to be a policy.

13 And there is some concern that we may have to 14 do it by regulation, but we haven't worked through those 15 issues completely. But we wanted to open it up to the 16 tribes for comment because I suspect some of you have 17 some experience with this Act and the federal 18 government, and ask questions, whether or not we should, 19 whether or not there is an agency that, maybe, has Buy Indian regulations or policies that you think work well, 20 21 whether or not there is something that, maybe, we ought 2.2 to be aware of that isn't working so well.

And so I open up the -- the floor for
comments.
There -- there was -- or there has been, in

1	other consultations, questions about how this would
2	apply to the tribes. And and we want to be really
3	clear that this would be this would be something
4	imposed upon the Agency. This is how the Agency would
5	implement the Act, not any new requirements on tribes.
б	This this is only how we would do it.
7	Maxine?
8	MS. VELASQUEZ: Maxine Velasquez, Pueblo of
9	Tesuque.
10	February 8, 2011, we submitted our comments on
11	the Notice of Inquiry. We we discussed the Buy
12	Indian Act, and Pueblo Tesuque does feel a regulation
13	should be put in place, instead of a policy. And so
14	that's our position at this point, still is, has been.
15	And this would give make the the regulation
16	would basically gives preference to qualified tribe
17	folks to be able to deal with the NIGC on these issues.
18	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: We've looked at the as
19	far as the federal acquisition regulations, and we've
20	looked at that definition as to what would be a
21	qualified Indian-owned, and that seems to be standard
22	language that is used.
23	GOVERNOR GARCIA: Lieutenant Governor of the
24	Pueblo of Acoma.
25	But, as you say, this is this is really

1 more for NIGC, not -- not imposed upon the gaming tribes. My -- my comments, my recommendation would be 2 to take it out. If it is not applicable to the tribes, 3 the gaming tribes, then it doesn't apply. I think this 4 5 is something internally that would apply to you, NIGC. But if you were to impose this upon the tribes, then I 6 7 would think that, not only would you include the Buy 8 Indian Act, you would include minority-owned business, 9 women-owned business provisions. You would employ provisions under the Snyder Act. There are other 10 11 provisions, regulatory provisions, that you would have 12 to apply.

13 But I mean if this is something that's applicable to only the Agency, then I think that's where 14 15 it should stay. I would not include this as part of a 16 provision that you want to pass on to gaming tribes 17 because I think we follow our own procurement provisions relative to what we have locally with -- that -- that 18 19 tribes have established. And this isn't anything that's federally funded. This is all revenue-generated. 20

So quite honestly, the tribal procurement policies, procedures supersede whatever you have in place. So I -- I would recommend you take it out. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you. Are there any other thoughts?

MS. VELASQUEZ: Again, Maxine Velasquez,
 Pueblo of Tesuque.

I just want to state this issue one more time. 3 4 I think it's really important to have a regulation on 5 this -- on this matter because IGRA is there to help the tribal government's economic self-sufficiency. And when 6 7 we do this, tribal government and tribally-owned 8 businesses, we can put that money the tribes pay in fees 9 back into the pockets of Indian folks, whether it's the 10 government and/or tribally-owned individuals that have 11 computer companies, or whatever else they have. They're going be able to help, you know, foster economic 12 13 development of Indian county. So I -- I really believe 14 that regulation should be in place. And it shouldn't be 15 a policy because that can change from administration to 16 administration. It should be a regulation.

17

18

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you.

All right. Anything else?

19 The final group or topic of this morning's 20 session was the Class III MICS. And as Lael pointed out 21 during her PowerPoint, we did ask the question, and 22 we're asking the question in group one of how we -- how 23 should we address the Class III MICS. We understand 24 that it impacts tribes, states, regions very 25 differently. That is becoming increasingly evident as

1 we go throughout and consult on this.

2 We've heard, in general, just to overly 3 simplify that -- to give you a synopsis of the comments, 4 there has been a suggestion on -- that we replace 542 5 with recommended guidelines. There has been that we address through agency tribal compacting processes the 6 7 MICS question, that we -- tribal ordinances incorporating part 542 of the NIGC adjusting the fee 8 9 rates for those tribes. In other words, if you're going 10 to use the NIGC for Class II MICS, that you should --11 that your fees should reflect the Agency's involvement 12 in this area. Maintaining part 542 is in the attached, 13 update the current regulation. And then, the other end 14 of the spectrum is to repeal the part in its entirety. 15 This, as most of you know, is going to be, and is, the 16 elephant in the room for us. This is the most 17 challenging part of, perhaps, the entire regulatory 18 review process that we will encounter.

19 There is currently discussion going on, and 20 what I bring to the table to you, now, is that we're 21 talking about, "How do we address this? How -- how, 22 tribes, do you want us to address this very challenging 23 issue?" The -- the current discussion really centers on 24 using the TAC again, a Tribal Advisory Committee. And I 25 know there's many of sitting you in here that have been

involved in -- in other TACS with this agency. And the thought is that we would find a way to use a TAC to bring this issue to resolution collectively, with representatives from the tribes, hopefully expeditiously, because the footwork has really been done.

7 You have the proposed revisions that have been out that were provided during the last TAC. You have a 8 9 tribal gaming working group who has put together 10 proposed revisions and will put those out in the 11 public -- or have put those out in the public for 12 discussion. So you have those comments. But so we 13 really have a lot of the footwork that's already done. 14 It's a matter of finding a way to get us at the table 15 and in a manner which is meaningful, but also respects 16 limited resources, respects the limited time.

This Commission, it is absolutely committed to getting this resolved one way or another before we finish. It's been pending for too long. Tribes have been left with uncertainty on this issue for too long. And however we need to do it, we want this resolved during our time, and so our time is limited.

And we know that there are some creative ways. We've been talking about the concept of, rather than one in the spectrum, having a group that is over -- overly

1 large, perhaps unwieldy, trying to get a consensus without real leadership coming from it, or the ability 2 to get consensus from a leadership prospective, all the 3 way to what you had under the Lang administration with 4 5 the committee being dominated by the Agency so that we're sitting at the table, but not always interpreting 6 7 the tribal comments back into the proposed changes. So 8 we've got a spectrum there.

9 And one of things that are -- the ideas that 10 are being put out for discussion is, perhaps, using a 11 facilitative TAC, using a TAC which has a facilitator 12 which can set the ground rules for discussion, will help 13 keep the process moving, will find a way to get 14 resolution to those areas, maybe, where there isn't 15 consensus, but needs to be resolved, and move on.

16 And we want to know if you're interested in 17 this because it will require the Agency to very, very promptly begin finding -- or putting the word out, 18 19 getting the group put together, finding space and time, all of those things that the Agency would be required to 20 21 do in order to get something done in a manner which will 2.2 allow us to put out a proposed reg before we leave, if 23 that's -- if that's the way we go, or to do a bulletin, if that's the decision that's made. 24

25

So that's what's on the table in this area.

1 And that's what I wanted to hear from you, your 2 thoughts. Again, I know many of you have a lot of 3 experience in -- in this area, and what your interests are to help us get this issue solved. 4 5 Albert, you have -- you have prior experience, 6 don't you? Don't you before? 7 MR. APODACA: Albert Apodaca. I think that kind of meetings, I have never 8 9 participated. 10 I think that the -- what you just -- your 11 statement, I think, would work better because I mean 12 you're going from one extreme to another. And 13 personally, dealing from the gaming commission side, or 14 the gaming commission, it's real helpful to have the 15 Class III. I know there's some tribes that oppose, you 16 know, that, that sort of thing. But I think we have to 17 be mindful of the -- the political arena and how we're 18 viewed by the public and all of that. I'm sure that has 19 come up. 20 But I think a TAC that is facilitated, I think 21 that would be great. Now, the forming of the TAC is 2.2 another challenge within itself, who will serve on it, and that sort of thing. But I think that's the best way 23 24 to go. I -- I believe that tribes need, whether you 25

want to call them guidelines or MICS, or whatever -whatever term you put on them, I think they're needed, I
mean because we often have to -- at least it has been my
experience, sometimes we have to defend ourselves to
public -- to the public, and, maybe, officials, and that
sort of thing. And what do we fall back on?

7 I mean, you know, the common -- the comment that we hear the most often is, "Well, you're the gaming 8 9 commission. You're part of the tribe, so it's 10 self-serving, " right? Even though we may rule in favor 11 of the -- of the player or the public, or whatever the 12 case may be, that's always kind of the perception. Ιf 13 you take that away, and if you can't point to the fact 14 that you've got a federal agency providing some 15 oversight, and that sort of thing, then I think it 16 weakens the credibility of the tribe and the gaming 17 comission, or the local tribal gaming regulatory authority because I think it adds some -- some basis for 18 saying to the public, "Look. We're not only regulated 19 within, you know, the tribal gaming commission, the 20 21 local one."

But oftentimes, like we say in orientation, in Vegas, you go in, and you go to the Clark County's Sheriff Office, and you pass a background. And it's kind of -- it's kind of superficial. I don't know if

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1	that's the correct word. And then but with but
2	with the gaming tribe, you have you know, you have
3	federal federal oversight, you have the State, and
4	then, you've got the tribe. So it that that's a
5	plus when you're talking to the public or other people
6	that even people that have applied for a gaming
7	license. This is how it works. This is why it is so
8	regulated. This is why and I think I think you
9	need that.
10	So I think having a TAC, again, that's
11	facilitated, I think that's going to be your best
12	approach. At least, that's my opinion.
13	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you.
14	MR. GREEN: I hate to take issue with you, but
15	I must.
16	In 2006 the CRIT case pointed out that in
17	regard to our compacting, which is quite which
18	includes our Class III, the NIGC didn't have any
19	business telling us what to do, that we we, as
20	sovereigns, could sit down with the State and work out
21	the details.
22	Now, that being said, at the at the same
23	time, there were a number of us that had worked out the
24	details by adopting 542. In other words, that's in our
25	compact. Almost all the tribes in Oklahoma, all of
l	

1 those compacts over there say that we're going to use 2 the NIGC's MICS that was in effect in November of 2005. 3 It -- it won't get updated because it's in our compact. 4 That's when we use it.

5 One of the things that your list of 6 alternatives omits is doing nothing. The NIGC has done 7 nothing since 2006 when -- when CRIT said, "You do not 8 have jurisdiction to do anything with the Class III 9 MICS." And the world hasn't come to an end. 542 is 10 still there, so we still have some standard to follow --11 to follow.

12 If you spend some of my 20 percent money, I 13 might sue you if you do it for something that the CRIT 14 court said you don't have any jurisdiction over. And, 15 again, that would be very divisive. As you point out, a 16 number of tribes welcome this, and I -- I don't welcome 17 that kind of division.

18 542 is still there. And, again, a lot of the 19 tribes follow it because it is in their compacts. You 20 know, what we're in a quandary of is how to update it. 21 Again, nobody is debating that it was valuable 22 because -- and so we have adopted it. The issue is how 23 to update it.

24If I -- I have issues with trying to invest25the NIGC with the authority to update it when tribes

1	spend money pointing out, "You don't have jurisdiction
2	to interfere in our compact." And the more we approach
3	this topic, the more we we we churn up debate that
4	for five years has gone through Congress that, "Oh,
5	Indians are unregulated, and the sky's gonna fall."
6	We we've done a good job with what we
7	already have. I'm not saying we need to repeal 542.
8	Again, it's a good standard that's already been adopted.
9	And I'm not saying we don't need a mechanism to update
10	it. But I'm not sure that the NIGC, after CRIT,
11	provides that mechanism.
12	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess.
13	MR. ROYBAL: Edward Roybal, attorney for the
14	Ak-Chin Indian Community.
15	We want to echo what Jess just said. In
16	Arizona, our compacts, and others from Arizona can help
17	me out, also incorporate the MICS. And, again, CRIT was
18	very clear as to the statutory authority and reached the
19	NIGC. And in the year since, you know, the sky hasn't
20	fallen. We're okay.
21	So 542 is there, part of our compact. And I
22	think IGRA was clear, as well, that those regulatory
23	standards are left to tribes in the state compacting
24	process. And CRIT reaffirmed that.
25	So going forward, that is a question, I think,

-	
1	that is open, whether it's guidelines or leaving it to
2	those tribes in states that have compacts to do it that
3	way. But I think the CRIT the CRIT case was very
4	clear with your statutory jurisdiction, which and,
5	again, everything is still in place. Tribes are still
6	regulating their gaming operations without involving the
7	NIGC. So let's not create a fix where there is not this
8	impending problem to it.
9	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: May I ask, one of the
10	things that has come up in our discussions I'm
11	curious if it's happening here. How many, if any,
12	tribes that their auditors are auditing to the MICS?
13	Not the TICS, but the MICS?
14	MR. GREEN: The compact says we will.
15	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, the reason why I'm
16	asking, though, is because that's where most of the
17	consternation comes in. The questions what's been
18	happening in our agency, historically, is the there's
19	been resolutions to questions or disputes or issues by
20	reference to the proposed MICS, which is you know, I
21	don't know that's how the issue is being handled, but
22	that's that's why I'm asking the question. I want to
23	understand, you know
24	Jess, go ahead. Speak up.
25	MR. GREEN: Jess Green again.

1 MR. APODACA: Don't be bashful. MR. GREEN: The standard is not at issue. 2 We all agree the standard is marvelous. The standard is 3 endorsed by our compacts, so we -- we test against it. 4 5 The issue is that CRIT says you're not the agency to create those kinds of enforceable standards, and, 6 7 therefore, you don't have the ability to spend your 8 money to -- you know, to update it. 9 And, you know, my suggestion is that -- that 10 we might all have somebody like the National Tribal 11 Regulators Association form a task force to suggest 12 that, and, then, maybe send them over and say -- y'all 13 say, "Yeah, this would be great if we had the authority to do this." And there are -- there are those kinds of 14 15 fringe concepts that we could come up with. 16 The issue remains that for you to spend money 17 in an area that a court has said you don't have 18 jurisdiction causes lawyers an immense amount of 19 problems, and causes those in Arizona to pay for that 20 litigation even more consternation. 21 And I do not want our message to Congress to be "Fix IGRA," because I -- I don't think we need a fix. 2.2 We have a standard. What we need to do is figure out a 23 24 way to update our standards on it. 25 But we all -- all of us in Indian country can

1	agree we need a method to update it, but I'm not
2	suggesting it has to be the NIGC. There are other
3	entities that could come up with that. And then, you
4	could simply sign off on that and say, "We've read it
5	and think it's a good standard," and endorse it. And
6	that would be the next standard that the next round of
7	compacts would endorse that we had to had to follow
8	to.
9	And, yes, we do audit to those because our
10	compact said we'd audit to to what was there in '05.
11	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Jess, can I can I ask you a
12	question?
	_
13	I understand what you're saying. I think the
13 14	I understand what you're saying. I think the issue that we've been grappling with at the Commission
14	issue that we've been grappling with at the Commission
14 15	issue that we've been grappling with at the Commission in our staff discussions, and, then, within the
14 15 16	issue that we've been grappling with at the Commission in our staff discussions, and, then, within the Commission itself, is that's a great alternative. But
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14 15 16 17 18 19 20	issue that we've been grappling with at the Commission in our staff discussions, and, then, within the Commission itself, is that's a great alternative. But in five years, it hasn't been done by anyone outside the Agency. And we're sort of in the hot seat because we do have part 542 on the books. And everyone does look at them as sort of the the governing or the guiding
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	issue that we've been grappling with at the Commission in our staff discussions, and, then, within the Commission itself, is that's a great alternative. But in five years, it hasn't been done by anyone outside the Agency. And we're sort of in the hot seat because we do have part 542 on the books. And everyone does look at them as sort of the the governing or the guiding you know, the guiding light of all MICS throughout all

25 in place, the problem is there's no such thing. And to

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1 my knowledge, there is no such group that has decided to 2 do something like that since 2006. And there's nothing 3 that the NIGC can do to sort of make that happen.

So within sort of the umbrella of the 4 5 authority that we have, what is it that we can do in order to meet the industry -- you know, meet the needs, 6 7 address the issues, the need for updated technology, all of the -- all of the things that we know need fixed 8 9 within the current MICS. How do we do that given the 10 NIGC's limited -- limited role in that? Not to put the 11 ball back in your court, but --

MR. GREEN: Don't put me on the spot.

There are other tribal attorneys my age that will point out to you very quickly that all you did is copy the suggestion we already made. And you know to whom I'm referring. She's real pointed when she's in the room that she wrote most of the MICS that -- that you have adopted, and that tribes adopted them.

19 I think, to this point, the reason tribes have 20 not moved forward is, as I said, the tribes in Oklahoma 21 don't have any real huge interest because we're locked 22 from 2005 until our compact comes back up. Those of you 23 who are looking to modernize your casino and want to get 24 rid of some of the problem in the older MICS, certainly, 25 we need another entity to -- to sponsor it so we can

12

1 advance it and move it forward.

2	And while you point out that no entity has
3	stepped up, the discussions still continue. And I would
4	suggest that an entity that might well do that would be
5	the National Tribal Regulators Association. All it
6	would take is someone that is a member of that
7	association to say, "This is critical. We need to have
8	a meeting," and I think you could probably get a
9	committee that would go through it for you.
10	MR. APODACA: I have to disagree because
11	and I'm not and I'm one that wants to keep government
12	out so but because I I mean I believe what
13	sovereignty means, right?
14	But here's the deal: If we're going through
15	the National Tribal Gaming Regulators Association, or we
16	go through another one, we're going to be paying double.
17	We're already paying the NIGC fees. What are we getting
18	in return for that, right? And I I understand
19	that the legal thing about, "Well, if we're paying
20	for it, for something they don't have jurisdiction
21	over." But in this case, I would like to have it more
22	a like not a regulation like in the true sense, more
23	of like a guideline, that type of thing.
24	And I don't want to if I'm a tribe, I don't
25	want to pay double. I don't want to pay one of our

employees, or several employees with the National Tribal Gaming Regulators Association, to go travel and do all of that when I'm already -- we're already paying NIGC. So that's kind of the issue there.

5 I mean I -- I agree with the CRIT. And I'm -fully, fully agree with that. But -- but I think 6 7 that -- that, you know, we have to understand their position, our position, too, from financial and the 8 9 ability to participate, are we going to be -- or have 10 that ability to participate in the National Tribal 11 Gaming Regulators, because you're going to run into the 12 same problems that the NIGC is going to run into with 13 the TAC. You're going to have the same thing with the 14 National Tribal Gaming Regulators, or any other group 15 that you try to do that with.

And for me, it's kind of a natural thing. I -- but I -- I agree. I think it's a question of updating 542, and -- and then adopting that and accepting that. So good luck.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, the discussion up here is -- again, it's part of a microcosm. We hear different views out of the Northwest. We hear different views. California tribes have a very clear perspective on this issue. And it -- you know, so this is what the Agency is facing. I welcome the debate.

1	Well, I hate to be anyone who stands between
2	you and your food, so I unless there's a comment that
3	needs to be made before lunchtime, which I want to make
4	sure, is there anything that we'll break for lunch.
5	We'll resume at 1:30. And we will go through the next
6	group or two, which ought to be the lawyers' bailiwick,
7	in group four this afternoon.
8	So enjoy your lunch.
9	(Luncheon Recess.)
10	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, I did my best to
11	try to start on time, but, again I'm behind. Almost.
12	Welcome back from your lunch. I hope it was
13	good. And thank you for joining us again this
14	afternoon.
15	I'm going to turn it over to Lael. Lael,
16	again, will walk us through an introduction for this set
17	of these regs in this group. And we'll do like we did
18	this morning. We'll start through them one by one.
19	So, Lael, I turn it over to you.
20	SO, Laer, I culli it over to you.
	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. So this afternoon,
21	
21 22	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. So this afternoon,
	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. So this afternoon, we're going to be the first part this afternoon,
22	MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. So this afternoon, we're going to be the first part this afternoon, we're going to be reviewing group two, which group two

all have to do with proceedings before the Commission.
So if you are in appeals of some kind, that's what those
-- those particular parts cover. We don't have a draft
for those just yet, but I anticipate that we will have
one by the end of the week for you to review.

So part 573, which is the enforcement 6 7 provisions, we heard -- we heard a number of comments from tribes. And this Commission is -- I think you 8 9 heard this morning in our discussion on the ticket 10 system and then with the facility licensing, the 11 Commission is very committed to compliance and assuring 12 that tribes have the opportunity to come into compliance 13 before a notice of violation or an enforcement action is 14 taken.

So the discussion draft in part 573 -- this is on the first page of your draft -- it adds that voluntary compliance is a goal of the Commission. And that's in the first, and that included that, and that's 573.1.

20 What that draft also does is it outlines a 21 pre-enforcement action process. So in -- what they --22 what this process is designed to do is to notify the 23 tribe, through a letter of concern, or a letter of 24 noncompliance, or noncompliance notice, if -- if the 25 Agency sees that there are some issues that need to be

1 resolved.

So in the case where the tribe -- where the tribe -- where the Agency sees that there's an issue, it might be a compliance issue, they would issue a letter of concern and indicate where the possible violation could be.

7 In the situation where the Agency sees that 8 the tribe is not in compliance, it would issue a 9 noncompliance notice and say, "This is the issue that 10 needs to be resolved," and provide some -- some 11 mechanisms and suggestions on how to -- on how to 12 resolve that issue. Now, this is all contained in 13 573.2. It's a new section.

14 Important to note, and it says -- it's noted in the discussion draft of this pre-enforcement -- these 15 16 pre-enforcement proceedings are not final Agency action 17 and that time frames may be provided in the notice or in the -- in the letter of concern. If the recommended 18 19 corrective action isn't taken, so if the tribe doesn't come into compliance, then in that scenario, the Agency 20 21 may have no choice but to move forward with a notice of 2.2 violation.

Additionally included in this section is that this pre-enforcement action doesn't limit or constrain the Chair's discretion to issue a notice of violation in

1 this situation. We included this section in there for 2 situations that are particularly egregious, and -- and a 3 notice of violation or temporary closure order needs to 4 be issued as soon as possible.

5 This discussion draft, the written comment 6 period closes on August 9th, and we look forward to your 7 comments.

8 The second part of the -- the second part --9 the second group of regulations included in this group 10 all have to do with proceedings before the Commission.

11 The Notice of Inquiry asked tribes whether we 12 should review these particular parts. We've received a 13 lot of concerns, a lot of comments from tribes, 14 including concern about the formal process being more burdensome and -- and may delay review; that -- that any 15 16 rules that we put forward should guarantee due process; 17 and that the rules needed to be consolidated because 18 they're kind of scattered throughout the regulations. 19 And we heard comments that -- that providing the official proceedings should be eliminated, and, perhaps, 20 21 adding, I think one more hearing option for ordinance 2.2 and management contract appeals.

23 We had a number -- a number of other comments, 24 and we continue to hear them that, you know, sometimes 25 these appeals kind of go into this black hole that is

1	the NIGC and that there needs to be some resolution. If
2	the tribe files an appeal, you know, you can
3	conceivably I mean we've seen things as old as five
4	years that have been sitting in front of the Commission.
5	And there needs to be an answer. There needs to be some
6	time frames for the Commission to respond. There needs
7	to be some certainty provided to tribes in how the
8	process works.
9	And so internally, we're looking at these
10	regulations, and, again, hope to have a draft out by the
11	end of this week. And, hopefully, the goal is that we
12	lay out a process that is clear, that meets the needs of
13	tribes, that is transparent, that provides the due
14	process that that tribes have been requesting and
15	looking for.
16	So with that, I will turn it back over to the
17	Vice Chair.
18	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Lael.
19	These particular group or this particular
20	group of sections seem to make a lot of sense together,
21	and I'm glad that we grouped them in this way.
22	In part 573, there is, as Lael pointed out,
23	what I think is one of more important aspects of what
24	this Commission can leave behind as far as leaving our
25	policy statement, and that is to include in this section

1 a very clear statement to the effect that we do seek, first and foremost, voluntary compliance before we go to 2 the enforcement proceedings. We do feel very strongly 3 that that is our significant concern for this 4 5 Commission, as reflected in our training and technical assistance activities, as reflected in our consultation 6 7 activities. It's reflected in just about everything that we do. And so I'm very pleased to see that 8 we've -- we've taken it and done -- put this goal, or 9 10 this objective, into our regulations.

11 The provisions that allow for the issuance of 12 a notice of noncompliance, again, is an attempt to 13 implement that objective, which is to bring out into the 14 discussion that we believe, as an agency, there is an 15 issue of noncompliance, or a potential issue of 16 noncompliance, and work with the tribe very closely to 17 figure out how we can best address the concerns that we 18 have.

19 These would not be final Agency actions. They 20 are something that we intend to make a mechanism which 21 will allow us to, hopefully, avoid further enforcement 22 proceedings and to restrict enforcement proceedings to 23 those areas that we think are really what the statute 24 was designed to get at, and not to get at issues where 25 we can work with the tribe to correct something.

Are there any comments that you want to offer regarding the concept itself? Do you think it's a good idea? Do you think it's a bad idea? Do you think it would be helpful?

5 One of the notations that I've made into this section that was part of the conversation that we've had 6 7 in other areas of the country had to do with 573.2, 8 subsection (c), on page one, line 38, where there has 9 been a request that we consider spelling out what the 10 time period would be, so that, again, the tribe knows 11 what's expected. We know what we are looking for, too, 12 and, again, to bring more clarity to the process. And I 13 thought that was a -- a very good suggestion.

14

Okay. Jess?

MR. GREEN: With regard to -- in regard to -Jess Green again.

In regard to 573.2(d), I appreciate that you put all of these other sections in, which tend to give us a notice opportunity, but you took it all away with (d) when you said that the Chair had discretion to ignore all of those things.

And in the past, I have been the recipient of an NOV when I had a request for government-to-government communication about an issue pending. The last time I checked, the NIGC spoke of all government-to-government

1	communications. Lots of times, tribes know that there's
2	an issue, and they would like to sit down and discuss it
3	to see if there is a way, other than an NOV, that it can
4	be resolved. And in the circumstance that I had, the
5	NOV got issued. And it was later withdrawn, but it was
6	still issued. And that, in and of itself, carries
7	connotations that get bantered about in the tribal
8	political world, as well as elsewhere.
9	And I would I would like a provision that
10	if the tribe has made a government-to-government
11	request, that the Chair can't issue a NOV. Now, you may
12	expedite the government-to-government communication
13	process so it is the next day. I don't mind that
14	happening. But I don't want to put my request in at
15	3 o'clock and get my NOV at 5:00 because I drew
16	attention to a topic that I knew there was some issue
17	about.
18	Now, I've had that happen. It's not fair to
19	the government leaders that were trying to resolve the
20	issue. And, quite frankly, I've seen chairs of the NIGC
21	that thought they were on their way out do this. And
22	it's not fair to the tribal political process.
23	So if you are able to delay the Chair so we at
24	least get an opportunity to visit, I I think there
25	wouldn't be an NOV issued.

1 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Jess, I think that's a 2 valid concern, and I think it's something that we can certainly think about. I'm trying to recall a 3 conversation that we had internally. And I can see this 4 5 being a complete -- or this being separate from issues involving temporary closures, which may require 6 immediacy, depending on, you know, that --7 MR. GREEN: I mean a notice of violation is 8 9 different than a temporary closure order. You've got a 10 list of requirements. Again, you don't need those. I'm 11 not suggesting that that's impeded in any way. 12 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Right. So that's --13 MR. GREEN: I do not want my request for 14 government-to-government communications about a topic 15 with one of my elected leaders to cause an NOV to be 16 issued --17 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Right. MR. GREEN: -- so it can be done before the 18 19 meeting. I don't think that's good for communications 20 with tribal leadership. I would also --21 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Would you -- I'm sorry, 2.2 Jess. 23 Would you be willing to submit some language 24 in to that effect? And the reason why I'm asking is because it does open up -- I've got a friend that will 25

1 not leave me alone.

2	It it opens up, I guess, a potential for
3	further discussion about what does that mean if if
4	the Agency if we were to if the chair's discretion
5	to issue an NOV were restricted by a request to consult,
б	what, then, constituted reasonableness or due process
7	under that? Like what you were saying, if they were to
8	say, "This is a serious situation. We want to consult
9	within the next 72 hours," and the tribe says, "That's
10	not reasonable" is I'm asking for looking to you
11	for guidance on what you would think a reasonable
12	process might be in that situation.
13	MR. GREEN: Well, the situation I had, I made
14	the request at 3:30, and then I get the NOV at 5:00
15	because the Chairman wanted to make a pre-emptive
16	strike. And I had a tribal leader that was very upset
17	that there was not a communication, because if there had
18	been a communication, there would have been no NOV. You
19	know, if if something had if it been communicated
20	that you really want it done this way, and you're really
21	that serious, it would have stopped without it. But it
22	would not have allowed the Commissioner to set the
23	signpost for the rest of the world.
24	
	And that's but I've got a I've got a

the request and inquire. And instead, it's -- all it
 did was attract all the attention.

MS. ECHO-HAWK: I hear what you're saying, Jess, and it may be something we should look at, the consultation policy, as well. I'm trying to think here, though, how we can modify this particular section to address that concern.

8 The -- the intent and -- you know, we think we 9 wrote this perfectly. We thought we had written 10 everything, every draft regulation, perfectly. Clearly, 11 we haven't.

12 Is there a way we can qualify this section so 13 that if -- I'm thinking two things. Number one, every 14 tribe will then submit a request for consultation and 15 could delay situations that need to happen ASAP. That's 16 the concern here, is that if there is some sort of 17 egregious scenario where the -- the Agency needs to act immediately, then we need to be able to do that without 18 having a tribe in, you know, Alabama or Montana fly all 19 the way out to DC because -- because that could take 20 21 some time. And there are scenarios where we just simply 2.2 don't have that time.

Is there a way that we can qualify this, perhaps by including some sort of language that says, "Only if these -- if these certain procedures don't

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1 work, or there is not enough time, or extraordinary circumstances," or something like that, that might 2 modify this, but still give the Chair the flexibility? 3 MR. GREEN: I do not have a problem with the 4 5 Chair -- with the Chair's restriction being limited to 72 hours, that he can accelerate that. I mean if you're 6 7 contemplating an NOV, even if I initiate the first 8 communication, I have no problem with the Chair saying, 9 "Well, then, you've got to be up here and visit with me 10 within 72 hours. That's the only way I'm not going to 11 issue it." I have no problem with that. But I would 12 like that opportunity, if tribal leadership has 13 initiated the request first, to have a telephone conference, if nothing else. 14

I just don't think it's fair to tribal leadership, when you initiate the request, and then your response back is an NOV. I mean you thought enough to say, "I think we might have a problem. I want to talk to you about it, and I want to know how serious it is," and -- and the response back is you get an NOV notice.

And let's keep in mind what an NOV is. It's a piece of paper. Nothing really happens if I don't choose to stop. You have to issue me a closure order for something to happen. You know, it may increase my fine if I keep doing it. But we have had tribes

1 continue to operate even with closure orders. 2 So again, keep in mind you're just sending pieces of paper. And, you know, most of the time, you 3 depend on voluntary compliance. If you evaluate how 4 5 effective your piece of paper is, it's much more effective if you have a consultation. 6 7 And -- and so I'm not trying to -- to say that paper is not upgradable, but I am suggesting that if 8 9 there has been a request for a consultation prior to 10 issuance, that some time in the next 48 to 72 hours you 11 get that opportunity to at least communicate. 12 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess. 13 MR. GREEN: I have a comment on 573.3, as 14 well, (a). It says, "The Chairman may issue a notice of 15 16 violation to any person." You don't have jurisdiction 17 over any person. 18 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Jess, it's a defined I had the same issue. It's defined --19 term. 20 (Discussion off the record between 21 panel members.) 2.2 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Give us just a moment because I had the same question. And the "person" is 23 24 actually a defined term. MR. GREEN: If -- if it is, then I'm -- I'm 25
1 sorry I brought the point out. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, but I want to make 2 3 sure, Jess, that what I'm thinking of applies to this section, as well, so that we're consistent. 4 5 And under 571.2, "person" means "an individual Indian tribe, corporation, partnership, or other 6 7 organization or entity." That's under -- okay. And it may be under statute. But we'll tag it and look at it. 8 9 MR. GREEN: All right. And again, we're on 10 the same wavelength on these issues. 11 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Absolutely. 12 Are there any other comments? 13 Yes. 14 MR. GALLEGOS: Manny Gallegos, Pueblo of 15 Tesuque. Under 573.2(c), I have a little problem with 16 17 the words that -- under -- which says "may provide a 18 time period" when you're issuing either your letter of 19 concern or a noncompliance notice. Does that mean that if the Chair decides that there will be no time period, 20 21 that that letter of noncompliance becomes fixed, or 2.2 should it say "will contain a time period for responding 23 to comply"? 24 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Ask me your question 25 again.

1 MR. GALLEGOS: You know, it's just the word 2 "may." I have a little problem with the word "may" in 3 there. It says "either action or subsection (b) may provide a time period, " because that means if the Chair 4 5 decides not to put any time period, then what good is sending that notice out? 6 7 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: That is exactly, as I was saying earlier, the conversation that we had about the 8 9 tribes requesting that we spell out the time period for 10 that --11 MR. GALLEGOS: Or just put "will contain" --12 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: "Will" contain, yeah. 13 MR. GALLEGOS: -- or something to that effect, 14 because --15 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Yeah. Yeah. 16 MR. GALLEGOS: -- otherwise, I mean it says 17 "it may," and I think I just get a notice, and then I 18 have to comply, so what is the voluntary compliance at 19 that point? VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Right. That's an 20 21 excellent observation. Thank you. 2.2 MR. GALLEGOS: Thank you. 23 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Any other comments? 24 The next four parts are really for our 25 attorneys, I think. This -- part 519 deals with

service; 524, appeals; 539, appeals, as well; and part
 577 is also on appeals.

In these revisions that we put out for discussion, the intent was to, first of all, clarify a formal appeals process. The one that the Agency had been operating under left a lot of uncertainty in many areas. And in some places, it just wasn't addressed.

And then, the second thing was we were -instructed our staff to draft it in such a way that would ensure some due process into the system because our experience, again, had been that the Agency's choices in how to handle certain appeals may not have resulted in a fair process to the tribes. So that was kind of the overarching theme, or the overarching theme.

And in these various sections in 519, we did include the service to extend to how we serve on -under the late fees, if that provision is accepted and put into regulation form. That's included in there so that it would clarify that it would cover all civil-type assessment that the Agency engages in.

We, also, at the request of the tribes, are suggesting a provision that would remove service by fax for official determinations, notices of assessments, orders, or NOVs, but allowing for fax service of subsequent documents. And this, again, was comments

1 that came in from the tribes saying, "This is not the 2 best method. You need to reach us personally. To do so 3 by fax is not the best method. We want you to do it in 4 a way that reaches us directly."

5 It does add for service of registered or 6 certified mail, return receipt requested. It kind of 7 surprised me that that wasn't in the original one. That's been common practice in service statutes for a 8 9 long time. And then, also, in order to try to take 10 advantage of technology, and to be a little more 11 sensitive to the cost of producing and mailing. And 12 519.3 does add in service by e-mail for documents 13 subsequent to the official determinations, notices of 14 assessment, and orders.

So in other words, once we've made direct one-on-one contact with the tribe or with its representative to serve them, and after that, if the parties agree, service by e-mail may be an inappropriate way to serve subsequent documents. So this is kind of straightforward. Like I said, this is attorneys' fodder for discussion.

22But does anybody have any thoughts or23choose -- you don't want us to go that way?24Good. All right. Moving on.25MR. WEST: We have -- we have a comment.

Page 113 1 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Oh, we have a comment. 2 Jess, even on 519? 3 MR. GREEN: It has to do with appeals. 4 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Okav. 5 MR. GREEN: I would like for a section that -to be added that deals with recusals. 6 7 When a commissioner participates in the submission of an issue, I would like for that 8 9 commissioner to be recused from hearing the appeal. 10 I have had the experience of having the Chair 11 that set up the case have the opinion written before the 12 case was ever submitted. And there was only one other 13 commissioner there, therefore, the Chair would have been 14 able to get a ruling in his favor. 15 It is not appropriate for the trier of fact to 16 participate in the submission, make the ruling, and then 17 participate in the appeal in any forum I've ever been 18 in. 19 MS. ECHO-HAWK: That is something that we've talked about internally and heard a number of comments 20 21 on, particularly, in the situation that you bring 2.2 forward, and that is, "When there is not a full Commission, what happens?" And we've tried -- we're --23 24 we're looking at -- we're working on the draft. When 25 you see the draft, I hope that you'll have some

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1 comments.

But one of the things that we -- we didn't think about a -- a separate recusal provision, and that might be something that we should look at. But we did go into the statute. The statute defines the Commission as the Chair, the Vice Chair, and the Associate Commissioner.

So we can't -- you know, we -- there's a lot 8 9 of comment that said you need to include a section that 10 says the Chair can't participate in any appeals because 11 the Chair is, essentially, the prosecutor and brings it 12 So we've tried to put in some mechanisms forward. 13 whereby, when the appeal is before the whole Commission, that the Chair isn't standing up there prosecuting, 14 15 going back and forth, back and forth, and then coming 16 back around on the other side of the bench and making a 17 ruling.

I hope that we've addressed your concerns. And I wish we had the draft ready. It will be ready soon. But we really look forward to your comments on that particular issue. We've tried to do the best we can to resolve it because it is a very, very important issue to tribes. It's one we've heard over and over again.

MR. GREEN: Well, it's a recusal issue. I

25

1 don't mind a commissioner realizing there's a problem and encouraging somebody to the bring it forward. 2 But when it gets to the appeal, that -- that commissioner, 3 particularly for the Chair, needs to back out and let 4 5 the other people make the decision because there is nothing fair about somebody bringing the issue forward, 6 7 making the original decision, and then, as you point out, making the decision on appeal. 8

9 MS. ECHO-HAWK: The problem is the language of the statute that says that appeals go before the 10 11 Commission. This is after the Chair brings it forward. So we've tried to in -- in the draft -- because there's 12 13 sort of two -- this sort of goes two ways. One, the -the person, the tribe, or whoever, bringing the appeal 14 15 can go before a presiding official, hold a quasi-like 16 administrative hearing. The presiding official then presents their decision, recommendation for decision to 17 18 the Commission, and they sign off on it.

In the alternative, there is the situation where there is the appeal on a written submission straight to the Commission itself. In that scenario, we've tried to limit what the -- what the Commission -what the Chair does, how they participate, so there's not this back and forth motions here, motions there. And then, the Chair, you know, is making a motion, and

1 it goes back around, and rules on his own motion. So we 2 tried to resolve some of that. But we will consider the 3 recusal section, or look at that, and see how, maybe, 4 that might be worked in.

5 MR. GREEN: Again, that does not affect the statute, the fact that you point out that there is 6 7 prejudice because they participated in the original submission, even if he made the decision. The recusal 8 9 lets you have a mechanism that is in writing that --10 that requires, or lets, somebody be pulled off. I do 11 not know of a state judiciary that does not have some 12 kind of recusal rules because once you get involved, if 13 there aren't some rules, it's really hard for someone to 14 back out from participating in a decision.

And if you had that in the appellate And if you had that in the appellate section -- again, I'm not suggesting a closure because the Chair does make those initial decisions under the statute. But if you had that in the appellate section, we would not have the problem that we've previously had. Thank you.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: I think, included along with that, Jess, though, would have to be, also, some provisions which allow or address situations where you end up with something less than the full Commission, and final decisions getting static, although I know we

1 talked about this internally, about getting -- getting 2 something into the regulations which say, "If the 3 Commission cannot go any further -- any further, then it 4 becomes a final Agency action once the Chair has taken 5 action," allowing the tribes to move the -- the decision 6 on.

And this would probably be one of these areas where we would have to look at it, as well, because if you've got one commissioner already recusing, down to two, and if, for some reason, you lose another one, for whatever reason, you've got nowhere to go.

And recusals are not uncommon. We, as commissioners, are recused. I'm recused from the Chickasaw Nation. I'm recused from Pojoaque for ethical reasons. But it's the same kind of concept.

16 I'm just looking through my notes to see if 17 there is particularized questions I want to put out 18 there.

One of the things that came up during our discussions with the attorneys in the Agency, when we were looking at the appellate process, is some real, in my opinion, unclear language saying, "If this happens, this is your appellate right. If this happens, this is your appellate right," and making sure that we clearly give the tribes understanding of are they going before 1 the Commission? Are they going before a private 2 presiding official? What, exactly, under what 3 circumstance are they going to be able to exercise as an 4 appellate right.

5 And we've been working on those and asked the attorneys to come up with some clear language so that 6 7 general counsels and all attorneys spend their time in gaming full time. I know that, as a former general 8 9 counsel, you're a jack of all trades. And they may have 10 to dip their toe into gaming on a case-by-case basis. 11 So our rules should be very clear to tell your attorneys 12 that -- exactly what they need to do when there is an 13 appellate issue because, also, as you know, with any appellate issue, if you don't exercise that right within 14 a certain amount of time, that right is -- is waived. 15 16 So I know that we've been clear with the attorneys to 17 get some language that walks you through that process in 18 a manner that -- that's very clear.

All right. If there is no other questions, I am going to ask Lael to go ahead and walk us through and introduce us to group four, and then we'll take our break and just go right into a discussion.

23 MS. ECHO-HAWK: Okay. So group four covers a 24 number of things, primarily having to do with licensing 25 and background, background being with our primary 1 management officials, key employees, and management 2 contractors.

3 The Notice of Inquiry asked whether or not we 4 should formalize what has been commonly called the "pilot program." Well, the pilot program has been 5 around for, oh, several years, so it's no longer a pilot 6 7 And about 99 percent of tribes participate in program. this program or in this -- in this process, which, to be 8 9 very concise, it basically allows the tribe to simply 10 submit a notice of results of background information of 11 the background investigation for key employees and 12 primary management officials. Instead of sending us 13 piles and piles of paperwork and documents, you fill out this form that is a "Notice of Results," submit it to 14 15 us, and we take a look at it, and -- and object or not 16 object.

17 We asked tribes whether we should consider 18 putting in some regulations. It was unanimous that --19 that we should. And so generally, one of the people that worked on formalizing this -- this process -- and 20 21 we formalized it into two -- two regulations, part 556 2.2 and part 558, which are in your handouts. We divided 23 the parts into two, so in part 556 you have all of the 24 procedures that happened prior to the tribes issuing a 25 license to the employee.

1 Now, this is important because once a tribe 2 has issued the license, if there is -- for some reason, the Agency has an objection to that particular 3 individual or has a concern about their background 4 5 information, once the license has been issued, that person, then, is entitled to a notice and a hearing. 6 So 7 we try to draw a line because that same right is not available to a licensee or an applicant for a licensee 8 9 until the license has actually been issued. So 556 10 covers everything before the license has been issued. 11 558 covers everything after. 12 So a tribe seeking to license for a key 13 employee or a primary management official has to notify 14 the Agency of the applicant's background results within 15 60 days after the applicant begins work. We also 16 included in here a mechanism for tribes who -- say --17 say an employee, a key employee or primary management official works at the Pueblo of Sandia, and then decides 18 they want to come over and work for the Pueblo of 19 Pojoaque. The Pojoaque licensing agency, or the person 20 21 in charge of the licensing, calls Sandia and says, "Hey. 2.2 Do you have the background? Do you have this guy's 23 background results?" And they say, "Yes." "Send it 24 over." Well, we've now included in the regulation mechanism where all the Pueblo of Pojoaque would have to 25

do is update that information and then send us a notice of results, instead of having to do all the work again. So hopefully, it makes life a little bit easier for tribes and -- and not have to duplicate effort and expense.

Everything contained in the -- in most of -well, the first couple of pages, the first three pages of the -- of 556 are the same. The section I was talking about is on page four, line four. And you can see we have in the -- in comments where we've moved things around from and included elsewhere.

So once the tribe has -- has issued the notice, has -- and has submitted the notice of results, the -- and we move on to part 558. So within the -once the notice of results have been submitted to the Agency, the NIGC has 30 days to respond to the tribe about -- about the information that is received.

18 Now, we have -- as an agency, we have 30 days 19 to either say, "This person is good to go," or we have 30 days to object. And this is 30 days within the --20 21 and we changed some of the words -- within the 2.2 complete -- within the receipt of the complete notice of 23 results. So if the Agency sees that there's just -- the 24 information isn't all there, that's not a complete notice of results, we send it back. The 30 days hasn't 25

1 begun to run. It doesn't begin to run until the 2 complete notice of results has been submitted. So after providing the notice of results, the 3 4 tribe can license the key employee or primary management 5 official, and -- and the tribe has to also notify the tribe of the licensee -- of the license issuance. 6 This 7 is a little glitch that we found in the -- in the pilot program where the pilot program didn't necessarily match 8 9 up with the statute. 10 The statute requires the tribe to not -- not 11 only notify the NIGC of the background investigation 12 results, but, also, that they've issued a license. And 13 it's not something that we did regularly. It was kind of an oversight on our part. And we've included it, 14 15 now, in the regulations. 16 This is a little bit of a difference than what 17 you've seen previously, and we're trying to think of 18 ways that we can decrease, since you are submitting --19 sending two submissions, two notices to the NIGC, hopefully, through electronic means or some other 20 database or mechanism -- we can sort of mitigate how --21 2.2 how burdensome that is. Hopefully, it's just an e-mail or, you know, an online form you fill out notifying the 23 NIGC of license issuance. 24 25

So upon the receipt of a complete notice of

results, the NIGC can either request additional
 information -- but it -- but in any situation, the NIGC
 has to either object or not object within 30 days.

If the NIGC objects to the -- let's -- if the 4 5 NIGC objects to the -- to the individual, then the tribe, once it's issued the license, has to suspend the 6 7 license, has to suspend the license to the individual, issue them a notice telling them of their right to have 8 9 a hearing to discuss the issues that are -- that 10 pertain -- that the NIGC is concerned about that 11 pertains to their license.

12 The tribe holds a hearing. You guys are very 13 familiar. You make a decision on whether or not the 14 person retains their license or not. And then you have 15 to notify the NIGC. That process is common. It's not 16 new. But that's -- that's the process that this 17 regulation now formalizes, and, in part, by 556 and 558.

We, again, are trying to move into, at least the 20th Century, and, hopefully, you can submit these documents to us electronically. I know we are working on that internally. I know that, oftentimes, you will e-mail your regions and talk to them that way. And it seems to be working.

24 We are also working on developing a form, a 25 single form, that has the information. We also realize

that regions use different formats, and so we want it be
 uniform and consistent throughout all regions.

And, then, finally, while your current ordinance may not -- may not have this procedure laid out in it, that's okay. But if you make a future ordinance amendment, we've included in this -- in these regs that that future ordinance amendment has to fix it to make sure that you comply with these regulations when it comes to these licensing issues.

10 This -- these drafts are on the website. 11 They're in your hands. And they are open for comment 12 and discussion drafts until August 10th.

This section also addressed fingerprint processing. We asked whether or not tribes would like to have fingerprint process -- access to fingerprint processing through the NIGC. Tribes are very supportive of that, and we're working with the FBI to see how we can make that possible.

Part 537, we do have a draft of this. We've
done two things in this -- no, 537.

We have this one. This particular section addresses the question of the -- that the NOI asked whether or not we needed to clarify that a management contractor of a Class II and a Class III facility needs to submit to -- needs to have a completed background 1 investigation.

2 We had some concerns about this, but as a point of clarification, most commenters did not have an 3 issue with that. And that is included in your handout, 4 5 and it is on page one. And there's an additional section in page -- on page -- oh. On page -- these are 6 7 not numbered. On page four, we also added a section that 8 9 tribes -- tribes said, "Well, is there a way you can 10 streamline the process for backgrounding a management 11 contractor or someone who has already gone through a 12 bunch of regulatory hoops?" And, you know, "Instead of 13 having to recreate the wheel and generate more paper, is 14 there a way we can streamline this?" 15 So on page four, starting on line 15, it says, 16 "The Chair may exercise discretion and reduce the 17 background investigation to be conducted, " et cetera, 18 "for any tribe, a wholly-owned tribal entity, national 19 bank, or institutional investors that is federally regulated or required to undergo a background 20 21 investigation and license -- or licensure by a State or 2.2 a tribe pursuant to tribal state compact." So we are 23 just trying to streamline things, create efficiency, not 24 make tribes have to repeat work that's already been 25 done.

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1 If any of you have questions on this, or you 2 have comments, again, please send them in. Comments on 3 this close on August 9th.

The next section, part 531 -- I'm going 4 5 backwards here -- you do not have a draft in front of But one of the questions that the Notice of 6 vou. 7 Inquiry asked was whether or not the NIGC should require submission and approval of collateral agreements to 8 9 management contracts. We received a -- well, we asked 10 the question in the Notice of Inquiry, and we received 11 such a variety of comments and that spanned from one 12 side to the other. The majority of commenters supported 13 the submission of the collateral agreement with 14 management contracts, but there's significant 15 disagreement about whether or not the NIGC should have 16 the -- have the authority to approve or disapprove those 17 agreements.

18 There was concern that requiring approval of 19 collateral agreements would discourage private 20 investments, that there -- we don't have -- the NIGC 21 doesn't have the statute authority; that if the NIGC did 2.2 do this, then it could be construed as second guessing a 23 business decision; and that those agreements, other than 24 management contracts -- management agreements should be left to the discretion of -- to the discretion of 25

1 tribes.

Then we heard, on the other side, that the trust responsibilities require the review and approval of these agreements, that the approval protects tribes' proprietary interests. Approval could discourage businesses attempting to take advantage of tribes, and that the approval reduces risks to both parties of the agreement.

9 Now, we haven't drafted anything. We have
10 only just the comments that were received by tribes on
11 this. And -- and, again, we're looking for additional
12 comments, if you have any. We've heard significant
13 discussion on this because it is something that is very
14 contentious, which is why it was included in the review.

15 The next section, part 571 -- you do have a 16 handout for this -- does two things. Well, first, we 17 asked the question about whether or not the NIGC needs 18 to clarify that it has access to papers, books, and 19 records that were held included -- in places including sites that are owned by third parties. We heard 20 comments on this, that this is unnecessary, that you 21 2.2 have to have at least subpoena authority, but that if it was a point of clarification, then there was not a huge 23 24 objection to including it in the regulation.

25

The concern has been that -- the concern has

1	been that some third parties, such as management
2	contractors or developers or consultants, held tribes'
3	proprietary information off site, and that the tribes
4	were unable to get it, and, perhaps, the NIGC would be
5	able to to do that through this provision.
6	There were comments that we could resolve this
7	by simply requiring tribes to maintain all records on
8	site. Again, issues with making sure that we stay
9	within our statutory authority and and clarifying
10	what our authority is with regard to Class III
11	documents.
12	The other thing that this that this section
13	does is it provides a provision in 571.4, which, I
14	believe, is on page two of your of the draft, that
15	basically says that when the NIGC has concluded its
16	investigation, and it's decided it's not going to begin
17	enforcement action at that time, the Commission can
18	advise the party by letter that the investigation has
19	been has been concluded. We've included language,
20	also, that says notification is not a finding that there
21	is no violation or that that and that this
22	notification doesn't preclude further action.
23	But we've received a number of comments from
24	tribes saying they were under investigation two years
25	ago, and they don't know if they're still under

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1	investigation now, and that they're required to tell the
2	management contracts, banks, you know, they're under
3	investigation. And if there's no closure, then they
4	have to there's no notification of closure, then they
5	have to keep disclosing this over and over again, even
6	if the investigation has been has nothing has
7	happened on the investigation in in a significant
8	amount of time.
9	Written comments on this section close on $$
10	on August 9th, as well.
11	And, finally, the last issue that came up in
12	section four was whether or not we needed to define
13	MR. APODOCA: Albert Apodoca for Mescalero.
14	On the management contract, on the
15	investigation, one of the things that that I know has
16	been helpful to the to the gaming commission, the
17	local gaming, tribal gaming regulatory authority, is we
18	went through that, right. We have a management
19	contract. And I met with the NIGC investigators on
20	on what they had done versus what we had done.
21	But what I felt was lacking is I had asked for
22	a copy of the background, okay? I mean I mean we
23	figure, right, we're the ones entering into the
24	contract. And we're the ones that did we did a
25	background on them. But so does the NIGC does one

1	independent of the local tribal gaming regulatory
2	authority. So wouldn't it make sense to share that
3	information, rather than we we didn't we
4	weren't allowed to to see that. We weren't allowed
5	to you know, it would be nice to have a copy because
6	I mean we don't know that the NIGC has far greater
7	resources, than, let's say, the local tribal gaming
8	regulatory authority.

9 So it would be nice to have access to that 10 information because there may be something in there that, if -- if we're dealing with a -- the management 11 12 company, and let's say that the -- let's say that --13 that you have -- in that company, you have certain 14 people that have a relationship with each other, or an 15 interest in the company, or whatever, and then they're 16 buying or selling within, or having some transactions 17 that maybe the local tribal gaming regulatory authority would have no idea that it may be a conflict of interest 18 19 or something because we didn't have that additional 20 information, we didn't find that out in our background? 21 You see, and if it's not shared, how are we going to 2.2 know that that would have been helpful? I mean that --23 that would have been extremely helpful.

24 MS. ECHO-HAWK: Yeah, thank you. That's a 25 good point. And I will -- we'll take that back to the

1 chief of staff and see if there's -- see what -- I'm
2 not -- I don't think we're sure -- certain what the
3 policy is there. And it's not, you know, ready. And it
4 does seem to make sense. So we'll take that back and
5 see if we can't find an answer for you or --

I had one other thing. 6 MR. APODOCA: I had 7 brought this up some time back, but I'm not sure how viable this is. But I know that one of the things is 8 9 vendor background investigations. It's not management 10 contracts, but vendor background investigation. I mean 11 I think of all the tribes that do background 12 investigations, and so it's redundant. We duplicate 13 each other as we go back and forth, all that money spent. It would be nice, I mean it would be great, if 14 the -- if the NIGC would do these and share them with 15 16 us. But, of course, we don't want to pay additional 17 fees. We just want the information, and we want it 18 free.

19

Thank you.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: That is an ongoing topic of discussion for us because we understand the need. And I know that the Office of the General Counsel is in discussions with the FBI to try to make sure that we have no institutional barriers to it, and to also flesh out any other potential concerns that might come up

before we jump -- get ahead of ourselves, because we know the need is great. We absolutely do know the need is great. And we just don't have the mechanism right now to really share that information, either, to those who participate.

The information that is available is very 6 7 restrictive, and we understand that. And we understand that the system could be more useful. But there are 8 9 some other concerns, I know, that we have to get through 10 on the legal side. Considering, especially -- one thing 11 that I'm concerned about is -- it is we don't license. 12 The tribes license. We're not licensing agents. And to 13 the extent that, even when it is meant to be helpful, that we get involved in the process, I worry about the 14 15 future of what -- the Agency's role in that, with having 16 that information and passing it along, and being kind of 17 the conduit just gives me a moment of pause. And I know 18 that it's -- you know, we're looking at it. We know there's -- there's a need, and there has got to be a way 19 to address it. Absolutely. 20

Mr. Green?

22 MR. GREEN: I think the only place you have 23 jurisdiction over vendors would be under 2702, organized 24 crime. We all have a duty to keep organized crime out 25 of any gaming, and that's the only place, I think, that

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in any way, shape, or form. They certainly could approve, however, you getting direct information and receiving and using it from another gaming commission that you believe is reputable, which would stop the requirement that you have to physically go back and redo that examination. If I could, I would like to take you back to 556. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Can I -- can I ask you to -- Lael has not finished the outline on the last part. Can I -- do you need to go forward? Can you hold off and let her finish and then go? MR. GREEN: You're the boss. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, sir. MR. APODOCA: May I comment on my statement? VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Sure. MR. APODOCA: It was just to do the background information. You would not license. The NIGC would not license. Right? VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Right. MR. APODOCA: I just wanted free information. VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, we've talked about it, I mean internally, and I know this has been discussed amongst the tribes, is tribes are Veritext/NJ Reporting Company

has any ability to exercise any authority over vendors

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backgrounding, as well, and spending money. You know, is there a way to give it -- you get it independent of us? Is there a way to use the associations -- these are -- these are things I'm sure people have thought about -- that shares resources, you know.

And I know that tribes I've served for have their own independent reasons why they do and do not share or not, and I understand these reasons. So that's why we look, and, you know, and turn to Jess. Jess is correct, I mean as far as what we have -- again, trying to stay in our lane. But we understand the need.

MS. ECHO-HAWK: So the final issue before we start getting -- delving into the substance was part 502, and I'll call this just the definitions section. And particularly, it's the definition of "net revenues." And we did talk about this earlier. We talked about the concerns that this region particularly has with changing or messing around at all with these definitions.

We had internal comments, thoughts about defining -- changing how we define "net revenue" for the purpose of a management contract calculation. We asked tribes whether or not we should revise that to be consistent, again, with GAAP.

24 Comments were sort of all over the board. We 25 haven't made any changes to this for the reasons that I

1	discussed earlier, and that is, that the concern with
2	the statutory definition, which is gross gaming of net
3	revenue means gross gaming revenue of Indian gaming
4	activity, less amounts paid out or paid for prizes
5	paid out as or paid for prizes or total operating
6	expenses, excluding management fees.
7	So now, we have a statutory definition. We
8	are don't believe that if we use that GAAP
9	would would comply with that statutory definition.
10	And so, right now, we have no draft of recommended
11	changes to this at all. But it was an issue that we
12	raised, and we raised it primarily because we'd heard a
13	variety of comments on the issue. But, you know, a
14	number of comments did, in fact, come from this region
15	with those concerns about how you define that net
16	revenue and then how people outside of the industry will
17	interpret that change.
18	So with that, I turn it back over to the Vice
19	Chair.
20	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: So group four is pretty
21	extensive. That's why I think I will save our
22	discussion until afterwards.
23	But, Jess, I know you wanted to go back to
24	519, so I thank you for your patience in letting Lael
25	finish.

Let's go back to 519.

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2 MR. GREEN: Excuse me. 556.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Oh, 556.

All right. Go ahead.

5 MR. GREEN: Again, we've always had the requirement -- and I say "always" -- that key employees' 6 7 associations be explored. But to my knowledge, we've 8 never had any training suggested by that NAGA, suggested 9 by the NIGC, or anybody else, about how we do it. 10 You've got a list of things that ought to be required. 11 I would suggest this be added to the list, that the key 12 employees provide a list of all associations that are 13 evidenced by written -- (a) written membership forms; 14 (b) written membership dues; (c) taxable income 15 received; and (d) membership announcement in public 16 forums or social media. 17 I -- I do not want to find out that my manager

17 I -- I do not want to lind out that my manager 18 is the Royal King of the Ku Klux Clan in a social 19 meeting.

Lael, you've got your head down. That could happen. Can you imagine a bigger disaster for us? MS. ECHO-HAWK: I worked at a gaming operation. I know that.

24 MR. GREEN: I mean if we -- the -- the one 25 place we really haven't done our jobs over the years --

1	and I said "we" because I've been around as long as
2	y'all have is we have really not explored that we
3	often do a better job, particularly the ones where there
4	is written evidence of having everybody declare it. I
5	mean if you have a church membership, it would be good
6	to know it. If you were a member of Al-Qaeda before
7	911, it would have been nice to know.
8	Well, I mean and and it is pretty easy
9	that by interjecting a rule that says you have to list
10	all of your associations that are evidenced by written
11	membership forms, written members or or membership
12	dues, by taxable taxable income received. And,
13	again, if you get a taxable income from some association
14	that you have, you get a taxable stipend every year and
15	it shows up on your incomes taxes, I think your your
16	license it ought to be in your license review.
17	And if there are membership announcements that
18	are going to be made in some public forum or social
19	media, I think we ought to know about that because,
20	again, I'm much more worried these days of social media
21	than I am of anything else.
22	Thank you.
23	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess.
24	Are there any other statements that should be
25	made? If not, I'm thinking we'll take a short break and

1 then get right into discussion, and maybe have an opportunity to wrap it up early, if we can. 2 So how about a ten-minute break, and then 3 we'll pick up from there? 4 5 (Recess.) VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: If we could get seated 6 7 again, we'll go into our last group, and, hopefully, get 8 you out of here a little bit early. 9 We were just having a conversation about our 10 website. And we certainly understand that some of you 11 have a hard time navigating that website. I have a hard 12 time navigating that website. We are doing everything 13 we can to get our IT services in a position to handle 14 today's technology. And we're doing a -- a couple of 15 different things to make that happen. And part of that 16 is -- is the access to resources that we just have not 17 accessed in many years. And so, if you will be patient 18 with us, if you can't find anything, don't hesitate to 19 call somebody in the field. You can have my number, and go ahead and call to my office. It's -- our intent is 20 21 to get as much out there as we can, but if you can't 2.2 find it, then we're not doing any good. So we need 23 to -- to try to do the best we can. And if you will 24 bear with us, hopefully, we'll have a better website in 25 the very near future.

1MR. APODOCA: And a directory, right?2VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: That would be nice.3Yeah.

MR. APODACA: Yes.

5 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: I keep all of those, but6 they're not on the phone list.

7 MR. APODOCA: Yeah, but we never get to see8 your copy.

9 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: It has my number.
10 MR. APODOCA: Yeah. That's just what I
11 needed.

12 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: All right. Group four, 13 Lael gave us a summary, and I know Mr. Green had some 14 initial comments. And I certainly want to turn this 15 over to you for your thoughts, if you want, or we can 16 start with Part 556, unless there is another part that 17 you'd prefer to talk about.

18 In part 556, one of the discussions that we've 19 had internally has to do with a suggestion that we issue a no objection letter. And part of that, part of the 20 21 thought behind that is, of course, to be responsive, to 2.2 not be the black hole, to not delay any further than we have to so that, if we have no objection and we know --23 24 as soon as we know, that that decision can be provided 25 to the tribe, bring clarity to the process, a little

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Page 140 1 bit. 2 Any thoughts? We also -- as Lael said, we broke up those two 3 parts to discuss the different times in the licensing 4 5 events so that it was more clear you weren't going between the two sections to -- to find out what was 6 7 needed to do to comply. We hope that that is useful. 8 MR. APODOCA: I have a statement. 9 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Please. 10 MR. APODOCA: It's just something recent, and 11 I had a vendor call me. 12 Albert with the Mescalero again. 13 Anyway, I had a vendor call me just recently. 14 And we've been doing business with the vendor for years, 15 and then, all of a sudden, it's an issue. They were 16 asking -- and it's a major gaming vendor -- what 17 information, vendor information on employees, like officers and so forth, do we share with the National 18 19 Gaming Commission, which caught me off guard because I told him, "We don't unless they inquire, you know, 20 21 unless they specifically ask." 2.2 So I was wondering, is there -- has the NIGC 23 done anything different that, all of a sudden, I have --24 and this is one of two vendors, not necessarily on the 25 same -- the exact same topic, but somewhat similar,

questioning the NIGC, of course, the vendor application, and do we share information with the NIGC for like the employee information.

They were concerned about identity theft. I was kind of -- they were saying they were concerned, I guess, with the hacking, especially with government units being targeted, that how safe was that information? What do we share with the NIGC and all of that, you know. And I -- I was just curious as have you heard about that or --

11 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: What I was actually 12 thinking when you were saying that was not really 13 identity theft, but the expense to some vendors to be 14 licensed in multiple jurisdictions. I know it can be 15 quite extreme, and I was thinking, maybe, that's what 16 they were trying to get at, whether or not there would 17 be some central repository.

18 But the -- as far as on the criminal side, any information that we keep, of course, is stored under 19 agreements and -- and systems between us and the FBI and 20 21 I'm not aware of an identity-theft issue. the DOJ. 2.2 MR. APODOCA: She mentioned -- okay. 23 She mentioned -- well, she mentioned the 24 Freedom of Information Act, right, because she says that 25 because the NIGC is subject to that. And I was kind

1	of her statements were, "It's relatively easy to get
2	information under that," and, "What would be shared by
3	the NIGC on under that Act?" And that was the
4	concern. It wasn't so much the the the costs and
5	all of that. But that was her statement.

6 MS. WARD: Yeah. The Freedom of Information 7 Act doesn't apply, necessarily, to individuals, so when 8 they're concerned about the identity theft, to -- even 9 if we had information on vendors and their employees, we 10 could only release that if we had a signed statement 11 from that employee of the vendor allowing us to release 12 it.

13 But as Steffani and Lael said, we don't know 14 of any -- anything that would prompt this new question 15 about identity theft and what kind of information we get 16 from vendors other than to say, in the last, probably, 17 year to two years, there has been an uptake in the number of tribes that want us to do background 18 19 investigations for vendors. And that's been a stronger 20 movement, but we're still working on that. 21

21VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Are there any other22thoughts or comments on 556 and 558?

23 On page two of 558, and, specifically, 558.2, 24 subsection (c)(2), which is line eight, we've included 25 in this -- and I put it out for discussion again,

1 "shall" and "may." Under the section, if the tribe does 2 not license an applicant, the tribe shall notify the 3 Commission and shall or may forward copies of the 4 determination to the Commission for inclusion in the --5 in the gaming individual's record system.

MS. ECHO-HAWK: This issue came up because the 6 7 current regulation -- this isn't a change, but that the tribe has to notify the NIGC if it does not license an 8 9 applicant. Now, you may not license an applicant for 10 all kinds of reasons. The employee may not take that 11 position, may move out of town. There's -- there's a 12 bunch of reasons why an applicant might not be licensed 13 that doesn't include, you know, some sort of problem 14 with their background investigation.

And so internally we're thinking, "Okay. So the -- you know, instead of us sort of having a flag, a red flag next to this individual's name as someone who is not licensable, maybe if we received the information from the -- from the tribe about why the person wasn't licensed, then there wouldn't -- you know, in certain instances, there wouldn't be those types of red flags."

We've heard stories of employees who are licensed applicants who simply forget or -- or overlook the fact that they may be -- you know, around here, they had applied to work at Isleta and Sandia, and got hired

1 at Isleta. They didn't get -- had -- had received an offer of employment at another place, but didn't go 2 forward with that job, and so was not licensed. 3 That individual failed to report that they didn't get a 4 5 license, that they had applied for a license, but they didn't receive it, and received some license action that 6 was very negative on their history. And it had nothing 7 8 to do with that person's background investigation, just 9 had to do with he took another offer of employment and 10 forgot that he had begun a licensing process over at 11 another -- at another tribe.

12 And so for us, we're thinking, "Well, how can 13 we make it clear internally? How do we know that this person is -- was not licensed by the tribe because the 14 15 tribe -- you know, because they withdrew the application 16 or because there was something wrong, or the tribe 17 didn't like what they uncovered on the background investigation?" And so the "shall" or "may" came up. 18 It would provide us with the information. We would know 19 the reason why -- or at least we'd know whether or not 20 21 there was an issue in the background investigation if 2.2 the tribe were to send us that information.

But so the question there is, "Should we require that? Is it useful information for the NIGC to have? And should the tribe be mandated, then, by
1 regulation, to send it to us because it would be -- you
2 know, if there's an eligibility determination, that
3 contains all of that background investigation, as well,
4 and it might be somewhat burdensome." We don't know the
5 answer to that and wanted to ask the tribes.

MR. APODOCA: If I can comment?

7 Anyway, on that -- in a scenario like that, we would not want to notify the Gaming -- the NIGC because 8 9 we don't feel that -- we don't feel that we went through 10 the whole licensing procedure, right? And if the -- if 11 the applicant withdrew or was at a point -- let's say 12 they were in their 55th day, and you haven't hit the 13 60-day where we have to send it into the NIGC, the suitability and all of that, that they withdrew, and we 14 15 decided that we weren't going to license them because 16 there is no need to -- or sometimes I know we've had situations where a licensee, or the applicant, has gone 17 to a certain point and then decided, "Well I don't want 18 19 to go through," but they've submitted the application. And now, it's -- you know, we term it the "investigative 20 process," so we don't feel we have to notify the 21 2.2 National Indian Gaming Commission.

Now, how they report it -- like if -- if another tribe regulatory authority called us and said, "Was Albert licensed?" We would say, "No. And it

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wasn't because he wasn't licensable. It was because either the process was terminated or because he -- he decided not to be hired there or be employed there," or for whatever reasons. But if we -- if we turned it -if we -- if the background was so bad, at that point, you know, at the beginning, I mean we would just deny it up front.

But I -- I would think that -- and I know that 8 9 the -- the New Mexico tribes, for the most part, we have 10 that form that we send back and forth on the 11 verification. And -- and I would hope that it would not 12 be necessary that -- that one tribe would call another 13 and say, "Well, how come Albert wasn't licensed? He 14 didn't tell us about that," or whatever, right? I mean 15 the whole point of us agreeing on a standard one and 16 verification was to have this communication. I don't 17 think it should be mandated by the National Indian Gaming Commission. I think the tribes should work 18 19 together, work through this.

20

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you.

21 Part 571, there was a discussion about that,22 on potential changes to this part.

Part of the discussion on this particular regulation has to do with whether or not the NIGC would issue letters. Let's say that an investigation had

closed. There is a further finding, or a finding of no
 violation, and that we closed an investigation. And
 that is included in 571.4, beginning on the first page,
 line 28.

5 One of things that has come to our attention during the course of talking to tribes about this 6 7 discussion is -- interestingly enough, is the -- the -the terminology "investigation closure letter." I know 8 9 that that was a really -- was a really good point, that 10 maybe we should go back and look at my terminology 11 because closures have such a distinct meaning under IGRA 12 that maybe we could use "conclusion," or some -- some 13 other terminology. And I thought that that was a really 14 important point.

We have included in here that in those 15 16 instances where we have concluded its investigation --17 our investigation in a particular matter, and we've determined that we will not recommend commencement of 18 19 enforcement proceedings, that the Commission's authorized representative, in his or her discretion, may 20 21 advise the parties by letter that the investigation has 2.2 been terminated. This is most likely to be at the 23 regional level, is what I imagine is how this would 24 actually be executed.

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We do also include language that says, "Such

notification is not a finding that no violation of IGRA,
 its regulations, or the tribe's gaming ordinances
 occurred. Such a notification does not preclude further
 action based on the investigation."

5 So this is an attempt to -- to really bring 6 some closure where we can, to not get ahead of 7 ourselves, which, at the time, there appeared to be 8 something which may later come to -- to light to be 9 something that we need to be concerned with. So it's a 10 balance, an attempt to balance.

Jess, there is that word in 571.5, "entry of premises." We have inserted the language, "The Commission's authorized representatives may enter the premises of an Indian -- Indian gaming operation, or any other person," that's where I scratched my head and how you enter the premises of a person, but, apparently, you can.

18 MR. GREEN: The definition of "person"19 includes the world.

VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: It does. The -- and that's part of what -- what prompted this additional language. It came at the request of the tribes, during the NOI comment period, asking about the Agency's ability to obtain materials from third parties. Now, one of the things that has been suggested

1	in this particular section in 571.5 it has been
2	suggested to us that we include some type of
3	notification to the tribes when this is going to happen.
4	And I think that's, again, a suggestion that's worthy of
5	further consideration. And I know it's on our list to
6	take back to the Agency to have discussions about.
7	And then, in subsection (b) in that same
8	section, there is language in there that says, "The
9	Commission's authorized representative shall present or
10	shall show an identification card upon entering gaming
11	operation or other facility." Again, this is the
12	third-party facilities.
13	Yes.
14	MR. GALLEGOS: Just it's Manny, again, from
15	Tesuque.
16	Clarification on, I guess, page three, lines
17	25 to 27, why you're limiting the availability or
18	only to the convenience of the Commission entering a
19	third party's place of business or location of record.
20	Is there a purpose where you're limited only to the
21	Commission's convenience? Shouldn't it also be both,
22	that person and the Commission's?
23	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: I'm looking at the terms
24	because I didn't draft this.
25	MR. GALLEGOS: I mean you're saying here that

1 convenience to the Commission's authorized 2 representative, time and place convenient to. It's sort 3 of making it one-sided. Is that what you really want? 4 I -- I think it should be more a mutual time and place.

5 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, actually, I'm looking at the comment here. It does say in here that 6 7 this language mirrored 571(6)(b), which is the existing 8 language in the statute, which says, "If such papers, 9 books, or records are not available at the location of 10 the gaming operation, the operation shall make them 11 available at the time and place convenient to the 12 Commission's authorized representative." So I'm not 13 sure if --

MR. GALLEGOS: So maybe it needs agreement with both of them. I know you're trying -- I mean I know you're trying to enforce something. But when you go strictly on force, it could say -- well, you may say, "You can only come in between 2:00 and 5:00 on Saturdays." I'm not open on Saturdays.

20 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, the reverse can 21 happen, too, if we're talking third parties: "We're 22 only here on Saturdays from 2:00 to 5:00."

23 MR. GALLEGOS: Right. So it could be
24 conveniently you agree, if both parties agree.
25 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Right. I -- I appreciate

1 that thought. And I will definitely have this noted, 2 and we'll take it back to the lawyers and talk about it. MS. ECHO-HAWK: And to kind of follow up on 3 that, this is in the context of investigations. And so 4 5 I think that the reason that that's there is that if it's something that needs to be expedited, we don't 6 7 have -- you know, we're walking this line of regulation, 8 while at the same time respecting the tribes, you know, 9 authority as the tribal government, but making sure that 10 we get what we need when we need it, particularly in the 11 course of an investigation. So we'll definitely look at 12 it, but we have to -- we have to balance that. 13 MR. GALLEGOS: I understand that. It's just that it sounds a little one sided. 14 15 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Well, I've got a 16 question? 17 MR GREEN: Yes. 18 I reiterate that if you look at your 19 definition of "person," it includes everybody --20 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess. 21 MR. GREEN: -- and individuals. And you do 2.2 not have jurisdiction over everybody. And, in fact, in 23 2002, in the Northern District of Oklahoma, the Justice 24 Department pled it on your behalf to get a case dismissed in -- that Multimedia filed against the 25

Commission. So you have precedent that you have used it to get cases dismissed. You do not have jurisdiction to compel an accountant to give you the business records of a tribe if the reason he's holding them is he has -- he has a workmen's lien against them, because that's an ownership interest.

7 You have issued closure orders in the past against tribes in Oklahoma that I represented because 8 9 they did not have money to pay for the accountant, and the accountant had the records, and he would not give 10 11 them back to us unless we paid him \$10,000 that we 12 didn't have. And it was a catch 22. We couldn't do an 13 annual report because we didn't have the money, and we couldn't give them to somebody else because the 14 accountant would find the lien for previous work that he 15 16 had done and not been paid for work. And we couldn't 17 even get the records back until we closed the gaming establishment and then made enough money elsewhere to 18 19 pay him for his lien to get those records to get the 20 report.

You need to be very careful about asserting jurisdiction against third parties that neither you nor the tribe has jurisdiction over. Your third-party jurisdiction probably extends to everyone a tribe has licensed. It probably -- and except to vendors. I mean

1	I'm talking about licensing in the in the workplace
2	concept. But it does not extend to vendors, but but
3	you have successfully pled that in a federal court
4	proceeding. And that will be used against you. It
5	probably won't include professionals because they have
6	liens on their products.
7	And I would give you great caution at trying
8	to exercise jurisdiction over these individuals when you
9	don't have it because your lack of jurisdiction will
10	extend to both of us out here, both you and the tribe.
11	And recently, there has been a rash of decisions where
12	the tribe was told it did not have jurisdiction over
13	individuals if they hadn't specifically given it to
14	them.
15	VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess.
16	Any other comments on part 571?
17	Part 531, collateral agreements.
18	Jess, I know you've got something to say on
19	this.
20	When the Commission issues a NOI on a
21	particular person or the question that was posed to
22	the tribes was whether or not this part should be
23	amended to require the submission of approval of
24	collateral agreements. The response came back that
25	about half of the tribal respondents explicitly stated

1 that the Commission should continue to require the 2 submission of these agreements with management 3 contracts, another 23 percent favored making the 4 submission voluntary, and, then, the remaining offered 5 no opinion.

Those not in favor, of course, note that 6 7 approval of collateral agreements is outside the scope of our authority. One thing that I know I hear 8 9 consistently, a lot in this area, in particular, is that 10 the NIGC should not second guess a tribe's business 11 dealings, that the tribe has -- is a sovereign, and has 12 the ability to make its own business decisions. Whether 13 these are good or bad, it is the tribe's purview.

And -- and those who -- who did comment, said 14 15 that they would like to see collateral agreements 16 included, commented that -- that -- that the federal 17 government -- and the NIGC is part of the federal 18 government -- has a trust responsibility to -- to review 19 those agreements to look for items which are not in the best interest of the tribes; that it would provide an 20 additional protection to ensure the cumulative effect of 21 2.2 the agreement does not violate sole proprietary 23 interest. And they also noted that it would help reduce 24 overreaching by certain entities into tribes that are more vulnerable on the business front right now, for 25

1 whatever their own individual reasons are. And that 2 kind of gets to the -- the trust responsibility. So we've -- we don't have a draft of that. 3 It's still an issue for discussion. If anybody has 4 5 generalized comments, please, we would welcome them. Last year, there was a decision 6 MR. GREEN: 7 from Sac and Fox in Oklahoma that had 15 pages of recitals of filings in federal court and in NIGC's 8 9 determinations whereby the collateral agreements taken 10 with the management -- with the other agreements were 11 determined to be a management contract. And the tribal Supreme Court used that as the basis to determine that 12 13 they didn't have to pay back the developer monies. That 14 case has been floating around Indian country for some 15 substantial time. We also have a case from up north 16 where they didn't submit the security agreements for a 17 bond that contained language that equaled a management 18 contract. 19 Again, both of these things are nothing that tribal attorneys haven't been telling management people 20 21 for years, so I -- I don't see a problem with you asking

for the collateral agreements if you are considering something to be a management contract.

24The problems that I run into with the NIGC25have been that you have been trying to scrutinize

1 collateral agreements and call them management contracts. And you have been scrutinizing the same 2 agreement when I -- when I do it again four or 3 five years later, which is just a burden. I mean if I 4 5 create a file that's five inches thick for the NIGC, and they looked at it five years ago, why should I have to 6 7 do it all over again if all that I've changed are the names of the participants? 8

9 Now, I realize under 2706(b)(1) through (4), 10 you have a right to come view and look at any agreement 11 I have in my file. But I really have a huge issue with 12 the NIGC requiring me to make copies and bring them to 13 you because those copies are very proprietary. If I can come up with an idea that lets me do something in 14 15 management that nobody else has done in management in my 16 operation, that provides funding for my management, and 17 I give you a copy of that agreement, every lawyer in the NIGC will have a copy of it. When they leave, they will 18 19 have a copy of it. And they will be free to copy it when they go someplace else and didn't pay us for any of 20 So that's an issue for us. The privacy becomes a 21 it. 2.2 huge issue.

What I would request is that, if you choose to review any collateral agreement that's not immediately associated, that you come on site and read it. And if

you don't deem you need it, leave it there. That way, no one can accuse you of being the one that left the agreement out in the general public because most of these large agreements contain a whole lot of privacy clauses.

7 VICE CHAIR COCHRAN: Thank you, Jess.8 Any other comments?

9 All right. The last part is part 502. Again,
10 the -- the NOI asked for comments on whether the Agency
11 should consider changing the definition of "net
12 revenues" for management contracts.

Correct. Thank you.

14 It is currently defined in our -- our 15 regulations as, "Such gross gaming revenues of an Indian 16 gaming operation less (a) amounts paid out as or paid 17 for, prizes; and (b) total gaming-related operating 18 expenses, including all those expenses of the gaming 19 operation commonly known as operating expenses and nonoperating expenses consistent with professional 20 21 accounting pronouncements, excluding management fees." 2.2 I think we wrote that. Wow. That was a lawyer. 23 Any thoughts? 24 I will give you something to think about: Why

25 | in the NOI comments that came back on this rule, a

13

1 little over 60 percent agreed that the Commission should attempt a revision. Some of those commentators 2 mentioned that the change would help them to achieve a 3 uniform, consistent standard. Others stated that the 4 5 change would help clarify the definition, avoid confusion, disputes. There were -- the remaining 6 7 35 percent or so opposed any type of a change. They stated that the NIGC is not the authority to change the 8 9 statutory definition of IGRA. 21 percent requested 10 repeal of the most recent change to this definition so 11 that it would track the definition of IGRA. One 12 commentator said that the definition was not ambiguous, 13 so leave it alone.

14That is a summary of the feedback that we've15gotten.

16 One commentator said that they would support a 17 change only if it made the cal- -- if it affected the 18 calculation of NIGC fees.

I know it's been a long day, and I know it is late in the afternoon, so let me just -- before we conclude the afternoon, let me just offer, did anybody have additional thoughts, even from this morning, that they wanted to share, questions that, maybe, came up over the course of your lunch conversations? I know we've given you a lot in today's agenda.

1	All right. With that, I think we'll conclude
2	today. We tomorrow, we do have group five. This is
3	the self-regulation, sole proprietary interest, Class
4	III MICS, and minimum external excuse me the Class
5	II MICS, and the TAC are also on tomorrow's agenda. So
6	there is a little bit on there for us to discuss.
7	I wish you safe travels home, and I thank you
8	again for your time. And I look forward to seeing you
9	tomorrow.
10	(Whereupon, the proceedings adjourned
11	for the day at 3:43 p.m.)
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1	STATE OF NEW MEXICO )
	)
2	COUNTY OF BERNALILLO )
3	
4	REPORTER CERTIFICATE
5	I, Karen Lee Clark, RPR, CCR No. 277, Certified
6	Court Reporter in the State of New Mexico, do hereby
7	certify that the foregoing pages constitute a true
8	transcript of the proceedings by National Indian Gaming
9	Commission, held in New Mexico, in the matter therein
10	stated.
11	In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand
12	on August 3rd, 2011.
13	
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