Page 1 NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION MEETING 1 2 TAKEN ON SEPTEMBER 7, 2011 3 IN BISMARCK, NORTH DAKOTA 4 5 6 7 APPEARANCES 8 Tracie Stevens Chairwoman 1441 L Street Northwest 9 Suite 9100 10 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 632-7003 11 tracie_stevens@nigc.gov 12 Larry Roberts General Counsel 13 1441 L Street Northwest Suite 9100 14 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 632-7003 15 larry_roberts@nigc.gov 16 Jennifer Ward Attorney 17 1441 L Street Northwest Suite 9100 18 Washington, DC 20005 (202) 632-700319 jennifer_ward@nigc.gov 20 21 22 23 24 REPORTED BY: Stephanie L. Marjamaa 25 Job No. NJ343901

1 2 (Whereupon, Chairwoman Stevens opened the meeting.)

MS. STEVENS: Good morning. We're about ten after nine right now so I do want to go ahead and get started, but before we do, I'd like to turn the microphone or the floor, I should say, over to vice chairman Mike Faith from Standing Rock Sioux who's been kind enough to come here today and open up our meeting. So thank you.

10 MR FAITH: Thank you. I probably 11 don't need a microphone but, you know, on behalf 12 of Standing Rock I want to thank everybody for 13 taking time to come out. You know, these meetings 14 are very important to tribes in that they need to 15 be here to get their concerns out. I suppose as 16 the day goes on you're probably gonna pick up a 17 lot more, but right now you got so many meetings going on in Bismarck-Mandan. But on behalf of 18 19 chairman Murphy and the Standing Rock Sioux tribe, 20 which we're just south of here, want to welcome 21 everybody to Bismarck area from our tribe.

But again, you know, I've been on the counsel before, tribal counsel 11 years -- 12 years I guess it was. Within that time I had an opportunity to help break ground in the gaming

industry. You know, chairman Murphy at that time 1 2 -- chairman Murphy's been on for quite a few years with the -- as the chairman and also a counselman 3 down there. He created a task force and it was 4 5 seven of us. We had to meet with the governors of North and South Dakota, and everything was new to 6 7 There was a lot of pros and cons out us, qaminq. there as far as the gaming industry, what -- you 8 9 know, what's it about, what's it going to bring 10 besides jobs. And we heard horror stories out 11 there as far as, well, you got this and that 12 coming in. We had to go and find a firm. The 13 Seven Circles Resort helped us out and get on our feet down there. 14

15 We met with governor Sinner of North 16 Dakota, and at that time he said you gotta get a 17 five year compact. Well, when we met with 18 governor Sinner and he said why do you want a five 19 year compact? Why don't you take ten? Well, we 20 took ten. He opened the door for us as far as any 21 kind of gaming device. We didn't want the 2.2 roulette table and we didn't want a wheel there 23 and the few things, but he said we're gonna keep 24 them here anyway. In the future if you need them, 25 they're there.

1	So it was a good start for us. The
2	learning experience was really, really difficult,
3	but I tell you what it created jobs, which was
4	the intent was to create jobs, and not only for
5	the tribes, not with Standing Rock, but also the
6	state of North and South Dakota because when we
7	picked up nontribal they had to pay taxes. So all
8	in all, you know, the benefits of gaming helped
9	not only the Standing Rock Sioux tribe but it also
10	helped out the state of North Dakota and South
11	Dakota for taxes and employment.
12	You know, unfortunately, we don't have
13	a hundred percent natives down there right now.
14	We have a mixture. We have a lot of Indians
15	working for us. And again, they're from other
16	tribes plus Standing Rock, but the turn around
17	the quick the quick growth of gaming back in
18	the day was a lot of people I guess how you
19	would say they weren't used to the work ethic at
20	the time, come into a place where it's 24/7, you
21	were expected to do certain things. A lot of
22	people going into the work force wasn't used to
23	that so the turn around was a lot. And to this
24	day unfortunately we still get a lot of people
25	going in and out of the casinos looking to get

experience there and they'll go elsewhere. Helps 1 them with their work ethic. A lot of them will 2 3 work up in Bismarck-Mandan area now. But again, getting into South Dakota 4 5 you had a governor down there that was really different than Sinner up here in North Dakota. 6 7 Bill Janklow he was a -- he took a foot, gave up two feet so it was really hard as far as the 8 9 jurisdiction issues at the time. 10 But to this day we're still going down 11 hill with Grand River. Casino's still going. 12 It's been renovated. Prairie Knights just 13 expanded. I think gaming is doing well on the reservation. We have to look at other forms of 14 15 economics, but right now gaming is a big factor 16 It's one of the highest employers. there. 17 And again, if it gets you what you 18 want out of it I guess if you pursue more tables, 19 more gaming devices, you gotta make sure that 20 you're fit for that. You don't wanna go to the 21 point where you outdo yourself and don't have the 2.2 numbers to come in and have a bunch of empty 23 gaming devices sitting there. 24 So you gotta look at your surroundings 25 as far as your numbers in your area. If they're

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1	coming to your casino, fine. If they're not, you
2	know, as far as expansion, you know, I think
3	people need to really watch that. You know, if
4	somebody wants to keep up with the Jones and
5	expand too much, you make a big loan, you don't
6	get the numbers to pay your loan off, it could
7	come back and backfire on you too so.
8	Again, as far as gaming with Standing
9	Rock I just it's been really a trying
10	experience. Where we're at now we're out in an
11	isolated area. But I tell you what, with good
12	management skills, we had a good firm, Seven
13	Circles Resort, was an international firm that
14	came in. They knew how to get people, advertise
15	right, get them down there. So again, I think my
16	advice to anybody is gaming is good. It's there.
17	It could help the economy out not only in Indian
18	countries, but the states that actually allow
19	those.
20	But again, working hand in hand is
20 21	But again, working hand in hand is what the future needs to be here so. Once again,
21	what the future needs to be here so. Once again,
21 22	what the future needs to be here so. Once again, I want to thank everybody for allowing me to say a

Chairman. I'd like to take a moment to have 1 2 everybody introduce themselves who are here, and also feel free to come sit at the table with us. 3 We're feeling kind of lonely up here. Al though 4 5 we understand you may be a little shy. I think our regional director, John Guerber, has the 6 7 microphone so he can walk around, and if everybody could say your name and who you're with, that 8 9 would be great. 10 MS. BROWN: Good morning. My name's 11 Collette Brown. I'm with the Spirit Lake Casino 12 and Resort and the Spirit Lake tribe. 13 MS. DAVIS: Good morning. My name is 14 Marty Davis. I work for the Turtle Mountain 15 tribe, Belcourt, North Dakota. 16 MR. BISTIS: My name is Jim Bistis. 17 I'm with the NIGC in St. Paul. 18 MR. FAITH: Good morning. Mike Faith, 19 Standing Rock Sioux tribe, vice chairman. You 20 gotta excuse me. I got two other meetings I gotta

head to too. So thank you. 2.2 MS. STEVENS: Thank you for joining us 23 this morning.

24 MR. PAYS: My name is Richard Pays. I'm from Turtle Mountain. I'm a commissioner. 25

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Page 8 MR. McKEE: My name is Jim McKee. 1 I'm 2 a field investigator in the Rapid City NIGC 3 office. MS. WOLFE: Good morning. I'm Marion 4 5 Wolfe with the Three Affiliated Tribes gaming commission in New Town, North Dakota. 6 7 MR. PLATA: Good morning. I'm John Plata with Hobbs, Straus, Dean & Walker on behalf 8 9 of Seminole tribe. 10 MS. DURBIN: Linda Durbin, field 11 investigator NIGC St. Paul. 12 MS. WARD: Jennifer Ward. I'm the 13 region attorney, and I work out of D.C., Portland 14 and D.C. 15 MR. GUERGER: And, Mr. Vice Chairman, 16 you missed the chance to invite everybody out to 17 the beautiful Prairie Knights. 18 MR. FAITH: Well, I tell you what 19 they've -- I won't get into that right now. We 20 have other casinos here too so --21 MR. GUERBER: And I'm John Guerber. 2.2 I'm the regional director up here in St. Paul. 23 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, John. 24 So I do want to recognize our regional staff that are here and also we have staff as 25

Jennifer mentioned from D.C. Our regional 1 2 director many of you know John Guerber. Field investigator over here Linda Durbin, also James 3 McKee in the back. Our field operator Jim Bistis, 4 5 who introduced himself. Jennifer Ward here to my right who's out of our headquarters in D.C. She's 6 7 a staff attorney, works for this region. And then our general counsel Larry Roberts. 8

9 My name is Tracie Stevens. I'm a 10 member of the Tulalip tribes out of Washington 11 state, and glad that you-all could make it. We 12 also realize there are a number of other meetings 13 that are going on. I think that with the powwow 14 drawing in so many people this agency and many 15 others try to take advantage of folks being in 16 Bismarck at this time. I hope that every one has 17 their packets. There's some information that was out at the front that James and Jim were handing 18 19 Part of that is the agenda and then the out. 20 PowerPoint that we're going to walk through.

I know many of you are here not necessarily to speak to specific parts or have formal comments, either written or verbal, but you are here listening on behalf of your tribe or your commission so that you can bring that information

1 We certainly would encourage questions as back. 2 we go through. If you do have formal written 3 statement for the tribe that you represent, you can give those at any time. We realize that every 4 5 one has a very busy schedule. You'll notice in our agenda we've made time for those opportunities 6 7 to, you know, bring your statement, and if you need to make it on the record, then you can. 8

9 You know, in speaking with -- talking 10 about the agenda, we have broken it down into 11 certain parts and certain regulations and topics 12 that we'll be discussing rather than just leaving 13 it open. However, that doesn't mean that you 14 can't speak to another part that might be later on 15 in the agenda if your time does not allow you to 16 So, you know, feel free to ask questions. stav. 17 If you need to make a statement because of your 18 schedule before we get to a part, feel free to 19 just raise your hand.

We are transcribing these 21 consultations. We have a transcriptionist over 22 here to my left. This is Stephanie. And anytime 23 that we have anyone up to the microphone we need 24 everyone to state their name and where they're 25 from so that we're clear who's making what

comments or asking questions for the record. 1 2 So in the absence of anyone, does 3 anyone have prepared statements that they need to make on behalf of their tribe? This is the time 4 5 that we would do that. Okay. Again, feel free to come join us. You're feeling a little shy back 6 7 With that what I'd like to do now is turn there. over the meeting or at least the microphone over 8 9 to Larry Roberts our general counsel, and he's 10 gonna be going through this PowerPoint. We're 11 going to go through certain parts of the 12 regulations at this time, and you can certainly 13 follow along. Feel free to ask any questions if 14 you have any at the time. Once we're through 15 doing a quick summary, we'll open the floor to 16 questions and comments and talk a little more 17 about where we're at with each of those 18 regulations in Group 1. 19 So I'll just turn the microphone over 20 to Larry. 21 MR. ROBERTS: Good morning everyone. 2.2 As the Chairwoman mentioned my name is Larry I'm a member of the Oneida Nation of 23 Roberts. 24 Wisconsin. And we'll be going through the PowerPoint materials that have been handed out 25

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1 this morning.

2	We're gonna start off this just by a
3	general statement that this is a government a
4	government consultation. This is not an open
5	meeting to the public and so only tribes or their
6	designees may attend these meetings.
7	The Commission is conducting this
8	meeting consistent with Executive Order 13, 175,
9	which directs agencies to encourage tribes to
10	participate, and in determining whether to
11	establish federal standards, that we consult with
12	tribal officials as to the need for Federal
13	standards and any alternatives that would limit
14	the scope of Federal standards or otherwise
15	preserve the sovreign authority of tribes.
16	The Commission has put forth five
17	regulatory groups. The regulatory groups did not
18	indicate priority for the Commission. They were
19	grouped according to subject matter, comments
20	received from the public on the notice of inquiry,
21	and the estimated time and resources it would take
22	for the Commission to review and act on these five
23	specific groups.
24	So as most of you are aware we've
25	the Commission has moved forward in three phases.

1	For a number of the parts the Commission has
2	circulated preliminary drafts for comment from
3	tribes. A lot of those comment periods have now
4	closed, but that doesn't mean that tribes cannot
5	submit comments and won't be able to influence
6	proposed rules as they are issued. When the
7	proposed rules are issued, tribes and the public
8	will have an opportunity to comment on those
9	proposed rules. And then, if the Commission
10	decides to go forward with a final rule, there
11	will be a public comment period after the final
12	rule is issued as well.
13	Our preliminary discussion drafts are
14	just that. They're initial working drafts. We've
15	received a lot of helpful comments from the public
16	on the discussion drafts that we've circulated.
17	One regulation that we will be talking about
18	tomorrow self-regulation for Class II. That
19	comment period is open until September 17. All of
20	our as the chairwoman mentioned all of these

consultations are transcribed. So if you want to 21

see what had transpired at other consultations, 22

what thoughts other tribes shared, those 23

24 consultations are on our website as well as

written comments received from the public. 25

1	The Commission has been very clear
2	that they are in the process of reviewing and
3	considering every comment that we receive, that
4	our proposed and final rules will include a
5	summary of comments, and that the Commission is
6	dedicated and devoted to a clear and transparent
7	process in this ruling process. And so we've had
8	a number of consultations across the country,
9	various regions, reaching out to the tribes as
10	part of the government-to-government relationship
11	seeking input from all tribes across the country.
12	The consultation agenda as it stands
13	now we have as I mentioned five groups. We've
14	actually the Commission has scaled that to four
15	groups and has removed one of the groups in to a
16	tribal advisory committee process. So Group 1,
17	which we'll be talking about this morning, covers
18	fees collected by NIGC. It would cover Part 523,
19	which is review and approval of existing
20	ordinances; Part 559, facility license
21	notifications, and a potential Buy Indian
22	regulation.
23	This afternoon we will discuss Part
24	573 our enforcement regulations as well as a
25	number of parts that deal with appeals before the

1	Commission. Part 4, which we'll also be covering
2	this afternoon, will be Part 556 and 558, which is
3	our pilot program for primary management officials
4	and key employees, monitoring investigations, our
5	regs relating to collateral agreements, our regs
6	relating to the background investigations for
7	persons or entities with financial interests or
8	management responsibility in a management
9	contract, and then definitions.
10	And finally, tomorrow morning in Group
11	5 we'll talk about the Commission's preliminary
12	draft self-reglation of Class II gaming and its
13	sole proprietary and potential regulation
14	involving sole proprietary interest.
15	So this morning in your packet of
16	materials we have a number of actually two
17	preliminary drafts that were circulated for
18	comment. One is part 514, fees, and the other is
19	559, facility license notifications.
20	And so at the onset we'll turn to Part
21	514, fees. And so you should have in your
22	material a redline draft of Part 514 that shows
23	the changes proposed to the regulation. This is a
24	preliminary draft the Commission has put forward
25	with a proposed rule at this point, but some of

the changes in the draft regulation is a change in 1 the fee calculation based on a gaming operation's 2 particular fiscal year rather than our calendar 3 year, and that's proposed in Section 514(a)(1). 4 5 And we're hoping that that helps to clarify and streamline the fees process so there aren't as 6 7 many issues relating to the calculation of fees. Where also in this preliminary draft the fee rate 8 9 is published for March 1 for a more accurate 10 preliminary rate. And then, the draft proposes 11 removing amortization from Section 514(b)(2)(ii) 12 to reflect existing practices. 13 The discussion draft goes back to 14 quarterly payments as -- rather than biannual 15 payments. And it clarifies that the gaming 16 operation will utilize the 514(b) calculation to 17 determine addessable gross revenues. This isn't a 18 substantive change. It's a clarifying change. 19 And then, that we have a proposed section that if 20 the gaming operation changes its fiscal year that 21 it provides notice to the Commission of that 2.2 change. One of the sections that we've 23 received guite a bit of comment on is a new 24

25 section involving late payments prior to a notice

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of violation and so Part 514 defines a late 1 2 payment. The proposed definition would be payments made within 91 days of end of fiscal year 3 would be a late payment. A late payment results 4 5 in a fee assessment, and a failure to pay an annual fee, which is any payments made after that 6 7 91 days of the end of the fiscal year, that would result in a substantial violation. 8 So some of the things that we've heard 9 10 during the consultations from tribes is that for 11 one reason or another that the payment of fees to 12 NIGC may be a few weeks or months late due to, 13 say, flooding of their facility and their 14 operation and their inability to have an audit 15 prepared in a timely manner. What this proposal 16 would do in terms of a late payment fee basically. 17 Late payment assessment if it's paid within 91 18 days after which -- if the late assessment has 19 been paid after 91 days, it would turn into a

21 We also have in the new section 22 fingerprint processing fees. NIGC, as many of you 23 know, has been collecting fingerprint processing 24 fees for quite some time. This clarifies through 25 regulation the collection of those fees, and we

potential notice of violation.

20

proposed publishing the amount biannually. We've heard during the context of consultations some tribes would prefer that we publish the fee amount annually or less often than biannually. We'd like to hear feedback from you on that.

6 And then, we have a couple of 7 questions in terms of should the term admission 8 fee be changed to entry fee? We've heard from 9 some folks that an entry fee may be more precise 10 than an admission fee. And should tournament fees 11 be included as examples of an entry fee.

12 The Commission has also asked whether 13 it should consider revising the definition of 14 gross gaming revenue be changed to a definition 15 consistent with GAAP. The preliminary draft does 16 not make this change. And the other question that 17 we've sought consultation on is whether the 18 commission should define wager and payout.

As I mentioned this written comment period on the discussion draft closed at the end of May of this year. If the Commission goes forward with a notice of proposed rule making, tribes will again have an opportunity to comment on that notice of proposed rule making. Are there any questions or comments on Part 514 in fees?

1 Okay. I'm gonna move forward then to 2 Part 523, review and approval of existing ordinances or resolutions. This part only impacts 3 -- or only implies to tribal ordinances enacted 4 5 before 1993 and have not been submitted yet to NIGC for approval. So the question here is 6 7 whether this part should be repealed, whether it's obsolete, whether there are any tribes out there 8 that have a tribal ordinance enacted before 1993 9 10 that has not been submitted yet to NIGC for 11 approval. We've heard during the consultations 12 held today that we haven't heard any tribes say 13 that they would be impacted by the repeal of Part 14 So if that is a concern for your tribe, 523. 15 please, please let us know because the Commission 16 will be considering moving forward with a notice 17 of proposed rule making to repeal this part unless it hears I think from tribes that they could be 18 19 impacted by such a repeal. 20 Okay. Part 559 is also a part that

we've circulated, the Commission has circulated as a preliminary discussion draft that's in your materials. As part of the notice of inquiry -and I should back up for folks that maybe weren't aware that the Commission issued a notice of

1	inquiry. When the Chair and the Commission took
2	office last summer, they moved forward with a
3	notice of inquiry, which is sort of a step before
4	any sort of notice of proposed rule making. It
5	basically asked tribes and the public for comment
6	on which regulations as part of its regulatory
7	review process should the Commission be looking
8	at, what how what process should they use in
9	reviewing those regulations, and in what order.
10	So the comments in response to the
10 11	So the comments in response to the notice of inquiries supported Commission review of
11	notice of inquiries supported Commission review of
11 12	notice of inquiries supported Commission review of Part 559, and in part and although the comments
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11 12 13 14 15 16	notice of inquiries supported Commission review of Part 559, and in part and although the comments stress that the part was adopted without adequate tribal consultation. And so the Commission has put forward a preliminary draft, and some comments received from the public have questioned NIGC's

And so the discussion draft as you can see in part 559.2 changes the timeframe for notice of a new facility license and includes a provision for expediting the process of NIGC's review when the circumstances permit. So, for example, some tribes have said we're sending in a facility license. We know that we're supposed to submit

1	this within 120 days of opening our facility. Can
2	you let us know if you have any concerns before
3	that time period on the opening of the facility.
4	And so in some instances the Commission has been
5	able to say thank you for submitting your
б	materials. We have everything we need and, you
7	know, go ahead and feel free to open the facility.
8	This would and so this discussion
9	draft basically incorporates an informal process
10	where some tribes will reach out to the Commission
11	and say we've submitted our materials. Do you
12	have everything that you need.
13	So the discussion draft in 559.3
14	provides that a copy of each newly issued facility
15	license be issued within 30 days. And then,
16	rather than what this draft changes is rather
17	than the tribe submitting a long list of materials
18	relating to environmental health and public safety
19	issues that the tribe submit to the Chair an
20	attestation from the tribe that it that the
21	tribe as sovereign as in terms that the
22	construction and maintenance of the facility and
23	operation is conducted in a manner that adequately
24	protects the environment and public health and
25	safety.

We've heard through comments that a 1 lot of these issues are addressed already in 2 tribal state compacts. Their address is a matter 3 of tribal law. And so this proposed change would 4 5 have attestation from the tribe directly to the Commission that these -- that their facility is 6 7 conducted and constructed in a matter that adequately protects the environment. We also know 8 9 that many tribes have their own environmental 10 departments and health and safety departments that 11 provide regulatory oversight on these issues. 12 The discussion draft also requests 13 notice to NIGC within 30 days when a license is terminated or expires or if a facility closes or 14 reopens. It provides the Chair with authority to 15 16 request additional information on a case-by-case 17 basis and that electronic submissions are 18 acceptable. 19 You'll notice that in terms of 20 notifying when a facility license is terminated or 21 expired in 559.5 the Commission has heard from 2.2 tribes that on some occasions there's -- the tribe will close its facility seasonally or have a 23 24 temporary closure, and so we've left a blank. 25 We've left that there where we don't need

1	notification of a seasonal closure or a temporary
2	closure. We'd like and we've received comment
3	from a number of tribes in terms of how many days
4	constitutes a temporary closure, what is
5	reasonable there. And so if there are any
6	comments on this particular section on temporary
7	closures, we'd certainly welcome those as well.
8	As I mentioned the written comment
9	period on this discussion draft closed in mid
10	June, and the Commission if it decides to move
11	forward with the notice of proposed rule making
12	the tribes and the public will have an opportunity
13	to comment on that proposed rule. Are there any
14	questions or comments on Part 559?
15	Okay. Well, the last section of Group
16	1 is part is a Buy Indian regulation. The
17	Commission asked in notice of inquiry should NIGC
18	adopt a regulation that would apply to itself, not
19	to tribes, that would require the Commission to
20	Buy Indian when purchasing goods, services, and
21	property. IGRA provides NIGC with authority to
22	contract with tribe, states, private entities.
23	And so the Commission has asked for comment on
24	whether it should move forward with the
25	regulation, whether it should move forward in

terms of guidance, or some sort of internal agency policy. Are there any comments or questions on either the Buy -- potential Buy Indian regulation or any other questions or comments on the other parts we've just sort of run through in this PowerPoint?

7 MS. STEVENS: Thank you, Larry. Ι know many of you here are just here to listen and 8 9 see what's going on. A number of these 10 regulations we've been talking about for some I think the first drafts were issued back 11 time. 12 in May, April or May. I think the first one was 13 fees and so the comment period on that particular discussion draft had closed and we've been 14 15 continuing to hear comments about it. We also 16 understand that it's usually the tribe's CFO or 17 the comptroller or the financial people that want 18 to talk about the changes that we've made in 514, 19 fees, the fee section. You know, how does moving 20 from biannual payments to quarterly payments work 21 for you. So far we've heard very favorable 2.2 comments about quarterly payments, because it alines with other practices that the operations 23 24 had or the tribal government has. So we'll be, 25 you know, happy to hear about how this would

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affect you or have you take this back to your
financial people and ask, you know, how does this
affect us.

Also changing the reporting period 4 5 from a calendar year to the tribe's fiscal year. And we actually have a breakdown of every single 6 7 tribe and when their fiscal year is. Not -surprisingly tribes have different end fiscal 8 9 years. Many tribes are still working off of the 10 federal government's fiscal year end, which is 11 September 30 -- October 1 to September 30. Manv 12 tribe calendar years even -- surprisingly there's 13 some tribes that have April 1 to March 30. So different tribes based on their needs have 14 15 different fiscal years.

16 The trouble that we were running into 17 and the tribes were specifically running into, which led to fee audits, was trying to make a 18 19 whole different calculation based on the calendar 20 year than what their fiscal year was and that 21 often led to errors, which caused the need for our 2.2 auditing to go out and to do a fee audit to make sure that the fee was accurately calculated and 23 24 assessed. The -- the really ownest of changing to the tribe's fiscal year will be a burden on the 25

1	NIGC, which we think is not really that our
2	comptroller does not feel that it's an issue at
3	all. It's not even a burden. It would actually
4	be helpful so that we can reduce the number of
5	errors that were being made because of the
6	calendar cycle. So we'd love to hear so far
7	we've been hearing really good things about doing
8	it that way. That reduces the amount of work that
9	the people have to do, because they're just doing
10	the one calculation on a separate calculation or
11	better yet is based off of your financial audited
12	statements, which is based off your fiscal year,
13	helpful for tribes and that's why we wanted to
14	suggest that.
15	Also the late system, we know I did
16	a quick calculation back in our staff did at
17	our request the number of NOV's that were issued
18	for fees, and the total number of NOV's
19	historically and about 66 percent of NOV's were
20	for late fees depending on whether that was one
21	day late, two, several months late, and what we in
22	our initial discussions talked to tribes about are
23	was the concept of a late payment system. And
24	that's what you'll see in this draft, and we'd
25	like to know how you feel about that. Many tribes

are saying that's a fair way to address circumstances that might be outside of their control. As Larry suggested what we're hearing is there may be things like natural disasters, other types of issues that may cause a tribe to be delayed in their payment.

7 You know, I asked our comptroller, Chris White, about this. He's on the phone a lot 8 9 with tribes trying to calculate fees with them and 10 walking them through the worksheets. Many times he's said it's -- it's never willful 11 12 noncompliance. It's changing of staff at tribes 13 or a circumstance where a staff person who 14 normally does this might not be available. Thev 15 may be ill, but usually the turn over, may be some 16 miscommunications between certain people within 17 the tribe, the regulators, the outside auditors, 18 and us, but he says he's always been able to 19 successfully walk, you know, a new person who 20 works for the tribe through the process and get them going on their fees. And just a little 21 2.2 information there about what we see and why tribes are late and given the history for the NOV's that 23 24 were issued, you know, that is a big hammer for being late. 25

We had heard when we first came into 1 2 our positions that there were fines that were greater than the fee itself, because of the late 3 -- the nature of the late payment, which certainly 4 5 could encourage tribes not to be late but, you know, we thought it would be fair that it be 6 7 proportinate to how late you were, and that's why you'll see in this draft, you know, 30, 60, 90 8 9 days, and that's very similar to other things that 10 go on in operations in businesses or any of your 11 person lives when you're late on your payment 30, 12 60, 90 your penalty increases the later you are. 13 And also in this draft you'll see that the Chair has discretion to take action or not 14 15 depending on the severity of circumstances of the 16 tribe, you know, the nature of their late payment. 17 Again, we hear some things that, you know, we 18 don't -- you know, nobody expects. We had heard 19 that, you know, their financial person had become 20 gravely ill, and their lake overflooded, may be 21 had to close the facility and we're gonna be late. 2.2 So, you know, the -- preserve the right of the Chair to take a look at individual circumstances, 23 24 but the design here is to have the penalty be

25

increased as the payment is later, but hopefully

1 that the way we sructured the quarterly payments 2 based on tribe's fiscal year, how we define certain definitions in here, admission fees, 3 tournament fees, entry fees would be helpful to 4 5 tribes so that we can avoid some of the issues 6 we've had with late payments and thus not get to 7 that point of penalty. So we'd love to hear about those concepts that we have in the fee regulation. 8 9 One last thing that's in there is what 10 should the penalty be? Should it be a hard dollar 11 amount or should it be a percentage based on 12 interest and percentage applied? What we've heard 13 so far many tribe's percentage would be fair based 14 on the size. So if you're a small operation, a 15 percentage would be a good ratio to on how much 16 gross, you know, how much your payment is as 17 opposed to a hard dollar amount. Where a larger 18 facility if they're late, you know, hard dollar 19 amounts might not mean that much, but it would 20 mean quite a bit to a very small operation, so the 21 percentage is gonna be fair. So we'd like to hear 2.2 your views on that as well. So far that's what 23 we're hearing is the percentage based. 24 I'm not sure that I'm missing anything

25 else. Those are the major sort of high points and

what we've heard so far and what our thinking was in developing this draft that's out there now. Some things to consider if you have to bring this back to your counsel or other commission members, again, all the comments that we've received on these are posted on our website, and the drafts are also on our website.

8 Okay. What's the next fun one? 523 9 is just a repeal of old ordinances, and I don't 10 believe -- I think our staff has done the research 11 to indicate there are no ordinances out there that 12 meet that criteria. So it's just a regulation 13 that didn't need to be there anymore.

14 What's the next one? 559, facility 15 licensing, many of you know the previous 16 Commission had issued facility license regulations 17 a number of years ago, and we've heard a lot about this when we first came into office, and the 18 19 requirements that were laid out for tribes in 20 licensing and the time periods required in the 21 regulation relicensing every three years, certain 2.2 things that you have to submit when sending in 23 your licensing.

I have a couple of different draftshere. I'm looking to make sure I have the right

1	one. It's the same one. So you'll see in this
2	particular draft as Larry had mentioned there were
3	a number of things that we had taken out that were
4	required previously that we've heard tribes say
5	it's either in their compacts, they use other
6	federal agencies, like Indian Health Services.
7	They have it in their own tribal law, and they
8	have other parts of their government that
9	oversee and who oversee certain parts of public
10	health. And that the requirements of the facility
11	licensing regulation as is now it's duplicative
12	and actually can be a burden putting this
13	information together.

14 So again, we're asking for attestation 15 from the tribal government that there is in place 16 public, health and safety -- environmental, public 17 health, and safety issues are taken care of by the tribe however that maybe. It varies from tribe to 18 19 tribe. And we certainly would love to hear 20 comments on how that's structured for your 21 particular tribe. As I said some tribe's compacts 2.2 require that they follow state guidelines or state laws. Other tribes are using federal agencies to 23 24 do that. We'd love to hear more about how that 25 works for tribes throughout the country for the

1 record so that we can see how it varies and how 2 what we proposed would be work -- how it would 3 work for the variety of tribes and their 4 situations.

5 The last thing to consider on facility licensing is temporary closures. Do we have any 6 7 tribes that do temporary closures for seasonal? There's a surprising number of those tribes who do 8 9 seasonal closures out from -- I'm from Washington 10 state, and we have some tribes out there that 11 close for a certain numbers of months because, you 12 know, of the winter and the roads are not 13 passible. How long is too long or how long is 14 enough for those type of temporary closures? Whether it's a rebuild, whether you've had a 15 natrual disaster like a flood where we don't need 16 17 to be notified that you're closed. Is it 30 days, 60 days, 90 days, 180 days? How many days is 18 19 temporary for seasonal or closures that are remodels or because of disasters? 20 That's 21 something we'd like to hear about. 2.2 Temporary doesn't need to be 23 temporary. I think it would be maybe too much to

- 24 ask for a year or more. Although especially if
- 25 you're doing construction, you know, how that can

1 What you thought was gonna take two months qo. 2 takes four months and what you thought was gonna 3 take four months takes eight months. And so we do want to draw a line in the sand there that says, 4 5 okay, this is an amount of time that's acceptable 6 to be determined to be temporary so that you don't 7 have to keep telling us, you know, the license has been terminated for now, the facility's closed, 8 9 where we don't have to note that you're going to 10 So those are major parts of facility reopen. 11 licensing we'd love to hear from tribes on how 12 these will work for them.

13 The Buy Indian, there are parts in the 14 statute that give the Chair the authority to contract under 2706(a)(6) and (7), but also just 15 16 the Buy Indian Act, and the secretary holds that 17 authority, the Secretary of the Interior. And, 18 you know, again, we want to reiterate because 19 there has been some misunderstanding that we're 20 not trying to apply this to the tribes, we're 21 applying it to us. So when we contract as a 2.2 federal agency, that we look to Indian vendors and 23 Indian businesses first if we can and the price is 24 competitive.

25

Do we do a lot of that? Mostly it's

gonna be in these situations but, you know, there 1 2 might be copy machine people or people who are 3 tribes that have paper companies, or if we have to move, are there tribes that do that, but mostly 4 5 it's gonna be when we're out on the road like this 6 and we need a facility. We try to go to Indian 7 facilities when we can and when the price is appropriate, but we were considering how do we 8 9 formalize this process.

10 We've heard some feedback even from 11 some former commissioners that why on earth would 12 you wanna do that, make it a reg, and why would 13 you want to solitify it and, you know, box it in the next commission to do that when you could just 14 do an internal policy. Would an internal policy 15 16 be adequate? Again, this is part of the NIGC's 17 business and because we're funded by these, paid 18 by tribes, by you, you know, we wanna get your 19 views on how we can encourage economic development 20 and policies that are under IGRA so that we're 21 encouraging that economic development as a federal 2.2 agency.

23 So a little repetitive on my part but 24 I wanted to put a little more information out 25 there about what we've heard so far, getting a

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1	variety like on Buy Indian, doing internal
2	policies, understanding the reg. But certainly,
3	again, we want to give everyone the opportunity to
4	at least think about it when you go back and brief
5	your commission or your counsel on what you've
6	heard here today. I think that's it on this
7	section. Do we have anyone that has any questions
8	or comments? Do we need to clarify any of the
9	parts here, anything that we've said.
10	If not, then why don't we get up and
11	stretch and we'll take a break, and we'll come
12	back in about 15 minutes. And we may move on to
13	some other sections as well. Okay. We'll take
14	15.
15	(At this time a break was taken.)
16	MS. STEVENS: Okay. I'd like to
17	resume the meeting. For those who were following
18	what we've been doing, you'll notice that Class
19	III there's a number of things that were taken
20	off the schedule and I'll explain why. Class III
21	minimum internal control standards were a part of
22	Group 1 originally. That was meant to discuss
23	options on how we can address Class III internal
24	control minimum internal control, and we heard
25	a lot of feedback in the notice of inquiry earlier

in the year and the meetings up to I think about
ten meetings I think that we had through
Washington D.C. in July.

What we originally -- I was thinking 4 5 back. We were gonna discuss how to approach Class 6 III in Group 1, and in Group 5 we were going to 7 implement whatever suggestions or whatever plan that we had put into place after our discussions 8 9 in Group 1 on how to approach it, so hear our 10 plans and ideas and then implement. And also the 11 other thing that you won't see us talking about 12 here today is Class II minimum internal control 13 standards and Part 547, technical standards for 14 machine play for Class II bingo.

15 What we've heard up to this point and 16 through the, you know, as I was saying with the 17 notice of inquiries that there was a strong interest and a lot of comments from tribes that we 18 19 reestablish a tribal advisory committee. So 20 recently in the beginning of August we issued a 21 nomination, a call for nominations, so that we can 2.2 address Class II and Class III minimum internal control standards and technical standards for 23 Class II games under Part 547. 24 25 We recently extended the day to come
in compliance, the deadline to come into 1 compliance for Class II minimum internal control 2 standards until October of 2012 so that we can get 3 through the products that tribal advisory 4 5 committee will produce. So we have nominations out there until September 16. That is all on our 6 7 website, the letter that went out to tribes explaining why we're requesting nominations, what 8 9 kind of nominees we're looking for, dates that 10 we're looking to have tribal advisory committee 11 meetings so that we can adress Class II, Class III 12 minimum internal control standards and technical 13 standards.

14 So you won't see that on this agenda. 15 We originally, as I said, started out with these 16 subject committee's topics on our agenda, but, 17 again, we were remaining flexible enough to hear 18 how tribes want to proceed. So what we've done is 19 move those three issues on to a parallel track 20 that we'll deal with alongside these other 21 regulations that we're talking about today and 2.2 tomorrow. These particular regs are not as cumbersome and specific, so we wanted to free 23 24 these up and the time that we're using here to make progress on these regulations and not have 25

our consultations taking up these -- these
 particular consulations taken up with minimum
 internal control standards and technical
 standards.

5 So if you have any questions about the tribal advisory committee nominations, letters, 6 information, that's all available on our website 7 or you can talk to any of us here. Again, the 8 9 deadline to submit names for that advisory 10 commitee will be September 16. The objective for 11 that particular committee will be to have -- put 12 forward suggestions on how we can improve and what 13 we can do with minimum internal control standards 14 and suggest to changes in technical standards, and 15 that will go on for about a year.

16 So we won't be talking about those two 17 things today, but we certainly would, you know, if 18 there are any comments or questions about them, 19 we'll welcome comments and questions about that 20 process. With that out of the way, what I decided 21 that we should probably do at this point, because 2.2 we've talked most of the morning about the Group 1 23 regulations, is to jump on the agenda to the afternoon section. In absence of any comments on 24 Group 1, we would just go ahead and move to Group 25

2 regulations, summary, and tribal comments, which
 is on your agenda, the 1:30 to 3 p.m. section, as
 it's going to be on enforcement and proceedings
 before the Commission.

5 And if you look in your book, that will cover -- hold on. I want to make sure it's 6 7 I think Larry -- page 9 on your PowerPoint, 573. but you do have that book in here that goes into 8 9 -- it'll list what we're gonna talk about first in 10 appeals 573, 519, 524, 539, 577. So we'll be 11 going over that in I moment. Just so you can 12 follow along, we're gonna jump ahead on the agenda 13 and talk about those parts. So with that I'll 14 turn it over to Larry, and we'll go ahead and talk 15 about these sections.

16 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. So we're gonna 17 start off with Part 573 dealing with enforcement. Earlier this year the Commission circulated a 18 19 preliminary draft and discussion draft making 20 various changes to this part. One is that it 21 embodies this Commission's goal of voluntary 2.2 compliance for tribes rather than going directly to an enforcement action fostering tribal 23 governments working with NIGC to achieve 24 compliance with the Act, and so 573 adds that that 25

1 is the goal of the Commission.

2 573.2 lays out a process where -- what we've -- what we've heard in response to 3 consultations and in responsive notice of 4 5 inquiries that sometimes tribes would receive an NOV and they had little or no idea that an NOV was 6 7 actually about to be issued. And so what this does is this lays out a process, sort of a stepped 8 9 process, that the Commission may take, that the 10 Chair may take, leading up to the issueance of an 11 NOV. And so it lays out a letter of concern and 12 then a more semiformal non-compliance notice, and 13 then if it's still not corrected an NOV... 14 The discussion draft does retain the 15 chair's authority to issue an NOV at any time. So 16 there might be circumstances under which this 17 stepped approach is not appropriate. Neither the letter of concern or the non-compliance notice is 18 19 a final agency action. Either a non-compliance

20 notice or a letter of concern may provide a time 21 period for the tribe to come into voluntary 22 compliance.

Let's see. We sought comment on this and the comment period closed August 9. And so there's been questions in terms of what is the

preliminary drafts that have been circulated when the comment period is closed. The Commission is in the process of reviewing those comments and deciding whether it wants to move forward with a notice of proposed rule making for each of these preliminary drafts. Are there any questions with Part 573 or the changes embodied in the preliminary draft? O Okay. Well, we're gonna move forward with proceedings before the Commission. Probably a section that only an attorney could love. Basically for those of you that are familiar with proceedings before the Commission, the appeals process is laid out in a number of different parts, Part 519, Part 524, 539, 577. What we've heard from folks is that it may make sense to streamline the process and clarify the process and have just create a whole new subchapter in moving these various parts into one part on the regulations so you're not attorneys and tribes are not constantly trying to figure out which part applies to them for the appeal and how to move forward. So this preliminary draft was circulated for discussion purposes. And it's our attempt,	1	Commission's time frame on some of these
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	23	applies to them for the appeal and how to move
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	25	for discussion purposes. And it's our attempt,

Commission's attempt, to try to combine all these 1 2 parts into one subchapter. 3 So if you turn to your materials, Part 580 of this new preliminary draft basically lays 4 5 out the rules of general application in proceedings before the Commission. 6 7 And then, Part 581 covers motions. Part 582 covers appeals for 8 9 disapproval of gaming ordinances, resolutions, and 10 amendments. 11 Part 583 covers appeals for approvals 12 or disapprovals of management contracts. 13 Part 584 covers appeals for before a 14 presiding official for notices of violation, 15 proposed civil fine assessments, orders of 16 temporary closure, the Chair's decision to void or 17 modify a management contract, and notices of late fees and late fee assessments. 18 19 And then, Part 585 covers appeals not 20 before a presiding official but appeals to the 21 Commission just based on written submissions on 2.2 all of those issues covered in Part 584. 23 So turning to our booklet in Part 580 it covers a number of general issues. It covers 24 definitions, and it covers when may a Commission 25

suspend or waive its rules governing the
 proceedings, who may appear before the Commission,
 how do you actuate service in proceedings before
 the Commission, and then a section on ex parte
 communications and what are prohibited and what's
 allowed.

7 Part 581 is motions in appellate proceedings before the Commission. So, for 8 9 example, in an ordinance appeal there's motions for limited participation, motions to intervene in 10 11 appeals before a presiding official, motions in 12 appeal on written submissions, filing a motion 13 before a presiding official, filing a motion to supplement the record, filing a motion for 14 reconsideration. All of these issues are 15 16 relatively general issues, but they are in some 17 way shape or form issues that the Commission 18 thought could be better clarified in Part 581. 19 Part 582 lays out appeals of 20 disapprovals of gaming ordinances, resolutions,

21 and amendments. This picks up on part of the 22 section -- part of the -- the part that currently 23 covers these appeals. Who may appeal, how to 24 appeal, a late filing or failure to file an 25 appeal, motion practice, motions for limited

participation, setting forth the standard of 1 2 review on these appeals, and then laying forth sort of the the timing of a decision, content and 3 effective date, and that it is for purposes of the 4 5 agency, final agency action for purposes of Again, sort of flushing out some 6 judicial review. 7 areas that we've heard from the public that could be clarified. 8

9 Part 583 appeals for approvals or 10 disapprovals of management contracts. Again, 11 covering the same general topics who may appeal, 12 how you appeal, what covers the late filing or 13 failure to file, how motions are handled, how 14 motion for limited participation are handled, again the standard of review, and again laying out 15 16 that it is for purposes of judicial review final 17 agency action.

18 Appeals before a presiding official, for example, when the Chair issues an NOV, Part 19 20 584 is where you would go to if the appeal is 21 directed to a presiding official. So again, who 2.2 may appeal that NOV or that proposed civil fine 23 assessment, how to go about appealing that, again 24 motions for limited participation, motion practice in general, the burden of proof, standard of 25

review, when the hearing will be held, just the
 basics of appeals process before a presiding
 official.

And Part 585 for appeals to the 4 5 Commission just on written submissions where you're not going to have any testimony presented, 6 7 Part 585 lays out that process for appeals to the Commission. Again, the standard subjects are 8 9 covered in the other parts who may appeal, how to 10 appeal, late filing, standard of review, motions, 11 and then that obviously the decision by the 12 Commission will constitute final agency action.

The written comment period on this preliminary draft closed August 22, and we are in the process right now of going through all those comments and briefing the Commission on those in terms of moving forward with a notice of proposed rule making. Does anyone have any questions or comments on this section?

What we've tried to do is --Commission's tried to do is clarify it so that it's more transparent to the effective parties, that it's a simple process, that the rules of the road are basically clear to everyone. So if there are -- greatly appreciate any comments on this part. Whether there are improvements that could
 be made, any sort of feedback would be
 appreciated.

Part of these -- the preliminary draft 4 5 clarifies who may appeal, for example, disapproval of a gaming ordinance. There's -- in the past the 6 7 Commission and the public have asked whether they could -- whether appeal is limited to just a tribe 8 9 that who's gaming ordinance was denied or whether 10 other parties could appeal that. And the 11 regulations here what we're trying to make clear 12 is that only the tribe may appeal that action.

13 I think the intent of a lot of these 14 changes are in at least a lot of these changes are 15 embodying the Commission's current practice. So 16 it might be something that you would see in 17 previous decisions of the Commission or how the 18 Commission has attempted to resolve certain 19 process issues or how they've handled certain 20 process issues in the past that may not actually 21 be in the regulations, and so this is an attempt 2.2 to basically embody those processes and get more 23 clarity.

24 MS. STEVENS: I think we only have one 25 attorney in the room. It's unusual. And I think

they've already given comments on this particular section. But, again, these are I think processed issues that we are -- as Larry said we're attempting to create some consistencies and clarity in having them located in similar sections rather than disbursed throughout various regulations.

We've heard some concern about the 8 9 confusing nature about how they're currently 10 written and where they're located, so this is 11 mostly clean up and clarification for those who 12 are engaged in processes before the Commission, 13 appeals before the Commission. And keeping in 14 mind as well that not all tribes are going to 15 engage specialists, legal specialists, to do this. 16 We're trying to make them as clear as possible for 17 those who might not be as familiar with our 18 processes or have outside counsel or specific 19 specialized counsel who would be getting them 20 through this process so that when reading this, 21 you know, commissioners, counsel members can get a 2.2 sense of what they're supposed to be doing and where they can find this information more 23 24 importantly. It may not be the sexiest stuff on the planet, but it's important that we're clear 25

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about what steps tribes need to take when they're 1 2 going through these proceedings. 3 MR. PLATA: Tracie? MS. STEVENS: 4 Yes. 5 MR. PLATA: I have a comment. 6 MS. STEVENS: Can you state your name, 7 please. 8 MR. PLATA: Yeah. I'm sorry. John 9 Plata. 10 MS. STEVENS: If you might just, you 11 know, step up to this microphone. 12 MR. PLATA: I just had a question --13 or just actually I want to get some feedback from 14 you, kind of some discussion going here on Part 15 580 where it discusses ex parte communications. Τ 16 wanna get your thoughts on a situation where the 17 issue being appealed is between the tribe and NIGC and what kind of communication would be ex parte 18 19 if we're trying to -- if the overall goal of 20 communication of the tribe is to have an open and 21 transparent relationship and government 2.2 consultation. In this situation, you know, where a tribe is -- reaches out to a member of your 23 staff or someone who they feel comfortable with in 24 resolving some of these issues, you know, I -- the 25

1	concern that I express in the comments that were
2	submitted for the Seminole tribe was that it might
3	put a damper on that communication, the open
4	communication that had previously occurred, but in
5	this scenario there might be a restriction against
б	sharing their concerns on particular appeal issue.
7	Can you share your thoughts on how if
8	you think what's been drafted might harm that
9	relationship or harm that communication back and
10	forth by the tribe and NIGC?
11	MR. ROBERTS: Thank you for the
12	comment. And I think it's a good observation that
13	the Commission will have to consider. I think
14	that they some of the underlying policies
15	behind laying out what ex parte communications are
16	prohibited isn't necessarily to prohibit, for
17	example, settlement while it's pending on appeal
18	or that sort of thing, but I think it is to make
19	clear that if there are communications on lower
20	facts involving the appeal that either they don't
21	occur or that if they do occur under 58.5(d) that
22	there's a record of that placement proceeding of
23	what occurred. So I think if it's in the context
24	of settlement I think that's sort of a different
25	discussion and a different thing that the

1 Commission will have to consider.

2	But I think the idea is in situations
3	where, for example, you have an NOV with multiple
4	parties, let's say it's a tribe and contractor,
5	and that's leading the second party pretty clearly
6	what communications are prohibited and if they do
7	occur that all parties to the action receive
8	notice of what those communications were.
9	MS. STEVENS: I know we have here
10	mostly commissioners or people who work for or are
11	on their gaming commission. I'd be interested in
12	knowing your thoughts on the proposed 573 where
13	we've designed and have suggested a step sort of
14	incremental process before we get to more
15	egregious actions like NOV's and closures.
16	Again, as Larry stated and actually
17	what I've heard when I was in South Dakota in
18	February there were a number of tribes who said I
19	came to the Commission and asked for help and what
20	I got in return was an NOV. Didn't expect it,
21	didn't see it coming. And I've said before, I
22	mean, if we're our philosophy at this NIGC is
23	that we take an approach of ACE, assitance,
24	compliance, and then enforcement, then an NOV
25	unless under, you know, some very unique

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1	circumstances the tribe should not be surprised
2	that an NOV's coming. We should be making an
3	effort to assist the tribe, help the tribe come to
4	compliance, maintain compliance, and when all else
5	fails an, you know, NOV.
б	And so you'll see we've drafted in 573
7	the enforcement section under 572 573.2, you
8	know, what steps can we put in place that sort of
9	ramp up to, you know, the most severe action or
10	one of the most severe actions that we can take so
11	that we can let the tribes know, hey, you know,
12	even before we get to a point of a letter of
13	concern of the 572 573(2)(b)(i).
14	You know, I know that our field staff,
15	our region people, our field investigators, our
16	auditors, our general counsel of office in D.C.
17	take several unofficial steps to discuss issues
18	with tribes, from informal discussions here,
19	asking questions over the phone, getting guidance,
20	getting onsite technical assistance to remedy
21	issues that a tribe may have. At some point we
22	would engage, as you'll see under 573.2, some sort
23	of formalized process that would be progressive.
24	And we'd love to hear from tribes about, you know,
25	their views on this suggestion of taking an

1 incremental approach.

3our field staff does a lot to work with tribes4beforehand, this memorilizes, you know, a more5formalized step process when we're informally6working with tribes, you know, engaging the7increments in a more formalized process when those8efforts may not be solving the issue.9So for those of you who are reporting10back to your commission or your counsel, you know,11something to consider I think some tribes already12do this in their own ordinances and take actions13themselves and, you know, may not be unfamiliar to14many of you. Any other comments on enforcement or15proceedings before the Commission?16MR. PLATA: I have another comment.17MS. STEVENS: Yes, certainly.18MR. PLATA: John Plata. I had a19question about the confidential information being20submitted under Part 584. There's a provision I21think it's 584.10 that provides that although a22party may have said something confidential, the23other parties deemed that is was, that NIGC share24that information if they attest that, you know,	4 beforehand, this memorilizes, you know, a m	bes
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24 that information if they attest that, you know,	23 other parties deemed that is was, that NIGC	share
	24 that information if they attest that, you k	now,
25 they're not going to use that information or	25 they're not going to use that information o	r

disclose any further proceedings. And I want to 1 2 get your feedback if you thought that was adequate protection against disclosure information that a 3 party might deem as confidential. 4 5 MR. ROBERTS: In your -- have you 6 provided written comments on this already? 7 MR. PLATA: I did provide a comment that was a concern. I just wanted to know if you 8 9 can share some feedback on the -- and the thought 10 process behind that procedure that's laid out in 11 584.10. 12 MR. ROBERTS: I can't speak to the 13 specifics of 584.10. 14 MR. PLATA: Okav. 15 MR. ROBERTS: My understanding is that 16 for sections that are addressing issues like this 17 we've tried to look to see what other federal 18 commissions how they handle that information, and 19 so we would be -- again, it's a preliminary draft 20 for discussion purposes. This was like an initial 21 cut. So if there are concerns about it not 2.2 providing adequate protection for confidential information, I think that that's something that 23 24 the Commission would be open to considering. 25 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Absent comments

1	further on Group 2, what I'd like to do while I
2	have a few people here is to jump to Group 4 in
3	case there's anyone that has to leave after lunch.
4	You know, I'm certainly willing to go over this
5	again this afternoon, but for the benefit of the
6	people that are attending now and if there's a
7	scheduling issue, let's start talking about Group
8	4, which is on the second page of your agenda, day
9	1, Wednesday, from 3:15 to 5.
10	And we'll start talking about Group 4,
11	Part 556, 558, 571 and 537. And again, that
12	doesn't not necessarily mean that we won't
13	cover some of this after lunch, but for the
14	benefit of those who may have to leave after the
15	morning session, I want to give the opportunity to
16	have you-all listen to what we were thinking on
17	Group 4, how we got to where we are, and give
18	those who are here the opportunity to ask
19	questions or get clarification or make statements.
20	So if you go to the second page of
21	your agenda, we'll go to Group 4, and I'll turn it
22	back over to Larry and we'll talk about Group 4.
23	MR. ROBERTS: Great. So for Group 4
24	we're gonna start with Parts 556 and 558, and
25	basically as many of you know NIGC has run a pilot

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program for some time involving background 1 2 investigations for management officials and gaming licenses for key employees and primary management 3 officials. 4 5 And so when the Commission started last summer, in the notice of inquiry, we 6 7 requested a comment from tribes and the public on priority of amending our regulations to actually 8 9 formalize the pilot program. Commission's understanding is that there may be more tribes out 10 11 there that are operating under the pilot program 12 than the actual regulations and so, you know, 13 should we move forward with formalizing the pilot 14 program through regulation. For those tribes that do not 15 16 participate in the pilot program, it basically 17 provides for tribes to submit simply a notice of 18 results to NIGC on background investigations and 19 then maintain those applications or investigative reports with the tribe. All comments received in 20 21 response to notice of inquiry supported 2.2 formalizing this program either through regulation 23 or policy. 24 And so Part 556 and 558 basically formalize the pilot program. 556 includes all the 25

procedures before a gaming license is issued, and 1 2 558 is the procedures after a gaming license is issued. So tribes that are seeking a license, the 3 key employee or primary management official, are 4 5 required to notify the Agency of the applicant's background results no later than 60 days after the 6 7 applicant begins work. This is in proposed section 556.6(b)(2). 8

9 It provides for a tribe with access to 10 provide investigative materials from other tribes 11 to update those materials 556.4(b). And you'll 12 see a number of red lines here. Some of this is 13 actually embodying the pilot program. Some of it is streamlining 556 and 558 so that it's clear 556 14 is the procedures before a gaming license is 15 16 issued and 558 is after.

17 And so in 558 this includes basically 18 all the procedures after this gaming license is 19 issue, and so after providing a notice of results, 20 the tribe may list license the key employee or primary management official. Tribe must notify 21 2.2 the Commission within 30 days of the license 23 issuance. And upon receipt of this complete 24 notice of results, NIGC then has 30 days to request additional information from a tribe. 25

1	NIGC shall notify the tribe if it
2	needs additional information or the results within
3	30 days. And if the license is issued prior to an
4	NIGC objection, then the licensee will have a
5	right to notice a hearing. The tribe must then
6	suspend that license until a hearing is held. And
7	then, following that hearing the tribe must notify
8	NIGC of the decision, of the tribe's decision,
9	after that revocation hearing.
10	This basically in the discussion draft
11	provides for the availability of electronic
12	submissions and also provides that future
13	ordinance submissions so when a tribe is
14	submitting their amendments, their gaming
15	ordinance, they must comply with this discussion
16	draft. If the Commission were to move forward
17	with the discussion draft as a final rule, then
18	when a tribal gaming ordinance or an amendment
19	were submitted, then they must incorporate these
20	parts of it.
21	The written comment period on
22	discusion draft closed August 10, 2011. So we're
23	in the process of looking through those comments,
24	the written comments, as well as reviewing the
25	transcripts from the consultations that we've had

1 on the pilot program.

2	Part 537, background investigations
3	for persons or entities with a financial interest
4	in, or having management responsibility for, a
5	management contract as part of the notice of
6	inquiry the Commission asked whether it should
7	clarify that management contractors of both Class
8	II and Class III facilities that they must have
9	completed background investigation.
10	The comments we received from the
11	public majority supported some clarification on
12	this. Some expressed their opinion that NIGC has
13	no authority to approve Class III management
14	contracts, and some commoners stated that this
15	issue is covered by existing compacts, tribal
16	state compacts.
17	And so this discussion draft in Part
18	537 flipping through in your materials basically
19	clarifies that management contract for any class
20	II gaming, including management of both class II
21	and class III gaming, that the Chair shall conduct
22	or cause to be conducted a background
23	investigation. I think some of the questions that
24	the Commission has been asking the public about
25	what we would like feedback on tribes is how can

1	the process for background investigations for
2	those entities with the financial interest in, or
3	have management responsibility for, a management
4	contractor, how could this process be streamlined
5	while still maintaining the current integrity of
6	the process. And are there issues out there as to
7	who could qualify for a streamline process? So
8	someone that's basically maybe already has an
9	approved management contract would it be
10	appropriate for them to have a streamline process
11	for, say, a different tribe.
12	The discussion draft does provide the
13	Chair in Section 537.1(d) provide the Chair to
14	exercise her discretion and reduce the background
15	investigation and the scope of the information to
16	be furnished for a tribe, a tribally owned entity,
17	or another financially regulated institution, like
18	a national bank or institutional investor, that is
19	already required to undergo background
20	investigation and licensure by a state or tribe
21	pursuant to a tribal-state compact. So it would
22	basically incorporate some of those suggestions
23	that we received where an entity may already have
24	to complete a background investigation pursuant to
25	a tribal-state compact, for example.

1	And the written comment period on this
2	discussion draft closed in early August, and we're
3	in the process of compiling those comments on this
4	discussion draft, and the Commission is in the
5	process of determining whether to move forward
6	with a notice of proposed rule making.
7	Part 531, collateral agreements. The
8	notice of inquiry asked the question whether the
9	Commission should require a submission of approval
10	of collateral agreements.
11	The majority of comments received
12	supported requiring the submission of collateral
13	agreements. There was disagreement over whether
14	collateral agreements could be or should be
15	approved by the Commission. Some questioned the
16	authority of NIGC to approve collateral agreements
17	if they don't provide for management. Some said
18	basically requiring approval could discourage
19	private investment given the time it takes to
20	review management contracts.
21	Some other comments that we've
22	received is NIGC shouldn't be second-guessing
23	tribal business decisions. And that if an
24	agreement doesn't actually provide for management
25	or isn't actually a management agreement, that it

1	should be left to the discretion of the tribe.
2	On the other side of the scale some
3	comments suggested that the United States and NIGC
4	has a trust responsibility to require review of
5	approval of collateral agreements, that such a
6	process could protect the Tribe's sole propriatery
7	interest, that it could discourage some businesses
8	or entities from trying to take advantage of a
9	tribe, and that an approval process would actually
10	reduce the risks to both parties.
11	Part 571, monitoring and
12	investigations. The notice of inquiry asked
13	whether the Commission should needed to clarify
14	that it had access to books and records held at
15	sites maintained by third parties.
16	Some of the comments that the
17	commission received was that really doesn't need
18	to be clarified, that the commission has that
19	authority, some said that you could clarify but
20	only clarify that NIGC can access the off-site
21	locations. Some comments suggested that the
22	Commission consider requiring tribes to maintain
23	all records on site, but that NIGC's authority to
24	request records should be limited to its authority
25	under IGRA, and that there was a view expressed

1	that NIGC's authority is limited to Class II and
2	that they couldn't access Class III records.
3	The Commission did circulate a
4	discussion draft on monitoring and investigations,
5	and it's Part 571 of your materials. The one
6	change is an investigation closure letter. Some
7	tribes have asked would understand that NIGC
8	has opened an investigation. It's sort of being
9	held over us. We don't know if the
10	investigation's been closed. Can you please send
11	us a letter letting us know one way or another
12	whether the investigation has been closed.
13	This discussion draft would clarify
14	that the Commission may advise a party that the
15	investigation has been concluded, but also making
16	very clear that if such a notification is issued
17	that doesn't mean necessarily that there's no
18	violation has occurred, and it wouldn't proclude
19	further action by NIGC, but it is similar to
20	processes that other regulatory agencies use if
21	they are closing an investigation.
22	And the discussion draft also includes
23	the change to access papers, records, and books
24	held by a person other than a gaming operation,
25	and so it would basically clarify access to third

parties as well. And that is also clarified in 1 571.5(b) for the gaming operation or other 2 facility and also 571.6(d). 3 The written comment period on this 4 5 discussion draft also closed on August 9, and so we're reviewing the comments received in response 6 to that discussion draft. 7 Finally, in Group 4 the Commission 8 9 asked in the notice of inquiry whether any 10 definitions should be changed, whether the definition of net revenues for management fees 11 12 should be consistent with GAAP. 13 We received a variety of comments in 14 response to the notice of inquiry. Some supportive of the revision consistent with GAAP, 15 16 but they noted that it would -- any revision would need to be consistent with IGRA's statutory 17 18 language. And if the intent was to change somehow 19 the calculation of management fees, that maybe we 20 don't change the definition of net revenues but 21 rather some sort of different approach. And that 2.2 the Commission should consider repealing the most recent change to the definition on net revenues to 23 24 be consistent with IGRA's definition. 25 So what we -- what the Commission has

1 asked tribes during this consultation process is 2 does the definition need to be clarified? Would 3 an approach with GAAP provide that clarification, 4 and how do we clarify that definition while 5 remaining consistent with IGRA's statutory 6 language?

7 Just reiterate MS. STEVENS: Okay. what Larry said on Part 556 going back to the 8 9 beginning of this particular discussion on Group 10 4, Part 556 and 558. Again, these are efforts to 11 clarify what happens before licensing and 12 memorializing our pilot program and what happens 13 after with 556 and 558. So 556 is sort of the before, 558 is the after. It's my understanding 14 is how it was designed. And I'm looking at 15 16 Jennifer because Jennifer helped put these --17 separate these and clarify these.

What we've heard from tribes is that 18 19 they don't want their process changed. And what 20 we found is while the regulations are out there 21 that this sort of process each region went through 2.2 to meet those in terms of paperwork was slightly different, but we're asking for the same 23 24 information. And I just want to make sure that that's understood. That we're not changing. 25

We're actually trying to create some consistency across each of the regions so the information, you know, the tribes are submitting, the method by which they're submitting it is consistent, and also that would help us in case that's more -this is more an inside baseball in how we can implement these suggested regulations.

And though it may appear as though we 8 9 are changing something in terms of the method by 10 which you submit your information, we're trying to 11 make a consistent process across all of our 12 regions. But the regulation is, again, to -- to 13 make clear what happens before and after, and then 14 our processes across the regions will make sure 15 that they're consistent that way. If one region 16 gets overloaded, they can ask the help of another 17 region to process some of these, and then the 18 process would be the same.

One thing to consider on 556 and 558, and we've heard this from tribal comments and Larry went over this briefly, is many tribes issue temporary licenses and certainly you can do that. If within the 30 days that NIGC has to, you know, object to a licensee, if you've already issued a temporary license, then that licensee will be

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1 granted the rights if their license is revoked or 2 if it's pulled for any reason that's just, you 3 know, something the tribe said that they do.

Some tribes wait. They wait until 4 5 they get past the 30 days after we received a complete application and check with us and say are 6 7 there any objections before they issue the That way tribes don't have to go through 8 license. 9 a process if they have to pull somebody's license 10 if there's a problem that NIGC has or something 11 that didin't come up initially in application. So 12 we'd like to hear your comments about, you know, 13 how your tribe manages your key employees in 14 primary management officials should they -- should 15 you issue them a temporary license. If you don't 16 issue the temporary license, again, it varies 17 across the country from tribe to tribe on whether they issue those or not and the decision for the 18 19 tribe itself as to whether they want to. If they 20 need that person sooner than later, that's a 21 process should they be -- something come up with 2.2 their license, they would be willing to go 23 through, you know, or just wait. So something to 24 think about.

25

And 571 was monitoring and

1 investigations. The other thing we've heard about 2 investigations, and as I said earlier in a 3 previous -- in a previous section, it shouldn't be 4 a surprise that a tribe is getting an NOV. We 5 have suggested some options to ramp up penalty or 6 notices that there's a problem, but also 7 afterwards.

We've heard, especially from this 8 9 region, I think the last time we were here they didn't know what had happened. They knew that 10 11 there was something going on and were getting 12 asked for information, but they didn't know if 13 there was going to be action taken, you know, from 14 the agency generally, not specific to the region 15 or the field officers but, you know, what 16 happened? Is this an ongoing investigation? Τs 17 it -- you know, can we expect a notice of 18 violation? What's gonna happen? They were sort 19 of left hanging.

And so in 571 one of the things we suggested here is that, you know, we advise the tribe that, hey, we're done looking into this matter and certainly we'll preserve our right to reopen it should something else come up that would indicate an ongoing problem in that subject or

1 that particular issue.

2	One thing we did notice and we're
3	probably going to have to change if we move
4	forward is under 571.4 investigation closure
5	letter. The word closure can be misleading. We
6	don't want tribes to think, hey, we're issuing you
7	a letter that we're gonna close your facility.
8	We're going to find another word and another way
9	to say this so you don't think we're closing your
10	facility when merely what we're doing is we're
11	closing out an investigation. So we caught that,
12	we've heard about it.
13	Some other sections on entry of
14	premises we're gonna change some of the verbiage
15	in there. We brought forth the intentions are
16	grammatically under 571.5 how we can change that
17	to make clear, you know, we want those people to
18	cooperate with our search for records and entry of
19	premises.
20	Oh, yeah. Jumping back to 558 on the
21	post licensing. On the last page on the
22	preliminary draft under 558.2(c)(2), the question
23	that we have specifically to that is whether we
24	require the tribe to send us copies of eligibility
25	determinations if they do not license an applicant

1	so that we're not left hanging. You go ahead and
2	submit all the information to us and you don't
3	license them for I'm sure for a variety of
4	reasons, maybe they found another job, and to let
5	us know if anything has happened with that
6	applicant do we require it or leave it as an
7	option for the tribe to let us know they did not
8	issue a license to an individual that they had in
9	556 had appled to have licensed.
10	I'm just going over we've done so
11	many of these. There's some questions that come
12	to my mind in some of these sections, and I've got
13	four different versions of each part. 537
14	background investigations, financial interests or
15	management responsibilities, we'd like to hear
16	comments from tribes about the changes that we
17	have in there for Class II, Class III. I'm
18	looking at a different version. Yep, that's what
19	I'm looking at.
20	And also the Chair's ability of
21	exercising discretion to reduce background
22	investigations or the scope of information that
23	should be submitted. That would be helpful to
24	hear some comments on that. Many tribes may
25	already have to do this through their compacts.

And do we need to reinvent the wheel basically in 1 2 that section if they've already done that. There's some other things that we 3 talked about that were not on your agenda in 4 5 definitions. We've heard some different things about GAAP. The definitions in INGRA are very 6 7 We're not certain that we can deviate from clear. that. And then GAAP doesn't match that particular 8 9 definition and that definition can change. The 10 GAAP definition can be changed in how it's 11 applied, may be varied. 12 We also recognize that there's some 13 different definitions of net revenue in compacts that don't align to IGRA's definition or GAAP 14 15 definitions. So we'd like some thoughts on that. 16 And again, it may be an issue for your financial 17 person or your comptroller, your CFO, in how 18 different varying definitions of net revenue may 19 appear and how they're applied for your particular 20 tribe. 21 Is that all of them? Again, all of 2.2 this information is on our website. You have 23 copies of everything that we have currently that 24 was given when you came into the room initially 25 this morning. Feel free to go to our website and

see what kind of comments we are receiving. 1 As 2 soon as we get them, we put them on the website. Other thing I'd like to note is that 3 we have posted in the Federal Register a link to 4 5 the tribal gaming work groups proposed Class II alternative standards for minimal control 6 7 standards. We're seeking comments especially for those tribes with Class II gaming. We'd like 8 9 to hear your suggestions. That's gonna be part of 10 what the tribal advisory committee will looking at 11 are comments that tribes have put forward with 12 regard to the independent ad hoc working group 13 that have proposed the Class II alternative standards. 14

15 So please visit our website. It is on 16 our website under tribal consultation comments. 17 We do need your comments on how -- you know, what 18 your thoughts are on what's been proposed from a 19 number of tribes and representatives and other 20 stakeholders in the industry as they've put 21 forward in this standard this alternative that's 2.2 been suggested. That's gonna be important, again, 23 as I said for the tribal advisory committee that 24 we're putting together to see in the real world 25 how would that particular -- that those types --

the way those standards are structured would work
 for your facility.

3 Again, that's on NIGC dot gov, tribal consultation under comments, and I think that was 4 5 a 60-day open period that we had on comments on 6 that proposed standard. So absent anything else, 7 we're getting close to the lunch hour here. We will stay here through the afternoon. Although 8 9 we've gone through the whole day's agenda, we may 10 pick up on some other information that we'll be 11 covering tomorrow. And again, we will revisit any 12 of this if we get new attendees to this meeting 13 today. We're trying to accommodate schedules 14 If anyone may have to leave after this here. session this morning, we'll pick up again at 1:30. 15 16 So we'll be back here in this room at 1:30.

17 I appreciate you-all attending and 18 hope to see you back at 1:30 or tomorrow morning. 19 If not, please feel free to look at our website or 20 submit your comments on behalf of your tribe. Ιf 21 you have any questions, we'll be here or you can 2.2 contact our regional or our headquarters office in So thank you and have a good lunch, and 23 D.C. we'll be back here at 1:30. Thank you. 24 25 (At this time lunch was taken from
1 | 11:42 until 1:30.)

2 MS. STEVENS: Okay. Let's resume, and 3 it may be pretty short. We've gone through all today's agenda. We've lost some folks here. 4 But 5 what we can do for the benefit of those folks that 6 are here right now that we can go over some of 7 what we're gonna talk about tomorrow, which is Part 518, self-regulation of Class II gaming and 8 9 sole proprietary interest. And again, we will revisit these topics tomorrow. We have just a 10 11 morning session tomorrow so we'll likely go over 12 this again for those who may be coming tomorrow 13 and not today.

14 So we were looking to make sure that 15 we understood why you have two different drafts of 16 518, and it's just the way that the edits are 17 placed, how they're laid out here. The deletions 18 on the first twelve pages are in bubbles, and in 19 the second half of the packet 518, is insertions 20 and deletions and no bubles, which, frankly, is 21 easier to read, but our technology in our office 2.2 is -- we were operating on an older version of 23 Word that doen't allow you to get rid of bubbles. 24 So sorry about that. There's two versions. One 25 might be your preferred way to read this.

So let's talk about self-regulation in 1 2 Part 518, and then we'll also talk about sole 3 proprietary interest. I'll hand over the microphone to Larry and we'll talk about these two 4 5 subjects. Okay. Brief overview of 6 MR. ROBERTS: 7 The Commission in the notice of inquiry Part 518. request a comment on whether they should review 8 9 the process for obtaining a Class II 10 self-regulation certification. I believe only two tribes -- is it two? Two tribes have a 11 12 certificate of self-regulation. The comments that 13 we've received in response to NOI is that the administrative burden of going through the process 14 15 outweighed the benefits, that the requirements, 16 submission requirements, were burdensome and 17 duplicative, that the petition and annual 18 reporting requirements undermine the purposes of 19 the certification. 20 Some tribes suggested that there should be changes to Part 518, and some tribes 21 2.2 basically said that self-regulation is a hallmark of tribal sovereignty. So what the discussion 23 draft before you attempts to do is shift the focus 24 from the operation to the capabilities of the 25

gaming regulatory agency, reduce the submission of 1 duplicative information, and hopefully facilitate 2 it so that more tribes receive certificates of 3 self-regulation for Class II gaming. 4 5 So we'll just sort of walk through some of the changes in the various -- set forth in 6 the discussion draft. Part 518.3 has the history 7 of the gaming operations, the TGRA organizational 8 9 chart, employment criteria for the regulators, 10 TGRA funding description, list of the current 11 regulators, and description of the operations 12 accounting system. 13 It also includes a list of the gaming operations internal controls, description of the 14 15 record keeping requirements for investigations, 16 enforcement actions, and prosecutions, copy of the 17 facility license, and tribal gaming regulations, if they're not included in the ordinance. 18 19 518.3 also includes a description of 20 the recordkeeping system for investigations. I'm 21 518.4 for the criteria that must be met to sorry. 2.2 receive a certficate of self-regulation, tribe has to show they conduct gaming with an effective and 23 24 honest accounting of all revenues, reputation for safe, fair, and honest operation, fiscally and 25

criminal or dishonest activity. That the activity has been conducted in compliance with basically Federal law and NIGC regulations and tribal law. And that it has an adequate systems for accounting off all revenues; investigation, licensing, and monitoring of all employees; investigation, enforcement and prosecution of violations of the tribe's gaming ordinance and regulations. Interpret And 518.4(b) walks through how a tribe may illistrate that it's met this criteria by addressing factors such as the adoption and implementation of MICS at least as stringent as NIGC's Class II MICS; that the tribe uses an adequate system for accounting of all gaming revenues; and that the tribe has adequate dispute tribe will also show that it satisfies the criteria for self-regulation by showing that the regulatory body monitors compliance with all of the applicable laws and regulations; that it accounting system; that it audits the Class II gaming activities; and that it receives and	1	economically sound basis, and generally free of
 Federal law and NIGC regulations and tribal law. And that it has an adequate systems for accounting off all revenues; investigation, licensing, and monitoring of all employees; investigation, enforcement and prosecution of violations of the tribe's gaming ordinance and regulations. And 518.4(b) walks through how a tribe may illistrate that it's met this criteria by addressing factors such as the adoption and implementation of MICS at least as stringent as NIGC's Class II MICS; that the tribe uses an adequate system for accounting of all gaming revenues; and that the tribe has adequate dispute resolution processes for employees and customers. Tribe will also show that it satisfies the criteria for self-regulation by showing that the regulatory body monitors compliance with all of the applicable laws and regulations; that it monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues 	2	criminal or dishonest activity. That the activity
5And that it has an adequate systems6for accounting off all revenues; investigation,7licensing, and monitoring of all employees;8investigation, enforcement and prosecution of9violations of the tribe's gaming ordinance and10regulations.11And 518.4(b) walks through how a tribe12may illistrate that it's met this criteria by13addressing factors such as the adoption and14implementation of MICS at least as stringent as15NIGC's Class II MICS; that the tribe uses an16adequate system for accounting of all gaming17revenues; and that the tribe has adequate dispute18resolution processes for employees and customers.19Tribe will also show that it satisfies20the criteria for self-regulation by showing that21the regulatory body monitors compliance with all22of the applicable laws and regulations; that it23accounting system; that it audits the Class II	3	has been conducted in compliance with basically
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9 violations of the tribe's gaming ordinance and 10 regulations. 11 And 518.4(b) walks through how a tribe 12 may illistrate that it's met this criteria by 13 addressing factors such as the adoption and 14 implementation of MICS at least as stringent as 15 NIGC'S Class II MICS; that the tribe uses an 16 adequate system for accounting of all gaming 17 revenues; and that the tribe has adequate dispute 18 resolution processes for employees and customers. 19 Tribe will also show that it satisfies 20 the criteria for self-regulation by showing that 21 the regulatory body monitors compliance with all 22 of the applicable laws and regulations; that it 23 monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues 24 accounting system; that it audits the Class II	7	licensing, and monitoring of all employees;
10 regulations. 11 And 518.4(b) walks through how a tribe 12 may illistrate that it's met this criteria by 13 addressing factors such as the adoption and 14 implementation of MICS at least as stringent as 15 NIGC's Class II MICS; that the tribe uses an 16 adequate system for accounting of all gaming 17 revenues; and that the tribe has adequate dispute 18 resolution processes for employees and customers. 19 Tribe will also show that it satisfies 20 the criteria for self-regulation by showing that 21 the regulatory body monitors compliance with all 22 of the applicable laws and regulations; that it 23 monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues 24 accounting system; that it audits the Class II	8	investigation, enforcement and prosecution of
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20 the criteria for self-regulation by showing that 21 the regulatory body monitors compliance with all 22 of the applicable laws and regulations; that it 23 monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues 24 accounting system; that it audits the Class II	18	resolution processes for employees and customers.
21 the regulatory body monitors compliance with all 22 of the applicable laws and regulations; that it 23 monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues 24 accounting system; that it audits the Class II	19	Tribe will also show that it satisfies
of the applicable laws and regulations; that it monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues accounting system; that it audits the Class II	20	the criteria for self-regulation by showing that
23 monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues 24 accounting system; that it audits the Class II	21	the regulatory body monitors compliance with all
24 accounting system; that it audits the Class II	22	of the applicable laws and regulations; that it
	23	monitors the effectiveness of gaming revenues
25 gaming activities; and that it receives and	24	accounting system; that it audits the Class II
	25	gaming activities; and that it receives and

reviews the revenue accounting information from
 the gaming operation itself.

3 The tribal gaming regulatory body should also show that it inspects and audits 4 5 papers and has access to -- audit access to papers, books, and records; that it has adopted 6 7 and is implementing adequate investigating licensing and monitoring system; that it has 8 adequate licensing record system; and that it has 9 10 established standards for vendors.

We also have set forth that 11 12 establishes and posts Class II game rules. That 13 the regulatory body does this. And the regulatory 14 body also has an adequate system for violation 15 investigations, that it takes appropriate 16 enforcement action, and that it takes testimony 17 and conducts hearing on regulatory matters, and 18 that the tribe adequately funds the regulatory 19 body.

So through 518.4(b) also lists factors that a tribe can address such as demonstrating that the operation is financially stable, has adopted and implemented a system for adequate prosecution, and that the operation is conducted in a manner that protects the environment, public 1 health, and safety.

2	So 518.5 sets forth the process
3	changes to the process of how the Commission will
4	review petitions. Basically within 120 of receipt
5	the Office of Self Regulation will make an initial
6	determination, it will issue a report of its
7	findings, and it will either the Commission
8	will either issue a certificate of self-regulation
9	or advise the tribe that it does not meet the
10	criteria, and if the tribe does not meet the
11	criteria, it may respond to the report, it may
12	request a hearing before the Office of Self
13	Regulation, and a decision to deny a certifcate of
14	self-regulation is appealable to the full
15	Commission.
16	In 518.7 on the annual reporting
17	requirements, this has been streamlined to be more
18	I guess more consistent with just the statutory
19	language itself, which is providing an independent
20	audit and a complete resume of all PMO's and key
21	employees hired and licensed by the tribe, and
22	that the tribe has under 518.8 a continuing duty
23	to inform the Commission of a change in
24	circumstance material to the approval criteria.
25	518.9 is more clarifying than anything

1	else. It's consistent with the statutory
2	language. It's consistent with the current
3	language. It just clarifies that once a
4	certificate of self-regulation is issued that
5	consistent with IGRA the Commission's powers to
6	monitor Class II gaming to inspect and examine
7	premises. Those are the powers that are
8	undertaken by the tribe that has the certificate
9	of self-regulation.
10	The Commission under certificate of
11	self-regulation does retain other investigative
12	and enforcement powers over Class II gaming
13	activities, and also retains the powers to
14	investigate and bring enforcement actions for
15	violations to IGRA, NIGC regulations and tribal
16	gaming ordinances, and that's made clear in 518.9.
17	This is I believe the only discussion
18	draft that we are still seeking written comments
19	on, and that comment period closes at the end of
20	next week. So if folks haven't submitted comments
21	yet, we would encourage you to do so. Does anyone
22	have questions on 518?
23	MS. STEVENS: One of the things that
24	I'd like to just to be clear and we've noticed
25	this in our discussions, our preliminary

1	discussions with tribes, is that self-regulation					
2	for Class II we've had a number of tribes ask us					
3	about self-regulation for Class III, and that's					
4	not what we're addressing. We're addressing Class					
5	II self-regulation.					
б	And up to this point and prior to					
7	having this draft, as Larry mentioned, there were					
8	a number of comments from tribes that said the					
9	process in getting a self-regulation certificate					
10	was so burdensome that it was not worth the					
11	effort, that it was more costly to get it, and the					
12	benefits really pushes to half, and so I think you					
13	pay half of your or just a percentage of your					
14	fees to the NIGC. And so, you know, the cost					
15	benefit ratio wasn't working out for most tribes.					
16	Considering the amount of information					
17	that we were asking for and the process that we					
18	were asking tribes to go through, we didn't get					
19	specific ideas on how to in some instances we					
20	did on how to adjust this, but there just did					
21	not seem to be interest in becoming a					
22	self-regulated tribe.					
23	And then we have a number of tribes					
24	that have hybrid facilities. I think one of the					
25	I think both of them they may have					

1	stand-alone Class II. Grand Ronde and is it					
2	Menominee? are self-regulating tribes that have					
3	self-regulation certficates. We get their reports					
4	every year, but they have stand-alone Class II					
5	facilities and that, you know, we haven't					
6	really talked about how this would work for tribes					
7	who have hybrid facilities where they have a mix					
8	of Class II and Class III on their gaming floor					
9	rather than the stand-alone Class II facility.					
10	Something to think about with regard					
11	to your tribes make up of their gaming operations					
12	on how or if self-regulation would work for your					
13	tribe or if there's an interest. And now that we					
14	have this draft, we certainly wanna take a look at					
15	your comments. Now there's something tribes can					
16	take a look at and see if this would work for them					
17	or if there's any interest. For some tribes					
18	there's not a lot of interest. And did we in this					
19	draft address some of the burdensome processes or					
20	steps that are in place to become and maintain a					
21	self-regulation certificate. So we know that this					
22	has recently come out and we're looking forward					
23	actually to comments on this particular					
24	regulation.					
25	MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Sole proprietary					

interest, I think that this has been a question 1 before the Commission since almost its inception, 2 and the Commission has issued some quidance on it. 3 The notice of inquiry asked whether the Commission 4 5 should consider a regulation that would define sole proprietary interest in the statute and 6 7 provide a process by which a tribe may request review of agreements whether they are consistent 8 9 with sole proprietary interests requirement of 10 IGRA.

11 Some of the comments received in 12 response to the notice of inquiry were that the 13 Commission should promulgate a regulation that 14 would provide for review only if requested by the 15 tribe. Some suggested that the percentages 16 contained in IGRA under both management, 17 contracts, and/or independently owned facilities 18 that they would define the percentages there would 19 give some insight into what might violate the 20 Act's sole proprietary interest requirement. 21 Some comments suggested that if the 2.2 Commission is going to define sole proprietary interest that it should also define primary 23 beneficiary, which is contained in the purposes of 24 25 the Act. Some comments suggested that the

1	Commission should define sole proprietary just
2	because if there is a clear definition out there
3	that this would provide stability and with
4	contracts and access to financing if the
5	Commission were to layout a regulation on the
6	issue. Some thought that depending on how the
7	Commission defined it sole proprietary interest
8	could limit tribal access to capital, and some
9	comments suggested that the Commission should
10	simply let the courts define it and not define it
11	by regulation.
12	We do not have a draft sole
13	proprietary interest definition for preliminary
14	like a preliminary draft. It's as some of you
15	know, it's been addressed through a handful of
16	NOV's and a number of general counsel opinions.
17	So while we don't have a specific comment period
18	on whether the Commission should take this up, we
19	would encourage tribes and the public to submit
20	comments and suggestions on this particular issue.
21	Does anyone have any comments or questions about
22	sole proprietary interest?
23	MS. STEVENS: Just for your
24	consideration, we've heard a lot about this and
25	actually became more of a discussion especially

amongst the attorneys trying to -- I'm sure 1 2 there's something more here. Hang on. MR. ROBERTS: Off the record for a 3 second. 4 5 (Discussion off the record.) MS. STEVENS: We've received a number 6 7 of comments during our last 12 consultations and, you know, we'd be interested in -- as you saw we 8 9 have different views on this particular subject 10 and some number of opinions from the general 11 counsel's office and how do we encapsulate that in 12 a reg, if at all, with a reg. So something to 13 consider. I know that the few folks that are 14 15 here now may not have anything prepared to say, 16 but certainly would be interested in your tribes 17 or the tribes that you represent some of the questions that we posed in our notice of inquiry 18 19 and here would be helpful to inform us on how to 20 proceed. 21 If there's barring any additional 2.2 comments from the folks that are left here, we'll 23 probably just hang out here, but we've just gone 24 through the whole two days agenda today. 25 We understand that there's a lot of

1	other activities going on today and tomorrow while
2	tribes are in town. We will continue to be here
3	through part of the afternoon, and we'll, of
4	course, be here tomorrow morning. In case there
5	are some other folks that show up here today,
6	we'll be here.
7	If you have any questions, please let
8	us know. But, you know, absent any additional
9	comments, I think we'll probably just recess for
10	the time being. Make ourselves available for a
11	bit this afternoon, and we may or may not see
12	either of you here tomorrow. Understandably if
13	you're not able to make it, please visit our
14	website. We're posting as much information that
15	comes in to us. We're sharing these drafts as we
16	have them and are interested in your tribe's
17	comments.
18	So thank you for attending and I
19	appreciate your attention. Thank you.
20	(Whereupon, at 2:03 p.m. the
21	proceedings were concluded for the day.)
22	
23	
24	
25	

	Page 86
1	REPORTER'S CERTIFICATE
2	
3	CERTIFIED that the foregoing
4	eighty-six (86) pages constitutes a true and
5	correct copy of all proceedings which it purports
6	to contain.
7	
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	Stephanie L. Marjamaa
12	Court Reporter
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	My Commission expires
16	1-31-2016.
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1	4 15:1 54:2,8,10,17	559.5 22:21	absence 11:2 38:24
	54:21,22,23 63:8	571 54:11 61:11	absent 53:25 72:6
1 11:18 14:16 16:4,9	64:10	62:5 66:25 67:20	85:8
23:16 25:11,13	5	571.4 68:4	acceptable 22:18
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