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	NIGC REGULATORY REVIEW; December 5, 2011	
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3	NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION	
4	PORTLAND REGION	
5	REGULATORY REVIEW CONSULTATION	
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7	SUQUAMISH CLEARWATER CASINO RESORT	
8	15347 SUQUAMISH WAY NORTHEAST	
9	CHIEF KITSAP HALL	
10	SUQUAMISH, WASHINGTON	
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24	REPORTED BY: CHERYL L. O'HALECK, CCR No. 2226	
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Page 2 SUQUAMISH, WASHINGTON; DECEMBER 5, 2011 1 2 9:10 A.M. 3 --000--4 5 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Good morning. Why don't we go ahead and get started. Feel free to come join us 6 7 at the table, if you'd like. We certainly have the And that way, if you have any questions, you can 8 room. 9 just come right up, have a seat. 10 See, the chairman is -- your hosting chairman 11 is insisting that you come to the table. 12 MR. FORSMAN: I'm not insisting, I was just 13 encouraging. 14 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: I know it seems 15 unnecessary speaking into the microphone, but I 16 understand that we'll be recorded. Are you hooked up to the sound system? 17 18 THE COURT REPORTER: No. 19 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: I want to make sure -this is Cheryl. She's our transcriptionist back here. 20 21 So she will be transcribing today's meeting. 2.2 So before we get started, I'd like to turn 23 over the microphone to Chairman Leonard Forsman from the Suguamish Tribe, whose territory and land that we are on 24 and who has been so gracious to host us. 25

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Chairman?

2 Thanks, Tracie, for bringing the MR. FORSMAN: Commission here to Suguamish, the Port Madison Indian 3 Reservation. A lot of you folks are familiar with us, 4 5 so I don't have to go into great detail of our history, but we did sign a treaty at Point Elliott, and this 6 7 reservation was established by that treaty with Chief Seattle and a number of other chiefs. The reservation 8 was allotted in 1886. And now we are in the business of 9 10 trying to reacquire a lot of the land we lost after it 11 was allotted and sold. So we continue to make that a 12 priority of our tribal government. And of course, 13 gaming and fishing are our primary sources of revenue, and also some taxation, so that we've been able to use 14 15 those resources to reacquire a lot of land that was, in 16 our belief, stolen from us. So I know a lot of the 17 tribes in this room have similar histories and are 18 engaged in the same efforts.

So I want to keep my comments short, because I'm in a council meeting right now. It's been handed over to our vice-chairman, who probably already ended the meeting. So I may have the morning off. He's not as interested in public comment, usually, as I am.

24 But just to let you know that, those who maybe 25 come from out of town, there is lots to do here. We

1 have Chief Seattle's grave site in a cemetery over the hill, and we have our old museum, which is still open, 2 down the street on Sandy Hook Road. We're building a 3 new museum downtown, as well, and our longhouse is down 4 5 there, which is a couple years old, and our dock. It's been a goal of mine to kind of create some new cultural 6 7 presence in Suguamish. So if you haven't been down there in a while, it's definitely changed. 8

9 And there is a number of other towns that we 10 work with in tourism partnerships around here, which are 11 Poulsbo, Port Gamble, and downtown Winslow on Bainbridge 12 Island are a number of nice places to go.

13 So those are some things that we've been 14 involved in a lot as we build our new museum and trying 15 to promote tribal tourism as a part of some of the 16 things that we're also engaged in with our resort and 17 We have a number of other corporate event casino. 18 spaces, including Kiana Lodge, which you've been to, as 19 well.

20 So on behalf of the Suquamish Tribe, a little 21 over 1,000 members, and our seven-member tribal council, 2.2 I'd like to welcome you to Suquamish and thank you for 23 coming to the Suguamish Clearwater Casino Resort. 24

Tracie?

Thank you, Chairman. CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS:

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Page 5 1 Let's take a round here to introduce everybody that's at the table. If we can get the microphone 2 moving around, if you just state your name, your 3 position, and which tribe you represent. 4 5 MR. PURSER: Don Purser, Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe, TGA. 6 7 MS. HENRY: Carol Henry, Port Gamble S'klallam 8 Tribe, compliance. 9 MS. HELM: Linda Helm, Port Gamble S'klallam 10 Tribe, executive director TGA. 11 MR. HANSON: Daniel Hanson, Port Gamble 12 S'klallam, TGA. 13 MS. OGAS: Kathryn Ogas, attorney with Rancheria of California. 14 15 MR. JACKSON: Paul Jackson, Tulalip Tribal 16 Gaming Agency, deputy director of enforcement. 17 MR. NOKES: Bill Nokes, deputy director of 18 accounting for Tulalip TGA. 19 MR. HALSTEAD: Jason Halstead. I'm the executive director of the Nez Perce Tribe's Gaming 20 21 Commission. 2.2 MS. ECHO-HAWK: Lael Echo-Hawk here on behalf of Spokane. 23 24 MR. MATHERLY: Andrew Matherly, Spokane Tribal And I represent the gaming commission chairman, 25 member.

and I'm representing our tribal leaders. MR. FRIAS: Richard Frias. I'm a legislative MR. ALLEN: Jerry Allen, Seven Cedars Casino and Jamestown Sklallam Tribe. MR. ROY HATCH: Roy Hatch, gaming commission MS. BRUNER: Lawana Bruner, Stillaguamish MR. JEFF HATCH: Jeff Hatch, Tulalip Tribal Gaming Agency, DD of licensing. MR. HOENIG: Michael Hoenig. I'm an attorney MR. ROBERTS: Larry Roberts. I'm the General

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16 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: And I'm Tracie Stevens. 17 I'm a member of the Tulalip Tribes, and I am the Chairwoman of the National Indian Gaming Commission. 18

19 Welcome. I'm glad that you all could make it. Many of the tribes at the table, for those of you, 20 21 looking at Kathy and people who are from out of the 2.2 area, these are local tribes here. So you've probably 23 come, aside from us, the farthest. So welcome to the 24 great Northwest from the people, the co-Salish people here and all of the co-Salish here, of which I am one. 25

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coordinator for NICA.

for the Tulalip Tribes.

Tribe, TGA director.

at the NIGC.

Counsel of NIGC.

1 We have an agenda here today. Well, first I want to say thanks to our staff. Rayanne Morris is with 2 our compliance division back there, and Mark Phillips, 3 who is our regional director. Many of you know both 4 Rayanne and Mark. We have, of course, Mike and Larry 5 from our General Counsel's office. We appreciate 6 7 everything everyone has done to help us prepare for 8 these meetings. As is traditional for most people, 9 Indian people here, we want to give thanks to the people 10 who helped us prepare for this meeting and set us up for 11 this meeting. So thank you all for your time.

Also back here is Cheryl. Like I said, she's our transcriptionist. We will be having everyone speak into the microphone. I know it seems awkward because we're all so close together, but we want to make sure that she can hear us.

17 So we have an agenda here today. And before I go on, someone -- the chairman had asked me where the 18 19 other commissioners were. Just so you know how we do this, there are three commissioners, and we take turns 20 21 rotating so that the travel burden isn't on any one of 2.2 And we are coming out to Indian country so that we us. can ease the travel burden on the tribes and try to go 23 24 to the regions. And that way, it's a little more accessible, by region, to attend these meetings. 25

So we bring the staff that we need and try to keep that to a minimum. And then that way, you all get to know all of our commissioners as we go around.

4 So we have this agenda here, if you take a 5 look at it. We've been in the past month or so going through the topics rather quickly because we have been 6 7 on the road since April, May. I've forgotten. There 8 has been 23 consultations as part of our Notice of 9 Regulatory Review. And it has been progressive on all 10 the topics that are here today, where we've started with 11 discussions, then we went to a discussion draft. That. 12 was informed by the meetings we had with tribes. The 13 discussion drafts morphed into what are now Notices of 14 Proposed Rules.

15 So we've heard comments before we drafted, 16 then we drafted, then we heard more comments on the 17 draft. And on some of these we're at the stage of 18 Notice of Proposed Rules. So you'll see a mix in your 19 packet of Federal Register publications and discussion drafts, and then on the agenda there are some that do 20 21 not have a draft at all, we're still in the discussion 2.2 phase.

23 So they should be in the order that they 24 appear on the agenda. And I want to thank the staff 25 here regionally who has done a great job organizing this so that it's easier on the reader to follow along as we move along through the agenda.

3 At any time, and we understand that there are many other things that you all may need to do today, we 4 5 leave time in the agenda should anybody come with a prepared statement on any part of the agenda. We will 6 7 qo, in terms of our presentation and discussion, we will go in the order of the agenda, but we also understand 8 9 that, for the sake of time, there may be individuals 10 that cannot stay and may have something they need to say 11 about something further along in the agenda. So we do 12 have breaks in here where we open the floor for comments 13 on any parts of the agenda.

You'll see, and Larry will go over this, that 14 we will not be going over the Minimum Internal Control 15 16 Standards for Class II or Class III or the Technical 17 Standards for Class II machine play. That was a decision that the Commission made in July and August, to 18 19 move those to a parallel track with the Tribal Advisory Committee, which will be meeting over the next three 20 21 days after today.

But it does still leave us quite a bit to talk about. So fear not, there will be plenty to talk about, especially when we get to the part about proceedings before the Commission. So that's really exciting for

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2

1 the lawyers.

2	So that's the agenda. We will move along as	
3	the group you know, it all depends on who is in the	
4	group and what people have to say. But we may move	
5	faster, we may move slower. We'll leave it to the	
6	group. And we should be able to get through all the	
7	topics today and let you know where we're at.	
8	So if it's time, are there any individuals who	
9	have come with a prepared statement that you want to	
10	read to the record?	
11	Okay. Since we don't have any takers, I'll	
12	turn it over to Larry Roberts, our General Counsel. And	
13	he'll be going through Group 1 on the agenda and the	
14	subjects under Group 1.	
15	MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Good morning, everyone.	
16	My name is Larry Roberts, and I'm a member of the Oneida	
17	Nation of Wisconsin. And as the Chairwoman said, we're	
18	going to go through the PowerPoint. It should be in	
19	your materials, as well, and then we'll open it up for	
20	discussion for Group 1.	
21	So just a couple of housekeeping points. We	
22	want to make clear that tribal consultation is a	
23	dialogue between tribal governments and the federal	
24	governments, and only tribes that are designees can	
25	attend and participate in these meetings. They are not	

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1 open to the public.

2 When the Commission went forward with the regulatory review agenda, they took into account 3 Executive Order 13,175, which talks about policymaking 4 5 criteria and directs tribal agencies, when determining to -- whether to establish federal standards, to consult 6 7 with tribes on the need for those federal standards and any alternatives that would preserve the prerogatives 8 9 and authority of Indian tribes. So that's what we're 10 doing today.

11 When the Commission went through with the 12 regulatory review agenda, we asked tribes and the public 13 for comment on which regulations the Commission should review and in what order. And from that comment that we 14 received from tribes and the public, the Commission 15 16 moved forward with these various groups, Groups 1, 2, 3, 17 4 and 5, and took into account many different factors; the subject matter; like I said, the comments we 18 19 received in response to the notice of inquiry; and the estimated time and resources it would take to get 20 21 through each group.

They don't indicate priorities. There is -some of the groups, the regulations we have circulated drafts in some of the groups and some of the groups we have not. But they don't indicate a priority, they are grouped in terms of what the Commission thought would
 make sense in terms of regulatory review.

3 There has been three phases for those of you who have been following the consultations. We have put 4 5 forward a number of preliminary drafts before even going forward with a proposed rule. And so the Commission has 6 7 circulated a number of preliminary drafts for comment, and now, for a few of these rules that we'll talk about 8 9 later today, the Commission has moved forward to a 10 proposed rule and it has been published in the Federal 11 Register seeking comment. And then once the Commission 12 receives comment on those rules, on those proposals, 13 they'll consider the comments and decide whether to move 14 forward with the final rule and how to make changes to 15 that rule, if any.

16 So as the Chairwoman mentioned, all 17 consultations are transcribed. One of the purposes of 18 that is that for those of you that are following the 19 regulatory review process, you may not be able to attend some or all consultations, and so you can go right to 20 21 our Web site and click on the transcripts and sort of 2.2 see what the conversation was in the consultation for 23 that day and what issues were tribes sharing and suggesting to the Commission. So not only are the 24 transcripts on the Web site, but the written comments 25

1 are also on the Web site.

2	The Commission has made a commitment to tribes	
3	that every comment that it receives will be reviewed and	
4	considered, that both the proposed rule and the final	
5	rule will include a summary of comments, discussing the	
6	comments that were received by the Commission, as well	
7	as why or why not the Commission decided to accept the	
8	comment. And the Commission is committed to a clear,	
9	transparent process.	
10	So as you'll see in the agenda today, there	
11	are a number as I mentioned earlier, there are five	
12	different groups. Group 1 is what we're going to talk	
13	about this morning. It covers fees that the agency	
14	assesses on tribal gaming operations, Part 523, which	
15	governs the review and approval of existing ordinances,	
16	the Facility License Notifications, and Buy Indian	
17	regulation. And then later today we'll talk later	
18	this morning we'll talk about Group 2, which is	
19	enforcement issues as well as the rules for proceedings	
20	before the Commission.	
21	As the Chairwoman mentioned, Group 3, the	
22	Class II Minimum Internal Controls, the Class III	
23	Minimum Internal Controls and the Technical Standards,	
24	the Commission is utilizing the TAC. The TAC is going	
25	to be meeting here over the next few days. We're the	

Commission wants the TAC to provide advice to the Commission's review. And then what the Commission will do is it will review that advice that they receive from the TAC, and then decide whether and how to move forward with amendments to those regulations and those parts. And then the Commission will engage in a consultation process on any changes there.

8 Group 4 covers background investigations for 9 primary management officials and key employees and 10 gaming licenses for those officials. It's basically 11 trying to incorporate a pilot program that's been in 12 place for some time. Part 571, monitoring and 13 investigations, and then Part 537, dealing with 14 background investigations.

And Group 5 is self regulation of Class II gaming and whether the Commission should move forward with some sort of regulation on sole propriety interest.

So Group 1, Part 514, this is one of the groups where we've had a proposed rule that's been issued. Proposed rules for Part 514 and 523 were both issued on October 12th. The closing period for that comment deadline is a week from today. And then we also have in this group 559 and the Buy Indian regulation.

24 So in your packet of materials that you 25 received this morning, you should have a copy of

Part 514, the proposed rule. If you don't have a copy
 of that, please raise your hand and we'll get you a
 copy.

So a couple of changes in the proposed rule,
to highlight --

6 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: It's after the blue, if 7 everybody got it, it's after the blue. Okay, sorry. Go 8 ahead.

9 MR. ROBERTS: A couple of proposed changes in 10 the rule. One is after -- based on comments that we 11 received on the preliminary draft and these 12 consultations, the proposed rule proposes to have the 13 fee calculation based on a gaming operation's fiscal 14 year rather than the calendar year.

I think the idea behind that is for -- you know, a number of gaming operations have -- their fiscal year differs from their calendar year. So to make it easier for gaming operations to calculate their fees, it would provide for tribes, if they wanted to, to change the gaming operation's fiscal year.

It provides for a fee rate to be published on March 1st. We're hoping that by publishing the fee rate on March 1st, we'll have a more accurate fee rate.

And the other suggested change is to remove amortization from Section 514.1(b)(ii) to reflect

existing practices. In our consultations with tribes and our comments from the public, we've received suggestions that removing amortization from that section is actually consistent with existing practices and isn't necessarily a substantive change.

50 if there is -- if there is anyone that has 7 concerns about that change, please let us know in the 8 context of this conversation or during -- you can submit 9 written comments to the Commission itself.

10 The proposed rule provides for quarterly 11 payments, which is more consistent with the actual text 12 of IGRA, and a notification period if the gaming 13 operation changes its fiscal year, providing notice to 14 NIGC just so that we know that you've made that change.

15 One of the substantive changes to the 16 proposed -- or to the rule itself, to Part 514, is a new 17 section providing for late payments prior to the issuance of a Notice of Violation. And so Section 514.9 18 19 establishes that late payment system, that payments are made within 90 days of when they were -- when they're 20 21 due, and then the late payments are assessed a fee, 2.2 depending on how late in time they are. And it's a 23 percentage of what is due.

514.9 provides for appeals of the late payment
assessment. And after 90 days, if -- if there is still

1	nonpayment, then that constitutes a failure to pay an
2	annual fee, which, at that point in time, the
3	Commission or the Chair could move forward with a
4	Notice of Violation and a civil fine assessment.

5 So what we've heard from tribes and the public 6 is that sometimes fee payments may be sent in late for 7 issues beyond the control of the tribe, and that an NOV 8 is obviously a serious step. And so this proposed 9 change is to account for those situations where a tribe, 10 for whatever reason, may be a little late in paying 11 their fee but it doesn't result in an actual NOV.

Also, as I'm sure many of you are aware, NIGC processes fingerprints for tribes. And so this section, 514.15 through 514.17, clarifies our collection of fees process. And we'll publish our fee amount biannually. And that fee amount is just based on the cost of what the FBI charges us to process those fingerprints.

As I mentioned, the comment period closes next
Monday. So please send any written comments in by next
Monday.

21 MR. MATHERLY: Andrew Matherly. Can you hear 22 me? 23 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Yes.

24 MR. MATHERLY: Andrew Matherly. One thing we 25 want to comment on is the proposed rule, it talks about

the statements for 30 -- or for 1 to 30 calendar days,
 it's goes up to ten percent of the amount of the fee.

3 The Spokane Tribe, we are were supportive of the proposed rule. The addition of the ticket system, 4 5 what we comment on is the -- we've stated this before, 6 is the penalty to start at one percent for statements or 7 fees 1 to 30 days, calendar days, and up to two percent for statements or fees 31 to 60 calendar days, and five 8 percent for statements or fees up to 61, and then from 9 10 61 to 90, up to 25 percent for a situation where 11 statements or fees are over 91 days late. I just want 12 to make that on record.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay. All right. We're move ahead to Part 523. This part, the Commission has proposed rescinding this part. This part only applies to tribal gaming ordinances that were enacted prior to January 22nd, 1993 and have not yet been submitted to NIGC for approval.

So we don't know of any tribal gaming ordinances out there that this part would apply to. If you think you have an ordinance that was passed in 1993 that hasn't yet been approved by the Commission, please let us know. So we're taking comments on this until next Monday, as well.

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Part 559, Facility License Notifications, this

1 is a discussion draft. The Commission has circulated a 2 discussion draft for comment to -- from tribes and the 3 public. And in the discussion draft, it provides for a 4 tribe to request an expedited review when a Facility 5 License Notification is sent in.

And basically, what it attempts to do is there are certain times where a tribe will send us a Facility License Notification and will say, "We intend to open in 60 days. Can you please let us know if you have all the information that you need for Part 559?"

And what we have done in the past is, where we have that information and we can confirm that we have everything we need under Part 559, we'll send the tribe a letter. So this tries to incorporate that process through regulation.

The discussion draft provides for licenses to be sent to NIGC within 30 days of issuance. That is so we are able to track which facilities are actually open or not. Which facilities are licensed, I should say.

And then the other change in the draft is 559 -- the current regulations provide for tribes to provide copies of -- or basically, a statement of all of the laws and regulations that the tribe has in place to adequately protect the environment, public health and safety. And the discussion draft sets forth, rather

1	than having tribes pull together all of that
2	information, that the tribe attest that it has that
3	the construction and maintenance of the facility and
4	operation is conducted in a manner that adequately
5	protects the environment, public health and safety.
6	One of the questions one of the other
7	changes in the discussion draft is notice to NIGC when
8	the license is terminated or expires, or if a facility
9	closes permanently or for more than 180 days.
10	So what we've asked tribes about is what about
11	these temporary closures or seasonal closures. And the
12	discussion draft lays out 180 days, but we're seeking
13	comment from tribes as to how long that temporary
14	closure period should be where you won't have to provide
15	notice. Notice is not required for seasonal closures.
16	So that would be less than 180 days.
17	559.6 provides for additional information to
18	be provided if requested by the Chair. It sets forth
19	that electronic submissions are accepted. And we have
20	closed the comment period on the discussion draft on
21	June 17th, 2011. But if anyone is interested in the
22	comments that the agency received in writing, they're
23	all on our Web site, as well as the transcripts from
24	that consultation period.
25	The last reg as part of the Group 1 is a Buy

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Indian regulation. We -- the Commission asks, as part of the Notice of Inquiry to tribes and the public as to what regulation they should look at, the Commission asks that we look at a Buy Indian regulation which would require NIGC to Buy Indian when purchasing goods, services supported by various sections within IGRA itself.

8 This would be a regulation that would, again, 9 apply to NIGC. It wouldn't require tribes to Buy Indian, it would require NIGC to do so. And we're 10 11 seeking comment on -- during the consultation process, 12 some tribes have said, "Yeah, you should adopt a 13 regulation doing this." Some tribes have said, "You 14 should do quidance." Some tribes have said, you know, it doesn't -- the Commission should look at it. 15

So we have been taking more comment on that and would like any input tribes have on how the Commission should proceed with this, with whether they should proceed with a Buy Indian regulation.

20 And I'm going to turn it back over to the 21 Chairwoman and open it up for comment.

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Okay. So we've gone over Group 1, at least the PowerPoint presentation. We have one comment from Spokane regarding the percentages on late penalty assessments under 514. And I do want to

Page 22 clarify, Andrew, if you don't mind. 1 2 MR. MATHERLY: Okay. 3 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: I got lost at the last Your suggestion was, on 514, 514.9, one percent 4 part. 5 for up to 30 days. 6 MR. MATHERLY: Yes. 7 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: One to 30 days. Two percent, 31 to 60 days. 8 9 MR. MATHERLY: Correct. 10 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Five percent, 61 to 90 11 days. 12 MR. MATHERLY: Yes. 13 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: And then 91-plus days, 14 25 percent. 15 MR. MATHERLY: Yes. 16 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Do we have any other 17 comments or questions about 514 and the notice of 18 proposed rule? Yes, if you would pass the microphone 19 down. 20 MR. HANSON: Daniel Hanson, Port Gamble 21 S'klallam Tribal Gaming. 2.2 A quick question regarding Part 514. I was 23 wondering if there was -- any consideration has been 24 given to updating the definition of gross gaming revenue? There is no specific examples of what is 25

1 includable and excludable.

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Actually, that's a very 2 good question. I think we were going to talk about this 3 in a minute, but I'll let Larry address that question, 4 5 because we actually have been considering it for a while. And we'll give you the history on this. 6 MR. ROBERTS: We have been consulting with 7 tribes on that issue, with the definition within IGRA 8 9 itself. We're wondering from tribes how would you 10 define it, would you define it consistent with GAAP, the 11 definition within the statute itself, you know, how can 12 the Commission move forward. 13 So the Commission is not proposing defining it at this point in time, but if you have suggestions on 14 15 how the Commission should, we'd be happy to consider 16 that. 17 MR. HANSON: I guess one thing I notice when I 18 look at the definition is there hasn't been any, I 19 quess, clear quidance on what exactly is includable and excludable. So not as far as defining it in the course 20 21 of generally accepted accounting principles, but looking 2.2 at what promotional activity can be deducted and what's 23 included in the actual calculation when assessing fees. Yes. And I think our audits 24 MR. ROBERTS: division may have guidance on that itself. 25 It's

something that, if we don't have clear guidance on it, it's something that we should consider. I don't think we have anyone from audits here today.

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: No, but generally what
happens, our audit staff and our comptroller,
interestingly, spent quite a bit of time on the phone
helping in aiding tribes with their worksheets and what
is or is not deductible.

9 I think -- and we were going to talk about 10 this in a bit. What we have talked about is the 11 definition of net revenue. And we decided not to talk 12 about that or address that in regulation, because it is 13 defined in the Act. But it doesn't necessarily talk 14 about gross gaming revenue and promotions. But there 15 certainly is a way for us to address that through 16 guidance or through working regularly with staff at the 17 NIGC, either in audits or our comptroller's office, who goes over and collects the worksheets and the fees. 18

MR. HOENIG: Also -- this is Michael Hoenig. I think in the past when questions like this came up, Joe Smith, the former director of audits, had some guidance that he had put together. And I don't think it ever went out as a bulletin, but I'd have to double check on that. But I know that he would send guidance out to people who asked about all different things that

1 go into the calculation, things that are left out. And that's something that I think we've talked 2 3 internally about putting up on the Web site at some point, too, but it's something I think we need to go 4 5 through a little more, also, and especially if we're going to be making any changes to the fee regulation, 6 7 make sure that everything is consistent. 8 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: And we would certainly be 9 open to hearing your tribe's comments on that that would inform how we would put a bulletin or a guidance out. 10 MS. HENRY: Hi, Tracie. Carol Henry from the 11 12 Port Gamble S'klallam Tribe. 13 Actually, our CFO has been in contact with the 14 audit department and has not been able to get a clear definition for what can be included and excluded. 15 So 16 it's a little frustrating out there, especially for 17 regulators, to try to supply help, too. So if some 18 concrete guidelines could be provided. 19 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Thank you for letting us We'll certainly address that with our staff 20 know that. 21 and inform tribes so we can put information out there 2.2 that's consistent. So I don't know if you want to add anything to 23 24 that, Larry, but that's good to know. We need to know 25 if you're not getting clear messages from our divisions.

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Do we have any other comments? We certainly have a number of parts here that we can talk about. 514 on fees, any input that you can give on how this might affect your tribe?

5 One of the reasons, just some background, we 6 wanted to address the late fees, the majority of the 7 NOVs that are on the books at the NIGC, like 66 percent 8 of them, are for late fees. NOVs are substantial 9 violations, and tribes take them seriously, and anybody 10 you try to do business with takes them very seriously.

11 And in discussing this with our comptroller, 12 in discussing this with him, what he has found is that 13 in most cases, it is not willful noncompliance to pay 14 There is usually some reason why that is out of fees. 15 the control of the tribe. A change in personnel is the 16 number one reason, not knowing how to go through the 17 worksheets with this new person or the absence of that 18 person for some reason. That's the main reason that 19 we've heard. And he is always working with tribes in getting this -- any new personnel up to speed on the 20 21 worksheet and how to calculate.

The second reason has usually to do with closures or natural disasters, things that were out of their control.

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So we wanted to look at this in another way.

1	There is plenty of other ways that we see how late	
2	payments or anything that you owe money on manifests	
3	itself. And in looking at other independent federal	
4	regulatory agencies, they do have these systems in	
5	place. So this is a new concept. And it becomes	
6	incremental with the last step. If noncompliance and	
7	fees were just never paid, then there can be the action	
8	of an NOV. But we do want to try to address problems	
9	before they escalate to a very substantial black mark on	
10	the tribe's record.	
11	Well, we've had one comment on the	
12	percentages. Do we have any other comments on the	
13	percentages?	
14	And I apologize if you do not I apologize.	
15	The draft that you have on facility I'll get to that	
16	in a minute. I apologize. We'll talk about that in a	
17	minute.	
18	If there aren't any more comments on 514	
19	MR. ROBERTS: I just want to follow up on the	
20	comment about gross gaming revenue. You know, one of	
21	the things that the Commission put out in its in the	
22	proposed rule making about fees itself is the statutory	
23	language in IGRA defines gross gaming revenue in such a	
24	way that it doesn't clearly speak to promotions.	
25	And so we would really welcome any comment	

1	that tribog would have in terms of how the Commission	
	that tribes would have in terms of how the Commission	
2	itself could interpret the statutory language to clarify	
3	those sort of things, because the statutory language	
4	itself, basically, provides for defines gross gaming	
5	revenue as the total amount of money wagered less any	
6	amounts paid out for prizes and paid for prizes awarded.	
7	And so that's in 2717(c) I'm sorry,	
8	2717(a)(6).	
9	CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Any comments on 559 on	
10	facility license? The one that's in the draft form, I	
11	do want to apologize on that. The draft you have does	
12	not have the 180 days inserted on 559.5. But that's	
13	what we're thinking, is six months, based on our	
14	discussions on the road. So it's on the flip side of	
15	this colorful draft you have. It's a two-pager on one	
16	page.	
17	The main departure on this particular	
18	regulation is the amount of records or duplication that	
19	the tribe has to go through to submit facility	
20	licensing. And so that has been taken out and replaced	
21	with an attestation from the tribal government that	
22	public health and safety is adequately protected.	
23	MS. HELM: Linda Helm of Port Gamble S'klallam	
24	TGA.	
25	Would I be correct in assuming if you're	

1 expanding your facility, you would not need to treat it 2 as if it were a new facility and notify the NIGC that 3 you're opening it?

MR. ROBERTS: If you're just expanding, if
it's under -- if it's all connected in one place as
opposed to like a separate parcel, a separate facility,
then it would just be one license.

8 MS. HELM: What if it's just connected by a
9 breezeway?

10 MR. ROBERTS: I think it's something we want 11 to talk about. And I think it's going to depend on the 12 specifics of the situation itself.

13 And so, you know, I think, generally, we'd 14 want to know the tribe's views on whether, you know, it's one facility. It sounds like it's sort of -- the 15 16 breezeway, it sounds like tax-exempt issues there with the IRS and that sort of thing. But for the facility 17 18 license stuff, I think we'd like to talk with you. 19 Melissa Schlichting is the regional attorney here. I 20 don't know if you've had any contact with her at all, 21 but she would be the first point of contact there. 2.2 MS. HELM: Could you spell her last name? I'll just give you her contact 23 MR. ROBERTS: information at the break, if that's okay. 24

MS. HELM: Sure.

25

MR. MATHERLY: Spokane Tribe, Andrew Matherly.
 Can you hear me?

The comment I have on the Facility License Notification or even the renewal process, it doesn't outline in here whether a tribe does it in one year or two years, correct?

7 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Right. We've left that 8 to the tribe, to determine how long their licenses are 9 and when they terminate and when they renew. So the way 10 this is laid out, you would need to tell us if they've 11 renewed or they've expired or you've terminated them or 12 you've suspended them, rather than us saying it's three 13 years.

14MR. MATHERLY: So just as long as we're within15the 30 days of issuance of a renewed license?

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Yes.

MR. MATHERLY: The other question is is there a generalized checklist that the NIGC is going to utilize when they discuss the health and environmental stuff, protecting the health and safety?

21 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: We would certainly -- go 22 ahead. We would certainly consider that, if that would 23 be helpful. And certainly we would have to put out some 24 guidance when new regs come out, especially when there 25 is a departure from, you know, what has been submitted

16

1 previously.

2 MR. ROBERTS: The regs right now lay out a 3 list of different criteria. The discussion draft 4 proposes that the tribe just attests to that as opposed 5 to sending in all that information itself.

MR. MATHERLY: Okay. One thing that's 6 7 helpful -- because with the Spokane Tribe we have a 8 tribal-state compact with the State of Washington. They also have their health and safety. It's kind of broad 9 10 stuff in our tribal-state compact. We just want to be 11 on the same page, I guess, with both entities so that 12 one isn't saying that you've got to follow the Uniform 13 Building Code and the other one is following a different 14 code. Our tribes adopted the code they're going to use, 15 and we just don't want to conflict and be out of 16 compliance with the checklist or anything.

17 So I think it would be helpful, if there is 18 new checklists, if they could be forwarded to the tribe. 19 You know, we've used them in the past to generalize, 20 assist us to keep us in compliance. And from experience 21 with NIGC, not this administration, many years ago, NIGC 22 would have the checklist but they wouldn't let the 23 tribes see it.

There was one moment when we actually -- they said we can look at it, so I handed the checklist to the director as we're walking through the facility. So it's a tool for us if we could see the information to incorporate what needs to be done. So I haven't seen that with this administration.

5 And I also want to applaud this Commission for 6 listening to the tribes, having this opportunity and 7 these consultations and this rule making and making a 8 change. So thank you.

9 MR. ROBERTS: Thank you. We appreciate that 10 comment.

One of the things that would be helpful to know is what we've received. We've received similar comments to yours from other tribes, basically saying that our compacts already deal with health and safety issues and that this is really a duplicative issue or duplicative requirement and we think it could be streamlined and made better.

So the Commission, I think, is, in terms of 18 19 any comments that tribes have with regard to how -- how 20 the facility licensing process has worked specifically 21 with the public health and safety and how that can be 2.2 strengthened and improved and streamlined, if necessary, 23 you know, reducing paperwork for tribes, we would 24 greatly appreciate those comments. So thank you. 25 Okay. And one of the CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS:

1 other things I want to talk about is, and actually, you know, Andrew had -- there were two things, but Andrew 2 opened up the one about when the renewals are and 3 clarifying that it's subject to the tribe's 4 5 consideration or gaming ordinances. But the other thing is the temporary closures. I know Spokane closes during 6 7 the winter months, and other tribes do the same thing. They're seasonal, whether it's winter or summer. 8

9 But also, the other thing that we've been 10 seeing, unfortunately, for some tribes in other parts of 11 the country is that they have been forced to close 12 because of natural disasters, flooding or tornadoes, 13 fires, and then, of course, expansions or remodels, and 14 when is "temporary" temporary.

And we do want to draw a line in the sand on, you know, it gets to be too much time, where you don't have to renew a license or notify us. That it's, you know, just temporary and not to exceed a certain amount of time is 180 days -- what we were hearing is 180 days, six months. You know, that works. But if you have any comments on that, we'd like to hear them.

This is well-trod ground. We've been working on this for a while, so I understand there may not be a lot of comments.

If there is not anything else on 559, I do

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1 want to just quickly talk about Buy Indian and I want to clarify again that this is not something that we're 2 suggesting that we impose on tribes, because we're not 3 able to. But this is a policy that we would like to 4 5 adopt for the agencies, the federal agency that does business with Indians and only Indians. Our authority 6 7 is with tribes. And we thought it would be a good 8 practice.

9 It's something that happens over at the Bureau 10 of Indian Affairs, it's something that happens at Indian 11 Health Service. There is two authorities. One is under 12 the Buy Indian Act, the other one is within IGRA. And 13 it's mentioned in your PowerPoint.

14 So when we go out and, for example, when we 15 hold these consultations, we're at an Indian facility. 16 And to try to keep with the spirit of the purposes of 17 IGRA, which is to promote economic development in the 18 Indian country and support economic growth of tribes, we 19 believe that it's appropriate for this agency to solicit services and products from Indian country, as we know 20 more and more native vendors exist out there that we 21 2.2 certainly could use.

We're looking at how we could structure this, both in terms of which authority to use or both, either under the Indian -- Buy Indian Act or under IGRA, and

whether it should be a policy, internal policy or a
 regulation.

3 So again, I want to be clear, I'm not saying 4 the tribes need to do this. This is something that 5 we're looking at imposing on the agency itself.

6 Okay. Did we -- do you want to go on to the 7 next part, which is proceedings before the Commission? 8 Do you want to take a quick break first, a quick 9 telephone, coffee, restroom break and then we can come 10 back and go right at this really exciting section of 11 proceedings before the Commission?

How many attorneys are here? Two. Four. So let's take a quick 15-minute break, we'll come back at 10:15, and we'll start on the next section.

(Recess taken.)

16 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Okay. If everyone could 17 take their seats.

18 So let's go to the next part of the morning on 19 Group 2. We're going to talk about Part 573 and enforcement, and a new chapter, which would be 20 21 subchapter H, under proceedings before the Commission. 2.2 So I'll turn it over to Larry to talk about that point. 23 Okay. So we'll start with MR. ROBERTS: 24 Part 573. Earlier this year, the Commission circulated a discussion draft. One of the things that the 25

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1 Commission had heard from tribes during the Notice of Inquiry and just since the time that they've been here 2 is that sometimes tribes would receive a Notice of 3 Violation and they would be completely surprised by it. 4 5 And what the Chairwoman and this Commission has been very clear about is that their approach to regulating 6 7 the industry is to basically assist tribes to try to achieve compliance, and only if compliance efforts are 8 9 not successful, proceed with an enforcement action. And 10 so that an enforcement action should never come as a 11 surprise to a tribe, because the Commission should be working with the tribe to achieve compliance at the 12 13 outset, and then if compliance isn't successful, then an 14 NOV.

So what this Part 573 discussion draft lays 15 16 out is sort of that pre-enforcement action, if there are 17 concerns by the Commission, that a letter of concern go out to the tribe that provides sort of here are some 18 19 issues that we see, there are maybe some noncompliance It can indicate an incident or condition that 20 issues. 21 may be a violation, and it confirms sort of what the 2.2 notice would provide, that this is NIGC's view, here are 23 some necessary corrective action, and engaging in a 24 dialogue with the tribe and the regulatory body at the outset to see how the issue can be addressed. 25
1 This pre-enforcement action process that's 2 laid out in the discussion draft makes it clear that it's not a final agency action, that the compliant --3 the letter or the notice would provide some sort of time 4 5 period to achieve voluntary compliance. And then what the discussion draft lays out is if corrective action 6 7 isn't completed, that an enforcement action could be 8 taken. 9 The discussion draft also lays out that there 10 may be circumstances where the Chair may not -- may need 11 to act sooner and may have to issue an actual Notice of 12 Violation if it's some sort of, depending on the 13 situation, some sort of exigent situation. So that's the discussion draft that's been 14 15 circulated. If there are any comments on Part 573 and 16 the discussion draft, the Commission has not yet moved 17 forward with the proposed rule, at this point, but 18 certainly would welcome any comments. 19 MS. HELM: Linda Helm, Port Gamble TGA. 20 I would request that not only the tribe be 21 notified but also the regulatory body. I know in the 2.2 past we haven't always been -- the information hasn't 23 been communicated to the regulatory agency. And so I'd 24 just like to ensure that we receive it, as well. Thank you, Linda. 25 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: That's

actually an issue that we've been talking about actually since we first came into office, about who we should be communicating with. And we've -- not just in terms of these policy discussions here with regard to consultation, where we're try to cast a very broad net, but who at the tribe specifically.

We deal with tribal governments, and that's who -- that's the body and the entity that we're authorized under the Act to deal with. And so we do need to send it to the tribe itself. But we also understand that the tribe receives quite a bit of information and, for whatever reason, that may not get communicated.

What I did hear previously from tribal leaders, because there is a flip side to that, that if, you know, we were just sending it to the regulatory body, then the tribal government had no idea what was happening. And it's really their prerogative to know as the governing body of the tribe.

20 So we are trying to send them to both. If I 21 look at Larry and Mike, we try to send them to both now. 22 But certainly we need to do the best that we can to make 23 sure that both bodies know. It's a good point. Thank 24 you.

25

Any other comments on 573? This, again,

reiterating what Larry had said, this is our effort to 1 2 assist tribes to come to compliance before an enforcement action. And NOVs are serious and they 3 shouldn't be a surprise. And we want to do what we can 4 5 to work with tribes to bring them into compliance. And that may come in the form of training and technical 6 7 assistance, which we offer quite a bit, individualized guidance for the tribe. And this is just our way of 8 9 making more concrete our effort to remedy situations. Rather than escalate to NOV, we want to de-escalate. 10

MS. HELM: That's appreciated.

12 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: And I know many tribes 13 already do this. They have it in their own gaming 14 ordinances or in their own controls that are above and 15 beyond what's required by the NIGC as an incremental 16 step process to bring the operations into compliance. 17 So I know for many of you it's not new.

We will talk later, this is the front end, on NOVS. There is another section we're going to talk about on -- later in our discussion today about what happens at the back end of an investigation, again, making an effort to notify in advance that there is a problem, and also we'll talk about how we close those out later on.

Okay. If there are no other comments on 573,

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we're -- like Larry said, the comments on this discussion draft closed a while ago, but we've been working on putting out, possibly soon I hope, a notice of proposed rule that encompasses the comments that we received on the discussion draft soon.

You ready? We'll go into the great world of
proceedings before the Commission. I'm just building it
up. It's exciting.

9 MR. ROBERTS: Okay, proceedings before the 10 Commission. In your packet of materials, what is 11 probably the thickest draft here is a new subchapter H, 12 "Proceedings before the Commission." What we've tried 13 to do is consolidate a number of different parts into a 14 new subchapter so that, you know, each -- each part, 15 like approval of ordinances and approval of management 16 contracts, have their own appeals rules and you don't 17 have to go back and forth between different parts. This would organize it all in one subchapter. So the 18 19 subchapter is organized where there is general rules of application of proceedings before the Commission. 20 And 21 it, you know, goes through things such as definitions.

Then Part 581 is motions and appellate proceedings before the Commission, laying out the process of how to file motions in appellate proceedings before the Commission.

1 Part 582 lays out appeals of disapprovals of gaming ordinances. Part 583 in the draft would cover 2 3 approvals or disapprovals of management contracts, appeals of those. Part 584 would be appeals before a 4 5 presiding official of a Notice of Violation, proposed civil fine assessments. And then Part 585 is 6 7 actually -- covers appeals before the Commission on written submissions, where there is not a presiding 8 9 official, for example. 10 So basically, I guess let me step back and say 11 that when we started with the Commission, in going 12 through the Notice of Inquiry and talking with staff on 13 what regulations should be addressed by the Commission, a lot of folks in the Office of General Counsel said. 14 15 you know, it would be nice to have these all organized 16 in one subchapter that you can go to. And there are a 17 lot of issues that may not be all that exciting in your day-to-day activities, but once you're in an appeal, we 18 19 don't really have set forth in regs all of the questions that have come up over the course of the existence of 20

21 the agency, in terms of how to handle appeals.

And so what we've tried to do is clean up our appeals process quite a bit and try to have -- fill in those basic steps and provide guidance to tribal gaming commissions, tribes, attorneys in how appeals before the

Commission would be handled so you don't have to pick up
 the phone all the time with someone in the Office of
 General Counsel and say, "Well, how do I file a motion
 before the Commission?" It's right here in this
 proposed subchapter.

So Part 580 is, like I said, basic issues such 6 7 as definitions, how the Commission will go about addressing either a suspension, revocation, amendment or 8 9 waiver of rules, who may appear before the Commission, 10 how service is effectuated, and how the Commission may 11 handle ex parte communications. And we have received 12 quite a few comments on the discussion draft with regard 13 to ex parte communications.

And so I think what the Commission is doing 14 now is we've compiled a lot of the information on the 15 16 discussion draft, and the Commission is evaluating how 17 to move forward with a proposed rule. And so all of 18 these issues, again, if you didn't have an opportunity to comment on the discussion draft, the proposed rule 19 would go out and, more likely than not, you'll have 60 20 21 days to provide comments on the proposed rule. And we 2.2 would encourage everyone to do so.

Part 581 is the motions practice on
proceedings before the Commission. So motion for
limited participation in ordinance appeals, how to

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effectuate motions to intervene and appeal before a residing official, how to file motions for the written submissions. Basically, Part 581 encapsulates all of the general procedural rules for filing a motion, including motions for reconsideration and motions to supplement the record.

7 Part 582 relates to approvals -- or disapprovals, I should say, of ordinances, resolutions 8 9 or amendments to gaming ordinances, who may appeal the 10 disapproval, how to appeal that disapproval, what 11 happens if there is a late filing or a failure to file 12 an appeal, again, motions for limited participation, the 13 standard of review that will be applied on an appeal of a disapproval, the decision, and then making clear when 14 15 final agency action occurs.

16 The same thing with Part 583 for management 17 contracts. Again, just setting forth the process, who 18 may appeal, how to appeal, dealing with late filings, 19 failure to file, motions for limited participation, again, the standard of review that would be applied, 20 21 decision, and when final agency action occurs. So this 2.2 basically lays out the entire process for approvals or 23 disapprovals of management contracts or amendments 24 thereto.

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Part 584, so appeals before a presiding

1 official of a Notice of Violation. So our process basically provides if the tribe receives a Notice of 2 Violation, the tribe can choose to go before a presiding 3 official. And so this lays out that process of when an 4 5 appeal is before a presiding official, how that appeal -- basically, all of the process issues; how to 6 7 appeal, motions, motions for limited participation, who has the burden of proof, and when the hearing will be 8 held for the presiding official, the hearing process and 9 10 also the decision, the timing, content, and the final 11 agency action itself.

Most of the appeals before the Commission are handled on written submissions. And so Part 585 controls when it's just, you know, briefs and written submissions. Again, the process for appeals.

16 So what we've -- what we've been doing through 17 consultations is I think a lot of the comments that we received from tribes have been written comments on the 18 19 discussion draft, because, obviously, as you can tell, these rules here lend themselves to a back-and-forth, 20 engaging conversation here. But if you have any -- so 21 2.2 what we've been asking folks to do is to -- you know, if you want to take the preliminary draft back to in-house 23 24 counsel and have them comment on it, or obviously if you 25 have comments today, that would be great, as well. But

it's basically trying to put all of our different
 procedural rules in one subchapter so that it's more
 user friendly.

4 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: You wouldn't believe how 5 excited our attorneys were when we -- see, he's really 6 excited.

7 You know, the regulations have been in place for some time now and they've been out, you know, 8 9 operating with them. And naturally, you find out what 10 works and what doesn't work, not just from the tribe's 11 side, which we've -- you know, it's been brought to our 12 attention, but what works within the agency and what can 13 make an appeal process easier or more difficult or 14 clearer or lacking clarity.

So we had -- you know, and that included Larry and Mike over here, but a number of attorneys who said I have this wish list of things that if I could change the world, at least the NIGC world, you know, here is a list of things that would be helpful for us when we're handling appeals.

And of course, as you see here, there are a number of ways that -- number of actions that can be appealed. But we wanted to create some consistency, where applicable, in the appeal process and make it clearer to both those who are appealing, the parties

involved in appealing, any people that might be
interested parties, or to, more importantly, presiding
officials, because they're the ones who are going to use
these rules to conduct the appeals, should there be a
presiding officer, so everybody knows the rules of the
road and that they're clear.

Again, feel free to bring this draft to
whomever you feel you need to, if you need to, and feel
free to submit comments.

10 MR. ROBERTS: And just so you know, this draft 11 has been -- the comment period on the draft closed in 12 late August. And so this is one of those drafts that 13 we've received comment on. We're now briefing the full 14 Commission on a proposed regulation. And so I would 15 hope that the Commission is going to move forward on a 16 decision for a proposed regulation soon. So I would 17 just keep an eye out for that. That might be -- that 18 will be a very good time to comment on it, during that 19 60-day comment period.

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Okay. If there are no comments or further comments on that, what we can do is move on to Group 4, that's the afternoon session, if you all don't mind. And we can talk about -- that's the 1:30 to 3:00 p.m. on the agenda, 556, 558, 571 and 537. If we throw some letters in there, we might be playing 1 bingo.

2 Okay. So, Larry, do you want to start on 3 Group 4, start on the pilot program?

4 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. So the pilot program, what 5 we've heard through consultations and staff and just meeting with tribes is that most tribes are operating 6 7 under a pilot program that NIGC utilizes, where tribes submit a notice of results of their investigations for 8 9 primary management officials and key employees. And 10 they maintain the applications and the investigative 11 reports. And the Commission has heard pretty uniformly 12 that formalizing this pilot program, which a number of 13 tribes use, that that should be formalized in either a 14 regulation or a policy.

And so what the discussion draft in your materials does is it seeks to formalize this pilot program through regulation. So Part 556 includes all the procedures before a gaming license is issued, and 558 addresses the procedures after a gaming license is issued.

And so one of the things that we have been requesting through consultations and public comment is what we've learned is that some regions may have implemented the pilot program a little bit differently from region to region. So what this discussion draft

1 attempts to do is provide some uniformity across all the 2 regions. So if there is anything in the discussion 3 draft that looks a little bit different or not something 4 that you're used to in part of the pilot program, I 5 think we'd like to know that.

I also think that this is one of the drafts that the Commission has -- obviously, the comment period on the preliminary draft is already closed. So it's something that, again, the Commission is looking at, all those comments that we had received on the discussion draft, and hopes to move forward making a decision on a proposed rule shortly.

13 So 558 includes all the procedures after a gaming license is issued. So after the notice of 14 15 results, the tribe may license the key employee or 16 primary management official. The tribe notifies NIGC 17 within 30 days. NIGC has 30 days to request additional information. If a license is issued prior to an 18 19 objection by NIGC, then the licensee has a right to a 20 notice and hearing. The license must be suspended 21 during that hearing time. And then following the 2.2 hearing, the tribe notifies NIGC of the tribe's decision 23 on whether it's going to license that key employee or 24 primary management official.

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CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Again, I want to

reiterate that these were broken up so that we have -it's clear what is required before and what happens and what's required after. The pilot program has been in place for some number of years, so it's not really technically a pilot any more, and so we wanted to get these into regulations and make clear what steps tribes need to take and what our part will be.

8 The other thing that we're doing, just as an 9 aside, once we get to a point of finalizing these, we 10 will be creating some processes internally across the 11 regions. We ask for the same information, but it may be 12 in different forms that we ask tribes for information or 13 the submittal process is -- might take on a certain form 14 in other regions. And what we will do is, and have 15 started to do this, is to create a consistent, 16 across-the-board process throughout the country.

17 So it might look like there is a change in what we're asking for, when really it's just the form 18 19 that we may be asking you for, in the form that it's in. So we want to do this so that we're one, we create 20 21 consistency again, uniformity across the board. But 2.2 also internally it helps us; should one region be 23 overloaded, another region can help out with processing 24 some of these applications. So if, for example, there 25 is a very large facility opening in one area and there

is a lot of people coming through, we can recruit some
 other regions to help another region out. And it's
 easier to do when there is uniformity.

4 MR. ROBERTS: One of the questions or issues 5 that I'll raise in the discussion drafts for 556 and 558 is you'll notice on page 4 of 556 and under 556.4(b), it 6 7 talks about if the tribe has submitted a notification of results of an individual seeking to be employed by 8 9 another tribe and that second tribe has access to the 10 investigative materials that that second tribe -- or if 11 they received the investigative materials from NIGC, 12 that second tribe can just update the investigation 13 materials.

And in conjunction with 558.2 on page two -so this process, basically, provides if a tribe has access to the investigative results of an earlier tribe, they can just update that investigative report, if they want to.

19 558, after a tribe is licensed, the Commission 20 has put in its discussion draft for tribes, should they 21 forward copies of the eligibility determination for 22 someone who has not been licensed, should they forward 23 that to NIGC for use by NIGC and other tribes. We've 24 heard some tribes say, "Our investigative reports are 25 ours, we don't want to share them with other entities,"

1 and we've heard some tribes say, "Yes, that would be 2 helpful to know if one tribe has decided not to license 3 this individual, and having access to that report."

So it's just a -- it's a question out there, it's a discussion topic. We'd love to hear what tribes have to say on that and how the Commission may want to move forward in terms of making those types of reports available to other tribes.

9 Finally, some tribes have said during the 10 consultation process that what we do is, when they fill 11 out their application, we'll just pick up the phone and 12 call that tribe where they've applied to earlier and 13 talk directly with that tribal gaming commission.

14

Okay. If there are no --

15 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: I was going to say if 16 there aren't any other comments, we can move on. Again, 17 we are taking in all the comments that we have received 18 since this particular -- these two particular parts were 19 in discussion draft form, and we are working on a Notice 20 of Proposed Rules. So please, again, keep your eye out 21 for that in the near future.

22 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Part 571, monitoring and 23 investigations, this is something that the Chairwoman 24 referenced earlier.

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We have issued a Notice of Proposed Rule which

1 provides for an investigation conclusion letter. What we've heard, during the course of consultations, is that 2 some tribes would say, "Well, we know -- NIGC told us 3 three, four, five years ago that they opened up an 4 5 investigation, but we never heard back from them. We don't know if it's still open, if it's still ongoing, if 6 7 it's been closed, you know, and we would like to have some feedback from NIGC." 8

9 So what this provides for in the proposed rule 10 is that an authorized NIGC staff may advise a tribe or 11 entity by letter that an investigation has been 12 completed, and so providing some sort of feedback to 13 that party. The proposed rule makes clear that the notification is not a finding that no violation had 14 15 occurred, and it doesn't preclude the Chair from taking 16 further action down the road.

17 But for example, an investigation may have 18 been opened years ago, say, and the tribe is now looking 19 to refinance some of its debt. And so a lender may say, "Well, is this an ongoing investigation or not?" And 20 21 NIGC staff may send out a letter saying, you know, that 2.2 investigation has been completed. It clears the way for 23 a tribe to accomplish its refinancing, in certain 24 circumstances.

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So the Notice of Proposed Rule making was

published on October 12th, and that comment period closes next week.

3 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Again, this was in 4 response to what we were hearing from tribes in our 5 initial discussions last year in our Notice of Inquiry, 6 and consultations even prior to that, before we did our 7 Notice of Inquiry over the summer of 2010.

And I actually, and the Commissioners did this, but we all do, even just last week I had a couple of tribes come to me and say, "Hey, there was this investigation going on. What are you doing? It's been going on for a long time, and I need to know are you going to do something or not?"

14 So it might have been years. And the one 15 instance I'm thinking of right now, it's been years. 16 And they're sort of in limbo. And especially if you're 17 the regulatory body or you're the operations and you're holding these records and you don't know how long should 18 19 I hang on to these or can I store them now, you know, what's happening. And it's just sort of this unknown 20 21 hanging over you until you get some conclusions.

22 So we looked at other independent federal 23 regulatory bodies and what do they do. And they do do 24 closeout letters saying, "Hey, we looked into this. 25 We're closing out this investigation," but also with the

understanding, too, preserving the authority of the
 NIGC, and the Chair specifically, that, should this come
 up again, we may have to reopen it.

But that's the back end. Earlier we were 4 5 talking about 573, about notice to tribes, that we're not going to surprise you with a Notice of Violation 6 7 unless there are really exceptional circumstances. Usually the tribes, we're in communication, our regional 8 9 offices are in communication, so there is notice up 10 front and there is notice on the end. So that's what 11 we're looking to do in these two regulations.

12 Are there any comments from anyone on this13 particular part? Yes, Andrew.

14 MR. MATHERLY: Andrew Matherly, Spokane Tribe. 15 Spokane Tribe supports the 571 proposed rule. 16 We just want to clarify the discussion draft, that the 17 NIGC's authority to access records located off-site is 18 unnecessary and support leaving it out of this part. I 19 don't know that that will be with the paperwork reduction act or where it's actually listed in here, but 20 21 just some comments that was put in our formal letter 2.2 today.

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Larry, Mike, do you
remember comments on -- because we have talked about
that over the past six months, about access to off-site

1 records and what tribes have said about that and what
2 we've determined.

3 MR. ROBERTS: Some tribes have basically said, 4 similar to what Spokane had mentioned, which is, you 5 know, we don't need -- we have that access already, we 6 don't need to put it as part of a regulation.

7 I don't know off the top of my head the other 8 comments we received, but it was pretty uniformly that 9 NIGC already has access to those, so we don't need to 10 spell those out even further in a regulation.

11 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Okay. Any other comments 12 on this part?

Okay. If not, we can move on to 537.

MR. ROBERTS: 537 is the part that applies to background investigations for persons or entities with financial interest in a management contract or having management responsibility in a management contract.

And what the discussion draft provides is for 18 19 the Chair, in her discretion, to reduce the scope of 20 information to be furnished for any tribe that's going to have a financial interest in a management contract or 21 2.2 management responsibility in it, or an institutional 23 investor that is already federally regulated or is 24 required to undergo a background investigation and licensure by a state or tribe pursuant to a tribal-state 25

13

1 compact.

2	So I think the discussion draft's intent is
3	to, where there are already reviews in place, that it be
4	streamlined for those entities or the Chair may
5	streamline it, if she so desires, for those background
6	investigations and information for those entities. And
7	that is the primary change in the discussion draft.
8	CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Any comments on 537,
9	which is those two sections on page oh, there is not
10	a page, numbers on the page here. Page one and four.
11	If not, we can go on to the next section,
12	which is our notice of no action. And I'll let Larry
13	talk about that.
14	MR. ROBERTS: So as part of the regulatory
15	review process, the Commission asked a number of
16	different questions in the Notice of Inquiry, trying to
17	frame how they were going to move forward with the
18	review of regulations, asking again, as I said earlier,
19	which regulations should be reviewed, in what order, and
20	what issues should the Commission be looking at as part
21	of the regulatory review process.
22	So one of the questions that we heard in
23	response to the Notice of Inquiry was some tribes saying
24	that NIGC should review and approve agreements
25	collateral to a management contract. And some comments

1 we received is that NIGC should define net revenues. What the Commission published on October 12th 2 3 is a summary of those comments that they received and an explanation as to why they're not moving forward with 4 5 collateral agreements and a net revenues definition as part of its regulatory review process. 6 7 Basically, tribes often do and can provide 8 collateral agreements to a management agreement for NIGC 9 to review, but the statute provides only for NIGC to 10 approve or disapprove actual management contracts. 11 And then with regard to the net revenues definition, the Commission, after receiving the 12 13 comments, agreed with those that thought that a GAAP definition of net revenues could be inconsistent with 14 15 the statutory definition of net revenues, so it decided 16 not to move forward with changing or modifying a net 17 revenues definition because we're limited by what the 18 statute provides. 19 So this is -- you know, this is, I quess, along the lines of what the Commission was saying, was

20 along the lines of what the Commission was saying, was 21 that, you know, we're going to -- the Commission is 22 going to be transparent and let folks know why the 23 Commission has decided to move forward or not based on 24 the comments they receive from the public on various 25 issues. So this is one of the issues that they've set 1 forth, that they're not going to move forward on these
2 two issues.

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Okay. Does anyone need any more coffee? We've talked to everyone so much that you all know what we're doing. So this is more evidence of that. You know, when we started talking about these two subjects, then we said, considering the comments that we've received, okay, that's enough talking about this, we're not going to do anything.

10 If it's okay with the group, we can move on to 11 the last part of the agenda, Group 5, on the self 12 regulation regulation of Class II gaming, and also on 13 sole proprietary interest.

MR. ROBERTS: Okay. So for Part 518, and you
should have in your materials --

CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Find this section.

MR. ROBERTS: -- a preliminary discussion draft. Again, this is something that the Commission circulated for comment. The comment period has closed on this discussion draft, and the Commission is now in the process of reviewing all the comments and deciding how to move forward with the Class II self regulation reg.

24CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS:Can I stop you for a25second?

16

1 MR. ROBERTS: Yes. 2 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Excuse me. I'm sorry, 3 Larry. There are two versions in this packet. The first one shows the deletions in bubbles. That goes 4 through twelve pages. And then the second part of that 5 are the strike-throughs and the insertions and no 6 7 bubbles. We do this because we have limited 8 9 technological ability right at the moment at the NIGC 10 and our version of Word. So for those of you, like me, who hate 11 12 deletions and bubbles, I made them make two copies. But 13 you miss the comments if you get rid of the bubbles. The second one is the insertions and the 14 15 strike-throughs, the deletions. 16 So whatever is your preference in reading, 17 just so you know, you're looking at the same thing, they are the same thing, two different versions. 18 That's all 19 I wanted to tell folks while they're looking through 20 this. 21 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. So for the Class II self 2.2 regulation, basically in the Notice of Inquiry, when we 23 were asking tribes should the Commission look at the 24 Class II self regulation reg, some of the comments we received from tribes is that the administrative burden 25

1 of actually receiving the self regulation certificate outweighs the benefits obtained, that the process itself 2 laid out in Part 518, the requirements are duplicative 3 4 and burdensome, that the petition to be a self 5 regulating tribe and then the annual reporting requirements undermine the whole purpose of the 6 7 certification. Some tribes commented that obviously that high standards of self reg, becoming a self 8 9 regulating tribe for Class II purposes should be 10 maintained, and a number of tribes commented on how a 11 Class II self regulation certification is a hallmark of 12 tribal sovereignty.

13 So after receiving the comments on the Notice 14 of Inquiry, the Commission decided to move forward with 15 a discussion draft, which everyone has in their 16 materials. This is a discussion draft. The due date for written comments closed on September 17th. 17 The Commission is reviewing those comments and is in the 18 19 decision-making process now of how to move forward, if 20 at all, with a proposed regulation.

What the discussion draft attempted to do or attempts to do is shift the focus of 518 from the actual operation itself and more to the tribal regulatory agency, so looking at how the regulatory -- tribal regulatory agency itself functions. It attempts to

1 reduce the submission of duplicative information and really attempts to streamline the process, maintaining 2 high standards, but also making it something that 3 certification -- all tribes I think now -- we only have 4 5 two tribes that have a self regulation certification, a third by statute. But two tribes have a certification. 6 7 And so what the Commission wanted to do is try to make a -- put in place a process where more tribes are 8 9 achieving Class II certification.

10 So the submission requirements, we can just 11 sort of go through this, this discussion draft, it has, 12 under Part 518.3, the summary of the history of gaming 13 operations, how the TGRA -- their organizational chart, 14 the employment criteria for regulators, all of the information that would be provided as part of the self 15 16 regulation certification. A funding description, a list 17 of the current regulators, and a description of the 18 gaming operation's accounting system, a listing of 19 internal controls, description of the recordkeeping system, a copy of the facility license, and any 20 21 additional tribal gaming regulations.

518.4 lays out the criteria that must be met, that the tribe maintains effective and honest accounting of revenues, reputation for a fair, safe and honest operation, that it operates on a fiscally and

economically sound basis, and generally free of any
 dishonest or criminal activity, and that Class II gaming
 has been conducted in compliance with federal and tribal
 laws and regulations.

5 518.4, the other criteria, that the tribe has 6 an adequate system for accounting of revenues, that the 7 tribe has an adequate system for investigation, 8 licensing and monitoring of employees, and an adequate 9 system in place for investigation, enforcement and 10 prosecution of violations.

518.4(b) lays out how a tribe may illustrate 11 12 that it met those criteria, and lays forth, basically, 13 different criteria that you can use to illustrate that 14 you're meeting those requirements; adequate dispute 15 resolution process, adequate system for accounting of 16 gaming revenues, can illustrate that the tribal gaming 17 regulatory body monitors compliance with laws and regulations, including MICS, monitors the effectiveness, 18 19 that the TGRA audits Class II gaming activities, and that it reviews the accounting information, that the 20 21 regulatory body has access to all records, adequate 2.2 investigation, licensing and monitoring system, 23 established standards for vendors, that it establishes 24 and posts the game rules, that it takes appropriate enforcement actions, that it takes testimony and 25

1 conducts hearings, it can also illustrate that the tribe 2 adequately permanently funds the TGRA, that it's adopted 3 a system for adequate prosecution, that it can 4 demonstrate that the operation is conducted in a manner 5 that protects the environment, public health and safety.

And then Section 518.5 lays out the process 6 7 for reviewing petitions. And so within NIGC, the Office of Self Regulation will make an initial determination 8 9 within 120 days, that it will issue a report of its 10 findings, and that it will issue a certificate of self 11 regulation or notify the tribe if it does not meet the 12 criteria. And if the tribe doesn't meet the criteria, 13 then it may respond to the report and include additional 14 information. It can request a hearing. The Office of Self Regulation would issue a decision on the petition 15 16 itself, and then the decision to deny self regulation 17 would be appealable to the full Commission.

And then the discussion draft for annual 18 19 reporting requirements, 518.7, there are some changes 20 here, and they're based on the text of IGRA itself. Annual reporting requirements, that there be an 21 2.2 independent audit. And this is where the IGRA itself 23 provides for a resume of all PMOs and all key employees 24 hired and licensed by the tribe after receiving a certificate of self regulation. 25

And then Part 518.8 provides that the tribe has a continuing duty to inform the Commission of any change in circumstances material to the approval of self regulation.

5 And then 518.9 basically summarizes what 6 powers are limited during self regulation by NIGC. 7 This, again, drafts the statutory language of IGRA.

8 518.9 makes clear that the Commission retains 9 all other powers, and powers to bring enforcement 10 actions for violation of IGRA, NIGC regulations and 11 tribal gaming ordinances.

Again, this is something where we have received a lot of comments on it, as I've mentioned. The Commission is right now reconciling those comments, looking at those comments, considering them, and deciding how to move forward with a proposed rule making.

18 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Are there any comments on19 518, the discussion draft?

20 MR. ROBERTS: Okay. Well, the last part of 21 Group 5 is sole proprietary interests. As part of its 22 regulatory review, the Commission asked whether it 23 should consider promulgating a regulation defining sole 24 proprietary interests, whether it should provide a 25 regulatory process by which a tribe could request a

1 review. Some comments that we received in response to 2 the Notice of Inquiry is that the Commission should 3 promulgate a regulation, but that review by the 4 Commission should only be had at the request of the 5 tribe.

6 Some comments suggested that sole proprietary 7 interests should be defined using the percentages set 8 forth in IGRA, in terms of what is an appropriate 9 percentage for a management contract or for an 10 individually licensed gaming operation.

Some comments suggested that if we -- if the Commission decides to move forward and defines sole proprietary interest through regulation, it should also define what primary beneficiary means, as used in the statute.

Some comments suggested that, because sole proprietary interest has been addressed through Notices of Violation and legal opinions, that a definition through regulation may provide stability and access to financing by just providing a clear statement in the regulation.

22 Some comments suggested just the opposite, 23 that a clear statement in a regulation could actually 24 limit access to capital and affect business decisions 25 that the tribe has already made.

Some comments suggested that NIGC should not define it by regulation, it should proceed with its approach through Notices of Violation and legal opinions, and that really the definition of this should be left to the courts to decide.

6 So what the Commission has done is they've 7 decided to continue to consult on sole proprietary 8 interest. We have not yet circulated a preliminary 9 discussion draft for comment. I think the Commission 10 decided that they wanted to get more views of tribes 11 through consultation before going forward with either a 12 preliminary discussion draft or a proposed rule.

13 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: Larry, how many opinions
14 do we have?

MR. HOENIG: Finished or in the works?

MR. ROBERTS: I think in terms of Office of General Counsel opinions for sole proprietary interest, it's probably in the range of I want to say around 50, probably 50 opinions over the course of the last -somewhere around that range.

There has been I want to say maybe three or four Notices of Violation, where it's not just a legal opinion, it's the chair of the agency taking action and issuing an NOV defining sole proprietary interest under those specific facts.

15

Some of the questions or comments we've received as part of sole proprietary interest is because it is so fact specific, is it something that lends itself to a reg or should the Commission proceed on a case-by-case approach.

6 CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: What I find really 7 interesting is that -- well, not surprisingly, tribes 8 are on different sides of this issue. That's normal in 9 Indian country, where, you know, as Larry mentioned, in 10 our comments that we received, tribes are either for it 11 or they're against it.

12 And as time has gone on, and I'm certain that 13 Mike in particular, not that I'm going to ask you to, 14 but knows from his time at the agency that management 15 contracts and lending agreements and development 16 agreements have become much more complex and creative, 17 and lends to the idea that it is very case-by-case, fact 18 specific, depending on how these are constructed. And 19 you know, can we, with specificity, define sole proprietary interest or are there general terms that we 20 21 might be able to put out there.

I think what we're hearing are the specifics can be very difficult, but could there be an option for generalities, just -- you know, we want to know what could or couldn't work, either in a reg or in some other

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1	fashion, because, like I said, tribes are on different
2	sides of this. They'll come to us and say, "Hey," after
3	the fact, "we believe there has been, you know,
4	violation, we need your help," or, "We're going into
5	some sort of an agreement, and what are NIGC's views
6	before we enter into these agreements? What's sole
7	proprietary interest? And what's a bad deal?" We don't
8	want to get into the bad deal part of it.
9	Do you guys have anything that you wanted
10	to
11	MR. ROBERTS: No. If you haven't had a chance
12	to submit comments, I think that this is something
13	that and I hear this a lot from transactional
14	attorneys, where they are saying, you know, we've gone
15	through the Office of General Counsel legal opinions,
16	we've looked at the Notices of Violation, we see a
17	consistent thread here. Is it something that you
18	guys we think you should move forward with the
19	regulation to provide more clarity.
20	I think, because the Commission is interested
21	in hearing more comments, it is an opportunity to hear
22	more. Does this arise in your day-to-day workings? Is
23	it providing barriers to financing by not having a
24	regulation out there? Or is it something that is
25	working on the case-by-case situations? So any comments

1 would be appreciated.

2 Absent any comments on CHAIRWOMAN STEVENS: 3 that, I do want to go back over the agenda for those who 4 may have just arrived. We've gone through the entire 5 agenda in a matter of two hours. And I think that just speaks to the frequency in which the NIGC has been 6 7 communicating with tribes for the past year, year and a half, that none of this is a surprise, much of this 8 9 is -- all of these parts have given tribes the 10 opportunity to weigh in, provide input to these drafts. 11 And for those that are in the official rule-making 12 process now, you'll see all of these discussions over 13 the past year have been influenced by tribal input 14 through these consultations.

We covered a lot of ground today. Is there anyone that wants to rewind and go back to other parts? Maybe something has occurred to you over the other parts that we covered this morning, earlier this morning. Any questions you have about the process? Any comments on the process?

We originally started out with many more consultations and ended up canceling a number of them just because we were getting such good feedback and at the request of the tribes to slow down. And so we are. And many tribes, the transcriptionist part of this is

1 proving to be useful for those people who cannot come and attend in person, they can track what's happening 2 and have the opportunity to know what's happening in 3 these meetings that they're not able to attend to inform 4 5 their comments to the NIGC. I think it's important that tribes can hear what other tribes have to say to find 6 7 common ground, to hear how differently a proposed reg 8 might affect one tribe as opposed to another tribe and 9 sit in this arena and come up with solutions together. 10 So again, another opportunity, if anyone has 11 any comments on the substantive part of what we're 12 talking about, or the process. 13 If not, we will have, as we mentioned throughout this morning, a number of additional notices 14 15 of proposed rule coming out in the next -- in the near 16 future. Lael is happy as a camper over there. That 17 will come out in the near future. I don't want to 18 commit to a time, because you never know what snafu we 19 will run into in the printing office and how we get 20 these out. 21 So it should be within the next few weeks, I 2.2 would imagine, on a number of these. Some others may 23 take a bit longer. If you've not commented, feel free 24 to submit comments. 25 Again, the deadline on the notices of proposed

1	rule that are published now is December 12th. That's
2	next week. If you haven't submitted comments, please
3	do. If you have comments, please watch the Federal
4	Register. And we will also put notice out, as we have
5	been when we do put something in the register, to tribes
6	letting them know that we've posted the proposed rule,
7	much of which you've already seen here in some form or
8	another.
9	So last call.
10	Okay. Well, thank you very much for attending
11	this morning. We look forward to your comments and your
12	continued participation. And safe travels from wherever
13	you might have come in from, and we appreciate your time
14	and attention. Thank you.
15	(Consultation ended at 11:30 a.m.)
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[1 - affect]

	_	EDO 41 1 40 7	
1	5	582 41:1 43:7	act 24:13 34:12,25
1 10:13,14,20 11:16	5 1:1,11 2:1 11:17	583 41:2 43:16	37:11 38:9 54:20
13:12 14:18 18:1,7	14:15 58:11 64:21	584 41:4 43:25	action 27:7 36:9,10
20:25 21:23	5.28.010 72:4	585 41:6 44:13	36:16,23 37:1,3,6,7
1,000 4:21	50 66:18,19	6	39:3 43:15,21 44:11
10:15 35:14	514 14:18,20 15:1	6 28:8	52:16 56:12 66:23
11:30 71:15	16:16 21:25 22:4,17	60 18:8 19:9 22:8	actions 45:22 62:25
120 63:9	22:22 26:2 27:18	42:20 46:19	64:10
12th 14:21 53:1 57:2	514.1 15:25	61 18:9,10 22:10	activities 41:18
71:1	514.15 17:14	66 26:7	62:19
13,175 11:4	514.17 17:14	8	activity 23:22 62:2
15 35:13	514.9 16:18,24 22:4	8th 72:18	actual 16:11 17:11
15347 1:8	518 58:14 60:3,22		23:23 37:11 57:10
17th 20:21 60:17	64:19	9	60:22
180 20:9,12,16	518.3 61:12	90 16:20,25 18:10	add 25:23
28:12 33:19,19	518.4 61:22 62:5,11	22:10	addition 18:4
1886 3:9	518.5 63:6	91 18:11 22:13	additional 20:17 48:17 61:21 63:13
1993 18:17,21	518.7 63:19	9:10 1:12 2:2	
1:30 46:24	518.8 64:1	a	70:14 address 23:4 24:12
1st 15:22,23	518.9 64:5,8	a.m. 1:12 2:2 71:15	24:15 25:20 26:6
2	523 13:14 14:20	ability 59:9 72:11	24:15 25:20 26:6
2 11:16 13:18 35:19	18:14	able 3:14 10:6 12:19	addressed 36:25
2010 53:7	537 14:13 46:24	19:18 25:14 34:4	41:13 65:17
2010 33.7 2011 1:1,11 2:1	55:13,14 56:8	67:21 70:4	addresses 47:19
20:21 72:19	556 46:24 47:17	absence 26:17	addressing 42:8
2226 1:24 72:22	50:5,6	absent 69:2	adequate 62:6,7,8
22nd 18:17	556.4 50:6	accept 13:7	62:14,15,21 63:3
23 8:8	558 46:24 47:19	accepted 20:19	adequately 19:24
25 18:10 22:14	48:13 50:5,19	23:21	20:4 28:22 63:2
2717 28:7,8	558.2 50:14	access 50:9,16 51:3	administer 72:5
3	559 14:23 18:25	54:17,25 55:5,9	administration
3 11:16 13:21	19:10,13,21 28:9	62:21 65:19,24	31:21 32:4
	33:25	accessible 7:25	administrative
30 18:1,1,7 19:17 22:5,7 30:15 48:17	559.5. 28:12	accomplish 52:23	59:25
48:17	559.6 20:17	account 11:3,17	adopt 21:12 34:5
31 18:8 22:8	571 14:12 46:24	17:9	adopted 31:14 63:2
3:00 46:24	51:22 54:15 573 25:10 24 26:15	accounting 5:18	advance 39:22
	573 35:19,24 36:15	23:21 61:18,23 62:6	advice 14:1,3
4	37:15 38:25 39:25 54:5	62:15,20	advise 52:10
4 11:17 14:8 46:22	580 42:6	accurate 15:23	advisory 9:19
47:3 50:6	580 42:0 581 40:22 42:23	72:12	affairs 34:10
	43:3	achieve 36:8,12 37:5	affect 26:4 65:24
	43.3	achieving 61:9	70:8

[affirmations - board]

affirmations 72:5	appeal 41:18 43:1,9	64:22	awkward 7:14
afternoon 46:22	43:10,12,13,18,18	asking 44:22 49:18	b
agencies 11:5 27:4	44:5,6,7 45:13,24	49:19 56:18 59:23	b 15:25 50:6 62:11
34:5	appealable 63:17	asks 21:1,3	back 2:20 7:3,12
agency 5:16 6:11	appealed 45:23	assessed 16:21	21:20 35:10,13
13:13 20:22 34:5,19	appealing 45:25	assesses 13:14	39:21 40:17 41:10
35:5 37:3,23 41:21	46:1	assessing 23:23	44:20,23 52:5 54:4
43:15,21 44:11	appeals 16:24 40:16	assessment 16:25	69:3,16
45:12 60:24,25	41:1,4,4,7,21,23,25	17:4	background 14:8,14
66:23 67:14	42:25 43:25 44:12	assessments 21:25	26:5 55:15,24 56:5
agenda 7:1,17 8:4	44:15 45:20 46:4	41:6	bad 68:7,8
8:20,24 9:2,5,6,8,11	appear 8:24 42:9	assist 31:20 36:7	bainbridge 4:11
9:13 10:2,13 11:3	appellate 40:22,24	39:2	barriers 68:23
11:12 13:10 46:24	applaud 32:5	assistance 39:7	based 15:10,13
58:11 69:3,5	applicable 45:24	assuming 28:25	17:16 28:13 57:23
ago 31:21 40:2 52:4	application 40:20	attached 72:8	63:20
52:18	51:11	attempted 60:21	basic 41:24 42:6
agreed 57:13	applications 47:10	attempts 19:6 48:1	basically 14:10 19:6
agreement 57:8 68:5	49:24	60:22,25 61:2	19:22 28:4 32:13
agreements 56:24	applied 43:13,20	attend 7:25 10:25	36:7 41:10 43:3,22
57:5,8 67:15,16	51:12	12:19 70:2,4	· · · · · ·
68:6	applies 18:15 55:14	attending 71:10	44:2,6 45:1 50:15
ahead 2:6 15:8	apply 18:20 21:9	attention 45:12	55:3 57:7 59:22
18:14 30:22	appreciate 7:6 32:9	71:14	62:12 64:5 basis 62:1
aiding 24:7	32:24 71:13	attest 20:2	
allen 6:4,4	appreciated 39:11	attestation 28:21	becoming 60:8 behalf 4:20 5:22
allotted 3:9,11	69:1	attests 31:4	belief 3:16
alternatives 11:8	approach 36:6 66:3	attorney 5:13 6:12	believe 34:19 45:4
amendment 42:8	67:5	29:19	68:3
amendments 14:5	appropriate 34:19	attorneys 35:12	beneficiary 65:14
43:9,23	62:24 65:8	41:25 45:5,16 68:14	benefits 60:2
amortization 15:25	approval 13:15	audit 24:5 25:14	best 38:22 72:11
16:3	18:18 40:15,15 64:3	63:22	better 32:17
amount 17:15,16	approvals 41:3 43:7	audits 23:24 24:3,17	beyond 17:7 39:15
18:2 28:5,18 33:18	43:22	24:21 62:19	biannually 17:15
amounts 28:6	approve 56:24	august 9:18 46:12	bill 5:17
andrew 5:24 17:21	57:10	authorities 34:11	bingo 47:1
17:24 22:1 30:1	approved 18:22	authority 11:9 34:6	bit 9:22 24:6,10
33:2,2 54:13,14	april 8:7	34:24 54:1,17	38:11 39:7 41:23
annual 17:2 60:5	area 6:22 49:25	authorized 38:9	47:24 48:3 70:23
63:18,21	arena 70:9	52:10 72:4	black 27:9
anybody 9:5 26:9	arrived 69:4	available 51:8	blue 15:6,7
apologize 27:14,14	aside 6:23 49:9	awarded 28:6	board 49:16,21
27:16 28:11	asked 7:18 11:12	aware 17:12	DUALU 77.10,21
	20:10 24:25 56:15		

	70.16	50.04.50.0.64.10	25.2.26.6.27.2
bodies 38:23 53:23	camper 70:16	58:24 59:2 64:18	35:3 36:6 37:2
body 36:24 37:21	canceling 69:22	66:13 67:6 69:2	43:14 46:6 49:2,6
38:8,17,19 53:17	capital 65:24	chance 68:11	52:13 64:8 65:20,23
62:17,21	carol 5:7 25:11	change 15:19,24	clearer 45:14,25
books 26:7	case 67:5,5,17,17	16:5,7,14 17:9	clearly 27:24
break 29:24 35:8,9	68:25,25	19:20 26:15 32:8	clears 52:22
35:13	cases 26:13	45:17 49:17 56:7	clearwater 1:7 4:23
breaks 9:12	casino 1:7 4:17,23	64:3	click 12:21
breezeway 29:9,16	6:4	changed 4:8	close 7:15 33:11
briefing 46:13	cast 38:5	changes 12:14 14:7	39:23
briefs 44:14	cause 72:17	15:4,9 16:13,15	closed 20:20 40:2
bring 8:1 39:5,16	ccr 1:24	20:7 25:6 63:19	46:11 48:8 52:7
46:7 64:9	cedars 6:4	changing 57:16	58:19 60:17
bringing 3:2	cemetery 4:1	chapter 35:20	closeout 53:24
broad 31:9 38:5	certain 19:7 33:18	charges 17:17	closes 17:18 20:9
broken 49:1	49:13 52:23 67:12	chart 61:13	33:6 53:2
brought 45:11	certainly 2:7 24:15	check 24:24	closing 14:21 53:25
bruner 6:8,8	25:8,20 26:1 30:21	checklist 30:18	closure 20:14
bubbles 59:4,7,12	30:22,23 34:22	31:16,22,25	closures 20:11,11,15
59:13	37:18 38:22	checklists 31:18	26:23 33:6
build 4:14	certificate 60:1	cheryl 1:24 2:20	code 31:13,14,14
building 4:3 31:13	63:10,25 72:1	7:12 72:3,22	coffee 35:9 58:4
40:7	certification 60:7,11	chief 1:9 3:7 4:1	cohaleck 72:23
bulletin 24:23 25:10	61:4,5,6,9,16	chiefs 3:8	collateral 56:25
burden 7:21,23 44:8	certified 72:3,22	choose 44:3	57:5,8
59:25	certify 72:6	circulated 11:23	collection 17:14
burdensome 60:4	cfo 25:13	12:7 19:1 35:24	collects 24:18
bureau 34:9	chair 17:3 20:18	37:15 58:19 66:8	colorful 28:15
business 3:9 26:10	37:10 52:15 54:2	circumstances	come 2:6,9,11 3:25
34:6 65:24	55:19 56:4 66:23	37:10 52:24 54:7	6:23 9:5 10:9 30:24
buy 13:16 14:23	chairman 2:10,10	64:3	35:9,13 36:10 39:2
20:25 21:4,5,9,19	2:23 3:1,21 4:25	civil 17:4 41:6	39:6 41:20 53:10
34:1,12,25	5:25 7:18	clarifies 17:14	54:2 68:2 70:1,9,17
с	chairwoman 2:5,14	clarify 22:1 28:2	71:13
c 28:7	2:19 4:25 6:16,18	34:2 54:16	coming 4:23 7:22
calculate 15:18	10:17 12:16 13:21	clarifying 33:4	50:1 70:15
26:21	15:6 17:23 21:21,22	clarity 45:14 68:19	comment 3:23 11:13
calculation 15:13	22:3,7,10,13,16	class 9:16,16,17	11:14 12:7,11,12
23:23 25:1	23:2 24:4 25:8,19	13:22,22 14:15	13:3,8 14:22 17:18
calendar 15:14,17	28:9 30:7,16,21	58:12,22 59:21,24	17:25 18:5 19:2
18:1,7,8	32:25 35:16 36:5	60:9,11 61:9 62:2	20:13,20 21:11,16
california 5:14	37:25 39:12 45:4	62:19	21:21,24 27:11,20
call 51:12 71:9	46:20 48:25 51:15	clean 41:22	27:25 30:3 32:10
Call J1.12/1.7	51:23 53:3 54:23	clear 10:22 13:8	42:19 44:24 46:11
	55:11 56:8 58:3,16	23:19 24:1 25:14,25	46:13,18,19 47:22
		anting Company	1

48:7 53:1 58:19,19	63:17 64:2,8,14,22	conducted 20:4 62:3	contract 55:16,17
66:9	65:2,4,12 66:6,9	63:4	55:21 56:25 65:9
commented 60:7,10	67:4 68:20	conducts 63:1	contracts 40:16 41:3
70:23	commission's 14:2	confirm 19:12	43:17,23 57:10
comments 3:19 8:15	commissioners 7:19	confirms 36:21	67:15
8:16 9:12 11:18	7:20 8:3 53:8	conflict 31:15	control 9:15 17:7
12:13,25 13:5,6	commissions 41:25	conjunction 50:14	26:15,24
15:10 16:2,9 17:19	commit 70:18	connected 29:5,8	controls 13:22,23
18:23 20:22 22:17	commitment 13:2	consider 12:13	39:14 44:14 61:19
25:9 26:1 27:12,18	committed 13:8	23:15 24:2 30:22	conversation 12:22
28:9 32:13,19,24	committee 9:20	64:23	16:8 44:21
33:21,24 37:15,18	common 70:7	consideration 22:23	coordinator 6:3
38:25 39:25 40:1,4	communicated	33:5	copies 19:22 50:21
42:12,21 44:17,18	37:23 38:13	considered 13:4	59:12
44:25 46:9,21,21	communicating	considering 23:5	copy 14:25 15:1,3
48:10 51:16,17	38:3 69:7	58:7 64:15	61:20
54:12,21,24 55:8,11	communication	consistency 45:23	corporate 4:17
56:8,25 57:3,13,24	54:8,9	49:21	correct 22:9 28:25
58:7,21 59:13,24	communications	consistent 16:4,11	30:6
60:13,17,18 64:13	42:11,13	23:10 25:7,22 49:15	corrective 36:23
64:14,15,18 65:1,6	compact 31:8,10	68:17	37:6
65:11,16,22 66:1	56:1	consolidate 40:13	cost 17:16
67:1,10 68:12,21,25	compacts 32:14	constitutes 17:1	council 3:20 4:21
69:2,19 70:5,11,24	compiled 42:15	constructed 67:18	counsel 6:15 10:12
71:2,3,11	completed 37:7	construction 20:3	41:14 42:3 44:24
commission 1:3 3:3	52:12,22	consult 11:6 66:7	66:17 68:15 72:16
5:21,25 6:6,18 9:18	completely 36:4	consultation 1:5	counsel's 7:6
9:25 11:2,11,13,15	complex 67:16	10:22 12:22 14:6	country 7:22 33:11
12:1,6,9,11,24 13:2	compliance 5:87:3	20:24 21:11 38:5	34:18,20 49:16 67:9
13:6,7,8,20,24 14:1	31:16,20 36:8,8,12	51:10 66:11 71:15	couple 4:5 10:21
14:2,6,16 16:9 17:3	36:13 37:5 39:2,5	consultations 8:8	15:4,9 53:9
18:14,22 19:1 21:1	39:16 62:3,17	12:4,17,20 15:12	course 3:12 7:5
21:3,15,18 23:12,13	compliant 37:3	16:1 32:7 34:15	23:20 33:13 41:20
23:15 27:21 28:1	comptroller 24:5	44:17 47:5,22 52:2	45:21 52:2 66:19
32:5,18 35:7,11,21	26:11	53:6 69:14,22	court 2:18 72:4,22
35:24 36:1,5,11,17	comptroller's 24:17	consulting 23:7	courts 66:5
37:16 40:7,10,12,20	concept 27:5	contact 25:13 29:20	cover 41:2
40:23,25 41:7,11,13	concern 36:17	29:21,23	covered 69:15,18
42:1,4,7,9,10,14,16	concerns 16:7 36:17	contains 72:12	covers 13:13 14:8
42:24 44:12 46:14	conclusion 52:1	content 44:10	41:7
46:15 47:11 48:7,9	conclusions 53:21	context 16:8	create 4:6 45:23
50:19 51:6,13 56:15	concrete 25:18 39:9	continue 3:11 66:7	49:15,20
56:20 57:2,12,20,21	condition 36:20	continued 71:12	creating 49:10
57:23 58:18,20	conduct 46:4	continuing 64:2	creative 67:16
59:23 60:14,18 61:7			

[criminal - effort]

criminal 62:2	deductible 24:8	differently 47:24	don 5:5
criteria 11:5 31:3	define 23:10,10 57:1	70:7	double 24:23
61:14,22 62:5,12,13	65:14 66:2 67:19	differs 15:17	downtown 4:4,11
63:12,12	defined 24:13 65:7	difficult 45:13 67:23	draft 8:11,17,21
cultural 4:6	defines 27:23 28:4	digital 72:18	15:11 19:1,2,3,16
current 19:21 61:17	65:12	directly 51:13	19:20,25 20:7,12,20
d	defining 23:13,20	director 5:10,16,17	27:15 28:10,11,15
daniel 5:11 22:20	64:23 66:24	5:20 6:9 7:4 24:21	31:3 35:25 36:15
date 60:16	definitely 4:8	32:1	37:2,6,9,14,16 40:2
day 12:23 41:18,18	definition 22:24	directs 11:5	40:5,11 41:2 42:12
46:19 68:22,22	23:8,11,18 24:11	disapproval 43:10	42:16,19 44:19,23
72:18	25:15 57:5,12,14,15	43:10,14	46:7,10,11 47:15,25
days 9:21 13:25	57:17 65:18 66:4	disapprovals 41:1,3	48:3,8,11 50:20
16:20,25 18:1,7,7,8	definitions 40:21	43:8,23	51:19 54:16 55:18
18:11 19:9,17 20:9	42:7	disapprove 57:10	56:7 58:18,20 60:15
20:12,16 22:5,7,8	deletions 59:4,12,15	disasters 26:23	60:16,21 61:11
20:12,10 22:3,7,8	demonstrate 63:4	33:12	63:18 64:19 66:9,12
30:15 33:19,19	deny 63:16	discretion 55:19	draft's 56:2
42:21 48:17,17 63:9	department 25:14	discuss 30:19	drafted 8:15,16
dd 6:11	departure 28:17	discussing 13:5	drafts 8:13,20 11:24
de 39:10	30:25	26:11,12	12:5,7 46:12 48:6
deadline 14:22	depend 29:11	discussion 8:11,13	50:5 64:7 69:10
70:25	depending 16:22	8:19,21 9:7 10:20	draw 33:15
deal 32:14 38:7,9	37:12 67:18	19:1,2,3,16,25 20:7	due 16:21,23 60:16
68:7,8	depends 10:3	20:12,20 31:3 35:25	duplication 28:18
dealing 14:13 43:18	deputy 5:16,17	36:15 37:2,6,9,14	duplicative 32:15,16
debt 52:19	description 61:16	37:16 39:20 40:2,5	60:3 61:1
december 1:1,11 2:1	61:17,19	42:12,16,19 44:19	duty 64:2
71:1 72:19	designees 10:24	47:15,25 48:2,10	e
decide 12:13 14:4	desires 56:5	50:5,20 51:5,19	earlier 13:11 35:24
66:5	detail 3:5	54:16 55:18 56:2,7	50:16 51:12,24 54:4
decided 13:7 24:11	determination	58:17,20 60:15,16	56:18 69:18
51:2 57:15,23 60:14	50:21 63:8	60:21 61:11 63:18	ease 7:23
66:7,10	determine 30:8	64:19 66:9,12	easier 9:1 15:18
decides 65:12	determined 55:2	discussions 8:11	45:13 50:3
deciding 58:21	determining 11:5	28:14 38:4 53:5	echo 5:22,22
64:16	development 34:17	69:12	economic 34:17,18
decision 9:18 43:14	67:15	dishonest 62:2	economically 62:1
43:21 44:10 46:16	dialogue 10:23	dispute 62:14	effective 61:23
48:11,22 60:19	36:24	division 7:3 23:25	effectiveness 62:18
63:15,16	different 11:17	divisions 25:25	effectuate 43:1
decisions 65:24	13:12 24:25 31:3,13	dock 4:5	effectuated 42:10
deducted 23:22	40:13,17 45:1 48:3	doing 11:10 21:13	effort 39:1,9,22
	49:12 56:16 59:18	42:14 44:16 49:8	
	62:13 67:8 68:1	53:11 58:5	

ee 10 26 0		(1.00	6 1 5 7 1 4
efforts 3:18 36:8	establishes 16:19	61:20	finding 52:14
either 24:17 34:24	62:23	fact 67:3,17 68:3	findings 63:10
42:8 47:13 66:11	estimated 11:20	factors 11:17	fine 17:4 41:6
67:10,25	evaluating 42:16	facts 66:25	fingerprints 17:13
electronic 20:19	event 4:17 72:17	failure 17:1 43:11	17:17
eligibility 50:21	everybody 5:1 15:7	43:19	finished 66:15
elliott 3:6	46:5	fair 61:24	fires 33:13
employed 50:8	evidence 58:5	familiar 3:4	first 7:1 29:21 35:8
employee 48:15,23	ex 42:11,13	far 23:20	38:2 59:4
employees 14:9 47:9	exactly 23:19	farthest 6:23	fiscal 15:13,16,20
62:8 63:23	example 34:14 41:9	fashion 68:1	16:13
employment 61:14	49:24 52:17	faster 10:5	fiscally 61:25
enacted 18:16	examples 22:25	fbi 17:17	fishing 3:13
encapsulates 43:3	exceed 33:18	fear 9:23	five 13:11 18:8
encompasses 40:4	exceptional 54:7	federal 8:19 10:23	22:10 52:4
encourage 42:22	excited 45:5,6	11:6,7 12:10 27:3	flip 28:14 38:15
encouraging 2:13	exciting 9:25 35:10	34:5 53:22 62:3	flooding 33:12
ended 3:21 69:22	40:8 41:17	71:3	floor 9:12
71:15	excludable 23:1,20	federally 55:23	focus 60:22
enforcement 5:16	excluded 25:15	fee 15:13,21,22,23	folks 3:4 41:14
13:19 35:20 36:9,10	excuse 59:2	16:21 17:2,6,11,15	44:22 57:22 59:19
36:16 37:1,7 39:3	executive 5:10,20	17:16 18:2 25:6	follow 9:1 27:19
62:9,25 64:9	11:4	feedback 52:8,12	31:12
engage 14:6	exempt 29:16	69:23	following 12:4,18
engaged 3:18 4:16	exigent 37:13	feel 2:6 46:7,8,8	31:13 48:21
engaging 36:23	exist 34:21	70:23	forced 33:11
44:21	existence 41:20	fees 13:13 15:18	foregoing 72:12
ensure 37:24	existing 13:15 16:1	17:14 18:7,8,9,11	forgotten 8:7
enter 68:6	16:4	23:23 24:18 26:3,6	form 28:10 39:6
entire 43:22 69:4	expanding 29:1,4	26:8,14 27:7,22	49:13,18,19 51:19
entities 31:11 50:25	expansions 33:13	file 40:24 42:3 43:2	71:7
55:15 56:4,6	expedited 19:4	43:11,19	formal 54:21
entity 38:8 52:11	experience 31:20	filing 43:4,11	formalize 47:16
environment 19:24	expired 30:11	filings 43:18	formalized 47:13
20:5 63:5	expires 20:8	fill 41:23 51:10	formalizing 47:12
environmental	explanation 57:4	final 12:14 13:4	former 24:21
30:19	eye 46:17 51:20	37:3 43:15,21 44:10	forms 49:12
escalate 27:9 39:10	f	finalizing 49:9	forsman 2:12,23 3:2
39:10		finally 51:9	forth 19:25 20:18
especially 9:24 25:5	facilities 19:18,19	financial 55:16,21	40:17 41:19 43:17
25:16 30:24 53:16	facility 13:16 18:25	72:16	44:20 58:1 62:12
establish 11:6	19:4,7 20:3,8 27:15	financing 65:20	65:8
established 3:7	28:10,19 29:1,2,6	68:23	forward 11:2,16
62:23	29:15,17 30:3 32:1	find 45:9 58:16 67:6	12:5,6,9,14 14:4,16
	32:20 34:15 49:25	70:6	17:3 23:12 37:17

[forward - henry]

42:17 46:15 48:11	61:18,21 62:2,16,16	government 3:12	handling 45:20
50:21,22 51:7 56:17	62:19 64:11 65:10	28:21 38:17	hang 53:19
57:4,16,23 58:1,22	general 6:14 7:6	governments 10:23	hanging 53:21
60:14,19 64:16	10:12 40:19 41:14	10:24 38:7	hanson 5:11,11
65:12 66:11 68:18	42:3 43:4 66:17	governs 13:15	22:20,20 23:17
71:11	67:20 68:15	gracious 2:25	happening 38:18
forwarded 31:18	generalities 67:24	grave 4:1	53:20 70:2,3
found 26:12	generalize 31:19	great 3:5 6:24 8:25	happens 24:5 34:9
four 35:12 52:4	generalized 30:18	40:6 44:25	34:10 39:21 43:11
56:10 66:22	generally 23:21 24:4	greatly 32:24	49:2
frame 56:17	29:13 62:1	gross 22:24 24:14	happy 23:15 70:16
free 2:6 46:7,9 62:1	getting 25:25 26:20	27:20,23 28:4	hatch 6:6,6,10,10
70:23	69:23	ground 33:22 69:15	hate 59:11
frequency 69:6	give 7:9 23:6 26:3	70:7	hawk 5:22,22
frias 6:2,2	29:23	group 10:3,4,6,13	he'll 10:13
friendly 45:3	given 22:24 69:9	10:14,20 11:21	head 55:7
front 39:18 54:10	72:8,13	13:12,18,21 14:8,15	health 19:24 20:5
frustrating 25:16	glad 6:19	14:18,23 20:25	28:22 30:19,20 31:9
full 46:13 63:17	go 2:6 3:5 4:12 7:18	21:23 35:19 46:22	32:14,21 34:11 63:5
72:12	7:23 8:3 9:7,8,14	47:3 58:10,11 64:21	hear 7:16 17:21 30:2
functions 60:25	10:18 12:20 15:7	grouped 12:1	33:21 38:14 51:5
funding 61:16	25:1,4 26:16 28:19	groups 11:16,16,23	68:13,21 70:6,7
funds 63:2	30:21 34:14 35:6,10	11:24,24 13:12	heard 8:15,16 17:5
furnished 55:20	35:18 36:17 40:6,17	14:19	26:19 36:1 47:5,11
further 9:11 46:21	41:16 42:7,20 44:3	growth 34:18	50:24 51:1 52:2,5
52:16 55:10	56:11 61:11 69:3,16	guess 23:17,19	56:22
future 51:21 70:16	goal 4:6	31:11 41:10 57:19	hearing 25:9 33:19
70:17	goes 18:2 24:18	guidance 21:14	44:8,9 48:20,21,22
g	40:21 59:4	23:19,25 24:1,16,22	53:4 63:14 67:22
gaap 23:10 57:13	going 8:5 9:15 10:13	24:24 25:10 30:24	68:21
gamble 4:11 5:5,7,9	10:18 12:5 13:12,24	39:8 41:24	hearings 63:1
5:11 22:20 25:12	21:20 23:3 24:9	guidelines 25:18	held 44:9
28:23 37:19	25:6 29:11 30:18	guys 68:9,18	helm 5:9,9 28:23,23
game 62:24	31:14 35:19 39:19	h	29:8,22,25 37:19,19
gaming 1:3 3:13	41:11 46:3,15 48:23	h 35:21 40:11	39:11 bala 7:7.25:17.40:22
5:16,20,25 6:6,11	51:15 53:11,12,13	half 69:8	help 7:7 25:17 49:23
6:18 13:14 14:10,16	54:6 55:20 56:17	hall 1:9	50:2 68:4
15:13,16,18,20	57:21,22 58:1,9	hallmark 60:11	helped 7:10
16:12 18:16,19	66:11 67:13 68:4	halstead 5:19,19	helpful 30:23 31:7 31:17 32:11 45:19
22:21,24 24:14	good 2:5 10:15 23:3 25:24 34:7 38:23	hand 15:2 72:18	
27:20,23 28:4 33:5	46:18 69:23	handed 3:20 31:25	51:2 beloing 24:7
39:13 41:2,24 43:9	goods 21:5	handle 41:21 42:11	helping 24:7 helps 49:22
47:18,19 48:14	governing 38:19	handled 42:1 44:13	henry 5:7,7 25:11
51:13 58:12 61:12	governing 50.17		25:11
			23.11

[hey - know]

L 52 10 24 60 2	• • • • • • • • • • • •	• • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • • •	•
hey 53:10,24 68:2	imposing 35:5	input 21:17 26:3	issue 23:8 32:15
hi 25:11	improved 32:22	69:10,13	36:25 37:11 38:1
high 60:8 61:3	incident 36:20	inquiry 11:19 21:2	63:9,10,15 67:8
highlight 15:5	includable 23:1,19	36:2 41:12 53:5,7	issued 14:20,21
hill 4:2	include 13:5 63:13	56:16,23 59:22	47:18,20 48:14,18
hired 63:24	included 23:23	60:14 65:2	51:25
histories 3:17	25:15 45:15	inserted 28:12	issues 12:23 13:19
history 3:5 23:6	includes 47:17	insertions 59:6,14	17:7 29:16 32:15
61:12	48:13	insisting 2:11,12	36:19,20 41:17 42:6
hoenig 6:12,12	including 4:18 43:5	instance 53:15	42:18 44:6 50:4
24:19,19 66:15	62:18	institutional 55:22	56:20 57:25,25 58:2
hold 34:15	inconsistent 57:14	intend 19:8	issuing 66:24
holding 53:18	incorporate 14:11	intent 56:2	j
honest 61:23,24	19:14 32:3	interest 14:17 55:16	jackson 5:15,15
hook 4:3	incremental 27:6	55:21 58:13 65:13	jamestown 6:5
hooked 2:17	39:15	65:17 66:8,17,24	january 18:17
hope 40:3 46:15	independent 27:3	67:2,20 68:7 72:16	jason 5:19
hopes 48:11	53:22 63:22	interested 3:23	jeff 6:10,10
hoping 15:22	indian 1:3 3:3 6:18	20:21 46:2 68:20	jerry 6:4
host 2:25	7:9,22 11:9 13:16	interesting 67:7	job 1:25 8:25
hosting 2:10	14:23 21:1,4,5,10	interestingly 24:6	0
hours 69:5	21:19 34:1,10,10,12	interests 64:21,24	joe 24:21
house 44:23	34:15,18,20,25,25	65:7	join 2:6
housekeeping 10:21	67:9	internal 9:15 13:22	july 9:18
i	indians 34:6,6	13:23 35:1 61:19	june 20:21
idea 15:15 38:17	indicate 11:22,25	internally 25:3	k
67:17	36:20	49:10,22	kathryn 5:13
	individual 50:8 51:3	interpret 28:2	kathy 6:21
igra 16:12 21:6 23:8	individualized 39:7	intervene 43:1	keep 3:19 8:2 31:20
27:23 34:12,17,25	individually 65:10	introduce 5:1	34:16 46:17 51:20
63:20,22 64:7,10	individuals 9:9 10:8	investigation 39:21	key 14:9 47:9 48:15
65:8	industry 36:7	50:12 52:1,5,11,17	48:23 63:23
ii 9:16,17 13:22	influenced 69:13	52:20,22 53:11,25	kiana 4:18
14:15 15:25 58:12	inform 25:10,21	55:24 62:7,9,22	kind 4:6 31:9
58:22 59:21,24 60:9	64:2 70:4	investigations 14:8	kitsap 1:9
60:11 61:9 62:2,19	information 19:10	14:13,14 47:8 51:23	know 2:14 3:16,24
iii 9:16 13:22	19:12 20:2,17 25:21	55:15 56:6	7:4,14,19 8:3 10:3,7
illustrate 62:11,13	29:24 31:5 32:2	investigative 47:10	15:16 16:7,14 18:19
62:16 63:1	37:22 38:12 42:15	50:10,11,16,17,24	18:23 19:9 21:14
imagine 70:22	48:18 49:11,12	investor 55:23	23:11 24:24 25:20
implemented 47:24	55:20 56:6 61:1,15	involved 4:14 46:1	25:23,24,24 27:20
important 70:5	62:20 63:14	irs 29:17	29:13,14,14,20
importantly 46:2	informed 8:12	island 4:12	30:25 31:19 32:12
impose 34:3	initial 53:5 63:8	issuance 16:18	32:23 33:2,6,16,18
		19:17 30:15	33:20 34:20 37:21
		17117 50115	

38:16,18,23 39:12	leave 9:5,22 10:5	little 4:20 7:24 17:10	management 14:9
39:17 40:14,21	leaving 54:18	25:5,16 47:24 48:3	40:15 41:3 43:16,23
41:15 44:14,22 45:7	left 25:1 30:7 66:5	local 6:22	47:9 48:16,24 55:16
45:8,11,15,18 46:10	legal 65:18 66:3,22	located 54:17	55:17,17,21,22
48:5 51:2 52:3,6,7	68:15	lodge 4:18	56:25 57:8,10 65:9
52:21 53:12,18,19	legislative 6:2	long 20:13 30:8,14	67:14
54:19 55:5,7 57:19	lend 44:20	53:12,18	manifests 27:2
57:21,22 58:5,6	lender 52:19	longer 70:23	manner 20:4 63:4
59:17 67:9,19,24,24	lending 67:15	longhouse 4:4	march 15:22,23
68:3,14 70:3,18	lends 67:3,17	look 8:5 21:3,4,15	mark 7:3,5 27:9
71:6	leonard 2:23	23:18 26:25 31:25	material 64:3
knowing 26:16	letter 19:14 36:17	38:21 49:17 59:23	materials 10:19
knows 46:5 67:14	37:4 52:1,11,21	71:11	14:24 40:10 47:16
1	54:21	looked 53:22,24	50:10,11,13 58:15
1 1:24 72:3,22	letters 46:25 53:24	68:16	60:16
lacking 45:14	letting 25:19 71:6	looking 6:21 23:21	matherly 5:24,24
lael 5:22 70:16	license 13:16 18:25	27:3 34:23 35:5	17:21,21,24,24 22:2
laid 30:10 37:2 60:3	19:5,8 20:8 28:10	48:9 52:18 54:11	22:6,9,12,15 30:1,1
land 2:24 3:10,15	29:7,18 30:3,15	56:20 59:17,19	30:14,17 31:6 54:14
language 27:23 28:2	33:17 47:18,19	60:24 64:15	54:14
28:3 64:7	48:14,15,18,20,23	looks 48:3	matter 11:18 69:5
large 49:25	51:2 61:20	lost 3:10 22:3	72:15
larry 6:14 7:5 9:14	licensed 19:19 50:19	lot 3:4,10,15,16 4:14	means 65:14
10:12,16 23:4 25:24	50:22 63:24 65:10	33:24 41:14,17	meet 63:11,12
35:22 38:21 39:1	licensee 48:19	42:15 44:17 50:1	meeting 2:21 3:20
40:1 45:15 47:2	licenses 14:10 19:16	64:13 68:13 69:15	3:22 7:10,11 9:20
54:23 56:12 59:3	30:8	lots 3:25	13:25 47:6 62:14
66:13 67:9	licensing 6:11 28:20	love 51:5	meetings 7:8,25
late 16:17,19,21,22	32:20 62:8,22	m	8:12 10:25 70:4
16:24 17:6,10 18:11	licensure 55:25	machine 9:17	melissa 29:19
21:25 26:6,8 27:1	limbo 53:16	madison 3:3	member 4:21 5:25
43:11,18 46:12	limit 65:24	main 26:18 28:17	6:17 10:16
lawana 6:8	limited 42:25 43:12	maintain 47:10	members 4:21
laws 19:23 62:4,17	43:19 44:7 57:17	maintained 60:10	mentioned 12:16
lawyers 10:1	59:8 64:6	maintaining 61:2	13:11,21 17:18
lay 31:2	linda 5:9 28:23	maintains 61:23	34:13 55:4 64:13
laying 40:23	37:19,25	maintenance 20:3	67:9 70:13
lays 20:12 36:15	line 33:15	majority 26:6	messages 25:25
37:6,9 41:1 43:22	lines 57:20	majority 20.0 making 25:6 27:22	met 61:22 62:12
44:4 61:22 62:11,12	list 31:3 45:17,18	32:7,7 39:9,22	michael 6:12 24:19
63:6	61:16	43:14 48:11 51:7	microphone 2:15,23
leaders 6:1 38:15	listed 54:20	52:25 60:19 61:3	5:2 7:14 22:18
learned 47:23	listening 32:6	64:17 69:11	mics 62:18
	listing 61:18	UT.17 UJ.11	mike 7:5 38:21
			45:16 54:23 67:13

mind 22:1 46:23	nation 10:17	noncompliance	objection 48:19
mine 4:6	national 1:3 6:18	26:13 27:6 36:19	obtained 60:2
minimum 8:2 9:15	native 34:21	nonpayment 17:1	obviously 17:8
13:22,23	natural 26:23 33:12	normal 67:8	44:19,24 48:7 60:7
minute 23:4 27:16	naturally 45:9	northeast 1:8	occurred 52:15
27:17 35:13	near 51:21 70:15,17	northwest 6:24	69:17
mix 8:18	necessarily 16:5	notice 8:8,18 11:19	occurring 72:13
modifying 57:16	24:13	16:13,18 17:4 20:7	occurs 43:15,21
moment 31:24 59:9	necessary 32:22	20:15,15 21:2 22:17	october 14:21 53:1
monday 17:19,20	36:23	23:17 36:1,3,22	57:2
18:24	need 8:1 9:4,10 11:7	37:4,11 40:3 41:5	offer 39:7
money 27:2 28:5	19:10,13 25:4,24	41:12 44:1,2 47:8	office 7:6 24:17 38:2
monitoring 14:12	29:1 30:10 35:4	48:14,20 50:6 51:19	41:14 42:2 63:7,14
51:22 62:8,22	37:10 38:10,22 46:8	51:25 52:25 53:5,7	66:16 68:15 70:19
monitors 62:17,18	46:8 49:7 53:12	54:5,6,9,10 56:12	officer 46:5
month 8:5	55:5,6,9 58:3 68:4	56:16,23 59:22	offices 54:9
months 28:13 33:7	needs 32:3	60:13 65:2 71:4	official 41:5,9 43:2
33:20 54:25	net 24:11 38:5 57:1	notices 8:13 65:17	44:1,4,5,9 48:16,24
morning 2:5 3:22	57:5,11,14,15,16	66:3,22 68:16 70:14	69:11
10:15 13:13,18	never 27:7 36:10	70:25	officials 14:9,10
14:25 35:18 69:18	52:5 70:18	notification 16:12	46:3 47:9
69:18 70:14 71:11	new 4:4,6,14 16:16	19:5,8 30:4 50:7	ogas 5:13,13
morphed 8:13	26:17,20 27:5 29:2	52:14	oh 56:9
morris 7:2	30:24 31:18 35:20	notifications 13:16	okay 10:11,15 15:7
motion 42:3,24 43:4	39:17 40:11,14	18:25	18:13 21:22 22:2
motions 40:22,24	nez 5:20	notified 37:21	29:24 31:6 32:25
42:23 43:1,2,5,5,12	nica 6:3	notifies 48:16,22	35:6,16,23 39:25
43:19 44:7,7	nice 4:12 41:15	notify 29:2 33:17	40:9 46:20 47:2
move 9:2,19 10:2,4	nigc 1:1 6:13,15	39:22 63:11	51:14,22 55:11,13
10:5 12:13 14:4,16	16:14 17:12 18:18	nov 17:7,11 27:8	58:3,8,10,14 59:21
17:3 18:13 23:12	19:17 20:7 21:5,9	36:14 39:10 66:24	64:20 71:10
42:17 46:15,22	21:10 24:17 26:7	novs 26:7,8 39:3,19	old 4:2,5
48:11 51:7,16 55:13	29:2 30:18 31:21,21	number 3:8 4:9,12	once 12:11 41:18
56:17 57:16,23 58:1	39:15 45:18 47:7	4:17 12:5,7 13:11	49:9
58:10,22 60:14,19	48:16,17,19,22	15:16 26:2,16 40:13	oneida 10:16
64:16 65:12 68:18	50:11,23,23 52:3,8	45:16,22,22 47:12	ones 46:3
moved 11:16 12:9	52:10,21 54:2 55:9	49:4 56:15 60:10	ongoing 52:6,20
37:16	56:24 57:1,8,9 59:9	69:22 70:14,22	000 2:3
moving 5:3 57:4	63:7 64:6,10 66:1	numbers 56:10	open 4:2 9:12 10:19
museum 4:2,4,14	69:6 70:5	0	11:1 19:8,18 21:21
n	nigc's 36:22 54:17	o'haleck 1:24 72:3	25:9 52:6
name 5:3 10:16	68:5	72:22	opened 33:3 52:4,18
29:22	nj344001 1:25	oaths 72:5	opening 29:3 49:25
	nokes 5:17,17		operates 61:25

F			
operating 45:9 47:6	page 28:16 31:11	paying 17:10	please 15:2 16:7
operation 16:13	50:6,14 56:9,10,10	payment 16:19,24	17:19 18:22 19:9
20:4 60:23 61:25	56:10	payments 16:11,17	51:20 71:2,3
63:4 65:10	pager 28:15	16:19,21 17:6 27:2	plenty 9:23 27:1
operation's 15:13	pages 59:5	penalty 18:6 21:25	plus 22:13
15:20 61:18	paid 27:7 28:6,6	people 6:21,24,24	pmos 63:23
operations 13:14	paperwork 32:23	7:8,9,9 10:4 24:25	point 3:6 17:2 23:14
15:16,18 39:16	54:19	46:1 50:1 70:1	25:4 29:21 35:22
53:17 61:13	parallel 9:19	perce 5:20	37:17 38:23 49:9
opinion 66:23	parcel 29:6	percent 18:2,6,7,9	points 10:21
opinions 65:18 66:4	part 4:15 8:8 9:6,24	18:10 22:4,8,10,14	policy 34:4 35:1,1
66:13,17,19 68:15	13:14 14:12,13,18	26:7	38:4 47:14
opportunity 32:6	14:20 15:1 16:16	percentage 16:23	policymaking 11:4
42:18 68:21 69:10	18:14,14,15,15,20	65:9	port 3:3 4:11 5:5,7,9
70:3,10	18:25 19:10,13	percentages 21:24	5:11 22:20 25:12
opposed 29:6 31:4	20:25 21:1 22:4,22	27:12,13 65:7	28:23 37:19
70:8	35:7,18,19,24 36:15	period 14:21 16:12	portland 1:4
opposite 65:22	37:15 40:14,22 41:1	17:18 20:14,20,24	position 5:4
option 67:23	41:2,4,6 42:6,23	37:5 46:11,19 48:7	possibly 40:3
order 8:23 9:8 11:4	43:3,7,16,25 44:13	53:1 58:19	posted 71:6
11:14 56:19	47:17 48:4 49:7	permanently 20:9	posts 62:24
ordinance 18:21	51:22 54:13,18 55:6	63:2	poulsbo 4:11
42:25	55:12,14 56:14,20	person 26:17,18	powerpoint 10:18
ordinances 13:15	57:6 58:11,14 59:5	70:2	21:23 34:13
18:16,20 33:5 39:14	60:3 61:12,15 64:1	personnel 26:15,20	powers 64:6,9,9
40:15 41:2 43:8,9	64:20,21 67:2 68:8	persons 55:15	practice 34:8 42:23
64:11	69:25 70:11	petition 60:4 63:15	practices 16:1,4
organizational	parte 42:11,13	petitions 63:7	pre 36:16 37:1
61:13	participate 10:25	phase 8:22	preclude 52:15
organize 40:18	participation 42:25	phases 12:3	preference 59:16
organized 40:19	43:12,19 44:7 71:12	phillips 7:3	preliminary 12:5,7
41:15	particular 28:17	phone 24:6 42:2	15:11 44:23 48:8
organizing 8:25	51:18,18 54:13	51:11	58:17 66:8,12
originally 69:21	67:13	pick 42:1 51:11	prepare 7:7,10
outline 30:5	parties 45:25 46:2	pilot 14:11 47:3,4,7	prepared 9:6 10:9
outset 36:13,25	partnerships 4:10	47:12,16,24 48:4	prerogative 38:18
outweighs 60:2	parts 9:13 14:5 26:2	49:3,5	prerogatives 11:8
overloaded 49:23	33:10 40:13,17	place 14:12 19:23	presence 4:7
owe 27:2	51:18 69:9,16,17	27:5 29:5 45:7 49:4	presentation 9:7
р	party 52:13 72:15	56:3 61:8 62:9 72:8	21:23
p.m. 46:24	pass 22:18	72:14	preserve 11:8
packet 8:19 14:24	passed 18:21	places 4:12	preserving 54:1
40:10 59:3	paul 5:15	play 9:17	presiding 41:5,8
	pay 17:1 26:13	playing 46:25	43:25 44:3,5,9 46:2
			46:5

Page 12

47 11 55 0	40 4 40 2	20 17 20 4 26 10	42.12
pretty 47:11 55:8	48:4 49:3	20:17 28:4 36:18	42:12
previously 31:1	progressive 8:9	44:2 50:15 52:1,9	r
38:14	promote 4:15 34:17	55:18 57:9,18 63:23	raise 15:2 50:5
primary 3:13 14:9	promotional 23:22	64:1	rancheria 5:14
47:9 48:16,24 56:7	promotions 24:14	providing 16:13,17	range 66:18,20
65:14	27:24	52:12 65:20 68:23	rate 15:21,22,23
principles 23:21	promulgate 65:3	proving 70:1	rayanne 7:2,5
printing 70:19	promulgating 64:23	public 3:23 11:1,12	rcw 72:4
prior 16:17 18:16 48:18 53:6	proof 44:8	11:15 16:2 17:5	reacquire 3:10,15
	proposals 12:12	19:3,24 20:5 21:2 28:22 32:21 47:22	read 10:10
priorities 11:22	proposed 8:14,18		reader 9:1
priority 3:12 11:25	12:6,10 13:4 14:19	57:24 63:5	reading 59:16
prizes 28:6,6	14:20 15:1,4,9,12	publications 8:19	ready 40:6
probably 3:21 6:22	16:10,16 17:8,25	publish 17:15	really 9:25 27:25
40:11 66:18,19	18:4,15 22:18 27:22	published 12:10	32:15 35:10 38:18
problem 39:23	37:17 40:4 41:5	15:21 53:1 57:2	41:19 45:5 49:4,18
problems 27:8	42:5,17,19,21 46:14	71:1	54:7 61:2 66:4 67:6
procedural 43:4 45:2	46:16 48:12 51:20	publishing 15:22	reason 17:10 26:14
	51:25 52:9,13,25	pull 20:1	26:16,18,18,22
procedures 47:18	54:15 60:20 64:16	purchasing 21:5	38:12
47:19 48:13	66:12 70:7,15,25	purpose 60:6	reasons 26:5
proceed 21:18,19	71:6	purposes 12:17	receive 14:3 36:3
36:9 66:2 67:4	proposes 15:12 31:4	34:16 60:9	37:24 57:24
proceedings 9:24	proposing 23:13	purser 5:5,5	received 11:15,19
13:19 35:7,11,21	proprietary 58:13	pursuant 55:25 72:4	13:6 14:25 15:11
40:7,9,12,20,23,24	64:21,24 65:6,13,17	put 12:4 24:22	16:2 20:22 32:12,12
42:24 72:7,9,13	66:7,17,24 67:2,20 68:7	25:10,21 27:21 30:23 45:1 50:20	40:5 42:11 44:18
process 12:19 13:9		54:21 55:6 61:8	46:13 48:10 50:11
14:7 17:15,17 19:14 21:11 30:4 32:20	propriety 14:17 prosecution 62:10	67:21 71:4,5	51:17 55:8 57:1,3
37:1 39:16 40:24	63:3	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	58:8 59:25 64:13
		putting 25:3 40:3	65:1 67:2,10
41:23 43:17,22 44:1	protect 19:24	q	receives 12:12 13:3
44:4,6,9,15 45:13	protected 28:22	quarterly 16:10	38:11 44:2
45:24 49:13,16 50:15 51:10 56:15	protecting 30:20 protects 20:5 63:5	question 22:22 23:3	receiving 57:12 60:1
56:21 57:6 58:21	provide 14:1 15:19	23:4 30:17 51:4	60:13 63:24
60:2,19 61:2,8	· ·	questions 2:8 20:6	recess 35:15
62:15 63:6 64:25	19:21,22 20:14 36:22 37:4 41:24	22:17 24:20 41:19	reconciling 64:14
		50:4 56:16,22 67:1	reconsideration
69:12,19,20 70:12	42:21 48:1 57:7	69:19	43:5
processes 17:13 49:10	64:24 65:19 68:19	quick 22:22 35:8,8	record 10:10 18:12
	69:10	35:13	27:10 43:6 72:13
processing 49:23	provided 20:18	quickly 8:6 34:1	recorded 2:16 72:10
products 34:20	25:18 61:15	quite 9:22 24:6	recordkeeping
program 14:11 47:3	provides 15:21	38:11 39:7 41:23	61:19
47:4,7,12,17,24	16:10,24 19:3,16		

[records - safe]

			42.9
records 28:18 53:18	regulations 11:13	requested 20:18	revocation 42:8
54:17 55:1 62:21	11:23 14:5 19:21,23	requesting 47:22	rewind 69:16
recruit 50:1	41:13 45:7 49:6	require 21:5,9,10	richard 6:2
reduce 55:19 61:1	54:11 56:18,19	required 20:15	rid 59:13
reducing 32:23	61:21 62:4,18 64:10	39:15 49:2,3 55:24	right 2:9 3:20 12:20
reduction 54:20	regulators 25:17	requirement 32:16	18:13 30:7 31:2
referenced 51:24	61:14,17	requirements 60:3,6	35:10 42:4 48:19
refinance 52:19	regulatory 1:1,5 8:9	61:10 62:14 63:19	53:15 59:9 64:14
refinancing 52:23	11:3,12 12:2,19	63:21	road 4:3 8:7 28:14
reflect 15:25	27:4 36:24 37:21,23	rescinding 18:15	46:6 52:16
reg 20:25 58:23	38:16 53:17,23	reservation 3:4,7,8	roberts 6:14,14
59:24 60:8 67:4,25	56:14,21 57:6 60:23	residing 43:2	10:12,15,16 15:9
70:7	60:24,25 62:17,21	resolution 62:15	18:13 23:7,24 27:19
regard 32:19 38:4	64:22,25	resolutions 43:8	29:4,10,23 31:2
42:12 57:11	reiterate 49:1	resort 1:7 4:16,23	32:9 35:23 40:9
regarding 21:24	reiterating 39:1	resources 3:15	46:10 47:4 50:4
22:22	related 72:15	11:20	51:22 55:3,14 56:14
region 1:4 7:25	relates 43:7	respond 63:13	58:14,17 59:1,21
47:25,25 49:22,23	remedy 39:9	response 11:19 53:4	64:20 66:16 68:11
50:2	remember 54:24	56:23 65:1	room 2:8 3:17
regional 7:4 29:19	remodels 33:13	responsibility 55:17	rotating 7:21
54:8	remove 15:24	55:22	round 5:1
regionally 8:25	removing 16:3	restroom 35:9	roy 6:6,6
regions 7:24 47:23	renew 30:9 33:17	result 17:11	rule 12:6,10,14,15
48:2 49:11,14 50:2	renewal 30:4	results 47:8 48:15	13:4,5 14:19 15:1,4
register 8:19 12:11	renewals 33:3	50:8,16	15:10,12 16:10,16
71:4,5	renewed 30:11,15	resume 63:23	17:25 18:4 22:18
regs 30:24 31:2	reopen 54:3	retains 64:8	27:22 32:7 37:17
41:19	replaced 28:20	revenue 3:13 22:25	40:4 42:17,19,21
regularly 24:16	report 50:17 51:3	24:11,14 27:20,23	48:12 51:25 52:9,13
regulated 55:23	63:9,13	28:5	52:25 54:15 64:16
regulating 36:6 60:5	reported 1:24	revenues 57:1,5,11	66:12 69:11 70:15
60:9	reporter 2:18 72:4	57:14,15,17 61:24	71:1,6
regulation 13:17	72:22	62:6,16	rules 8:14,18 12:8
14:15,17,23 19:15	reporter's 72:1	review 1:1,5 8:9	12:12 13:19 14:20
21:1,3,4,8,13,19	reporting 60:5	11:3,12,14 12:2,19	40:16,19 42:9 43:4
24:12 25:6 28:18	63:19,21	13:15 14:2,3 19:4	44:20 45:2 46:4,5
35:2 46:14,16 47:14	reports 47:11 50:24	43:13,20 56:15,18	51:20 62:24
47:17 55:6,10 58:12	51:7	56:21,24 57:6,9	run 70:19
58:12,22 59:22,24	represent 5:4,25	64:22 65:1,3	S
60:1,11,20 61:5,16	representing 6:1	reviewed 13:3 56:19	
63:8,11,15,16,25	reputation 61:24	reviewing 58:21	s'klallam 5:5,7,9,12
64:4,6,23 65:3,13	request 19:4 37:20	60:18 63:7	22:21 25:12 28:23
65:19,21,23 66:2	48:17 63:14 64:25	reviews 56:3 62:20	safe 61:24 71:12
68:19,24	65:4 69:24		
	00.107.21		

			(1.2.(2.22)
safety 19:25 20:5	sending 31:5 38:16	sole 14:17 58:13	61:3 62:23
28:22 30:20 31:9	sense 12:2	64:21,23 65:6,12,16	start 18:6 35:14,23
32:14,21 63:5	sent 17:6 19:5,17	66:7,17,24 67:2,19	47:2,3
sake 9:9	separate 29:6,6	68:6	started 2:6,22 8:10
salish 6:24,25	september 60:17	solicit 34:19	41:11 49:15 58:6
sand 33:15	serious 17:8 39:3	solutions 70:9	69:21
sandy 4:3	seriously 26:9,10	soon 40:3,5 46:16	state 5:3 31:8,8,10
saying 30:12 31:12	service 34:11 42:10	sooner 37:11	55:25,25 72:5,22
32:13 35:3 52:21	services 21:6 34:20	sorry 15:7 28:7 59:2	stated 18:5 72:9,14
53:24 56:23 57:20	session 46:22	sort 12:21 14:17	statement 9:6 10:9
68:14	set 7:10 41:19 57:25	28:3 29:15,17 36:16	19:22 65:20,23
schlichting 29:19	65:7	36:18,21 37:4,12,13	statements 18:1,6,8
scope 55:19	sets 19:25 20:18	52:12 53:16,20	18:9,11
seasonal 20:11,15	setting 43:17	61:11 68:5	statute 23:11 57:9
33:8	seven 4:21 6:4	sound 2:17 62:1	57:18 61:6 65:15
seat 2:9	share 50:25	sounds 29:15,16	statutory 27:22 28:2
seats 35:17	sharing 12:23	sources 3:13	28:3 57:15 64:7
seattle 3:8	shift 60:22	sovereignty 60:12	stay 9:10
seattle's 4:1	short 3:19	spaces 4:18	stenographically
second 26:22 50:9	shortly 48:12	speak 7:13 27:24	72:10
50:10,12 58:25 59:5	shows 59:4	speaking 2:15	step 17:8 27:6 39:16
59:14	side 28:14 38:15	speaks 69:6	41:10
section 15:25 16:3	45:11	specific 22:25 66:25	steps 41:24 49:6
16:17,18 17:13	sides 67:8 68:2	67:3,18	stevens 2:5,14,19
35:10,14 39:19	sign 3:6	specifically 32:20	4:25 6:16,16 15:6
56:11 58:16 63:6	signature 72:18	38:6 54:2	17:23 21:22 22:3,7
sections 21:6 56:9	similar 3:17 32:12	specificity 67:19	22:10,13,16 23:2
see 2:10 8:18 9:14	55:4	specifics 29:12	24:4 25:8,19 28:9
12:22 13:10 27:1	sit 70:9	67:22	30:7,16,21 32:25
31:23 32:2 36:19,25	site 4:1 12:21,25	speed 26:20	35:16 37:25 39:12
45:5,21 68:16 69:12	13:1 20:23 25:3	spell 29:22 55:10	45:4 46:20 48:25
seeing 33:10	54:17,25	spent 24:6	51:15 53:3 54:23
seeking 12:11 20:12	situation 18:10	spirit 34:16	55:11 56:8 58:3,16
21:11 50:8	29:12 37:13,13	spokane 5:23,24	58:24 59:2 64:18
seeks 47:16	situations 17:9 39:9	18:3 21:24 30:1	66:13 67:6 69:2
seen 32:3 71:7	68:25	31:7 33:6 54:14,15	stillaguamish 6:8
self 14:15 58:11,22	six 28:13 33:20	55:4	stolen 3:16
59:21,24 60:1,4,8,8	54:25	stability 65:19	stop 58:24
60:11 61:5,15 63:8	sklallam 6:5	staff 7:2 8:1,24 24:5	store 53:19
63:10,15,16,25 64:3	slow 69:24	24:16 25:20 41:12	streamline 56:5
64:6	slower 10:5	47:5 52:10,21	61:2
send 17:19 19:7,13	smith 24:21	stage 8:17	streamlined 32:17
24:24 38:10,20,21	snafu 70:18	standard 43:13,20	32:22 56:4
52:21	sold 3:11	standards 9:16,17	street 4:3
		11:6,7 13:23 60:8	

[strengthened - transactional]

strengthened 32:22	sure 2:19 7:15 17:12	telephone 35:9	thinking 28:13
strike 59:6,15	25:7 29:25 38:23	tell 30:10 44:19	53:15
structure 34:23	surprise 36:11 39:4	59:19	third 61:6
stuff 29:18 30:20	54:6 69:8	temporary 20:11,13	thought 12:1 34:7
31:10	surprised 36:4	33:6,14,14,18	57:13
subchapter 35:21	surprisingly 67:7	ten 18:2	thread 68:17
40:11,14,18,19	suspended 30:12	terminate 30:9	three 7:20 9:20 12:3
41:16 42:5 45:2	48:20	terminated 20:8	30:12 52:4 66:21
subject 11:18 33:4	suspension 42:8	30:11	throughs 59:6,15
subjects 10:14 58:7	system 2:17 16:19	terms 9:7 12:1,2	throw 46:25
submission 61:1,10	18:4 61:18,20 62:6	28:1 32:18 34:24	ticket 18:4
submissions 20:19	62:7,9,15,22 63:3	38:3 41:21 51:7	time 7:11 9:3,5,9
41:8 43:3 44:13,15	systems 27:4	65:8 66:16 67:20	10:8 11:20 14:12
submit 16:8 28:19	t	territory 2:24	16:22 17:2 23:14
46:9 47:8 68:12	table 2:7,11 5:2 6:20	testimony 62:25	24:6 33:16,19 36:2
70:24	tac 13:24,24 14:1,4	text 16:11 63:20	37:4 42:2 45:8
submittal 49:13	take 5:1 7:20 8:4	tga 5:6,10,12,18 6:9	46:18 48:21 53:12
submitted 18:17	11:20 26:9 35:8,13	28:24 37:19	67:12,14 70:18
30:25 50:7 71:2	35:17 44:23 49:7,13	tgra 61:13 62:19	71:13 72:8,14
substantial 26:8	70:23	63:2	times 19:7
27:9	taken 28:20 35:15	thank 4:22,25 7:11	timing 44:10
substantive 16:5,15	37:8	8:24 25:19 32:8,9	today 7:1,17 8:10
70:11	takers 10:11	32:24 37:25 38:23	9:4,21 10:7 11:10
successful 36:9,13	takes 26:10 62:24,25	71:10,14	12:9 13:10,17 14:22
suggested 15:24	talk 9:22,23 12:8	thanks 3:2 7:2,9	24:3 39:20 44:25
65:6,11,16,22 66:1	13:12,17,18 23:3	thereto 43:24	54:22 69:15
suggesting 12:24	24:9,11,13 26:2	thickest 40:11	today's 2:21
34:3	27:16 29:11,18 33:1	thing 17:24 23:17	told 52:3
suggestion 22:4	34:1 35:19,22 39:18	29:17 31:6 33:5,7,9	tool 32:2
suggestions 16:3	39:19,23 46:23	43:16 49:8 59:17,18	top 55:7
23:14	51:13 56:13	things 4:13,16 9:4	topic 51:5
summarizes 64:5	talked 24:10 25:2	24:25 25:1 26:23	topics 8:6,10 10:7
summary 13:5 57:3	54:24 58:4	27:21 28:3 32:11	tornadoes 33:12
61:12	talking 38:1 41:12	33:1,2 35:25 40:21	total 28:5
summer 33:8 53:7	54:5 58:6,8 70:12	45:17,19 47:21	tourism 4:10,15
supervision 72:11	talks 11:4 17:25	think 15:15 18:21	town 3:25
supplement 43:6	50:7	23:3,24 24:2,9,20 24:22 25:2,4 29:10	towns 4:9
supply 25:17	tax 29:16	29:11,13,18 31:17	tracie 3:2 4:24 6:16 25:11
support 34:18 54:18 supported 21:6	taxation 3:14	32:16,18 42:14	track 9:19 19:18
supported 21:6 supportive 18:3	technical 9:16 13:23	44:17 48:5,6 56:2	70:2
supports 54:15	39:6	61:4 66:9,16 67:22	traditional 7:8
supports 54.15 suquamish 1:7,8,10	technically 49:5	68:12,18,20 69:5	training 39:6
2:1,24 3:3 4:7,20,22	technological 59:9	70:5	transactional 68:13
4:23		10.5	
т.23			

[transcribed - we've]

transcribed 12:17	tribes 3:17 6:7,17,20	types 51:7	violations 26:9
72:10	6:22 7:23 8:12	u	62:10
transcribing 2:21	10:24 11:7,9,12,15		voluntary 37:5
transcript 72:7,12	12:23 13:2 15:19	undergo 55:24	W
72:14	16:1 17:5,13 19:2	undermine 60:6	
transcriptionist	19:21 20:1,10,13	undersigned 72:3	wagered 28:5
2:20 7:13 69:25	21:2,9,12,13,14,17	understand 2:16 9:3	waiver 42:9
transcripts 12:21,25	23:8,9 24:7 25:21	9:8 33:23 38:11	walking 32:1
20:23	26:9,19 28:1 31:14	understanding 54:1	want 2:19 3:19 7:2,9
transparent 13:9	31:23 32:6,13,19,23	unfortunately 33:10	7:15 8:24 10:9,22
57:22	33:7,10 34:3,7,18	uniform 31:12	17:25 18:11 21:25
travel 7:21,23	35:4 36:1,3,7 39:2,5	uniformity 48:1	25:23 27:8,19 28:11
travels 71:12	39:12 41:25 44:18	49:21 50:3	29:10,14 31:10,15
treat 29:1	47:6,6,7,13 49:6,12	uniformly 47:11	32:5 33:1,15 34:1,1
treaty 3:6,7	50:20,23,24 51:1,5	55:8	35:3,6,8 39:4,10
tribal 3:12 4:15,21	51:8,9 52:3 53:4,10	unknown 53:20	44:23 47:2 48:25
5:15,24 6:1,10 9:19	54:5,8 55:1,3 56:23	unnecessary 2:15	49:20 50:18,25 51:6
10:22,23 11:5 13:14	57:7 59:23,25 60:7	54:18	54:16 66:18,21
18:16,19 22:21	60:10 61:4,5,6,8	update 50:12,17	67:24 68:8 69:3
28:21 31:8,10 38:7	66:10 67:7,10 68:1	updating 22:24	70:17
38:14,17 41:24	69:7,9,24,25 70:6,6	use 3:14 31:14 34:22	wanted 15:19 26:6
51:13 55:25 60:12	71:5	34:24 46:3 47:13	26:25 45:23 49:5
60:23,24 61:21 62:3	tried 40:12 41:22	50:23 62:13	59:19 61:7 66:10
62:16 64:11 69:13	tries 19:14	useful 70:1	68:9
tribe 2:24 4:20 5:4,6	trod 33:22	user 45:3	wants 14:1 69:16
5:8,10 6:5,9 17:7,9	true 72:12	usually 3:23 26:14	washington 1:10 2:1
18:3 19:4,7,13,23	try 7:23 8:1 25:17	26:22 54:8	31:8 72:6,22 watch 71:3
20:2 25:12 26:4,15	26:10 27:8 34:16	utilize 30:19	
28:19 30:1,5,8 31:4	36:7 38:5,21 41:23	utilizes 47:7	way 1:8 2:8 7:24 8:2 24:15 26:25 27:24
31:7,18 36:11,12,18	61:7	utilizing 13:24	30:9 39:8 52:22
36:24 37:20 38:6,10	trying 3:10 4:14	V	72:15
38:11,19 39:8 44:2	14:11 38:20 45:1	various 11:16 21:6	ways 27:1 45:22
44:3 48:15,16,22	56:16	57:24	ways 27:145:22 we've 3:144:138:5
50:7,9,9,10,12,15,16	tulalip 5:15,18 6:7	vendors 34:21 62:23	8:10,15 14:19 16:2
50:19 51:2,12 52:10	6:10,17	version 59:10	17:5 18:5 20:10
52:18,23 54:14,15	turn 2:22 10:12	versions 59:3,18	21:22 25:2 26:19
55:20,25 60:5,9	21:20 35:22	vice 3:21	27:11 30:7 31:19
61:23 62:5,7,11	turns 7:20	view 36:22	32:12,12 33:9,22
63:1,11,12,24 64:1	twelve 59:5	views 29:14 66:10	32:12,12 33:9,22 38:1,3 40:2,12
64:25 65:5,25 70:8	two 18:7 22:7 28:15	68:5	41:22 42:15 44:16
70:8	30:6 33:2 34:11	violation 16:18 17:4	44:16,22 45:11
tribe's 5:20 25:9	35:12 50:14 51:18	36:4,21 37:12 41:5	46:13 47:5,23 50:23
27:10 29:14 33:4	54:11 56:9 58:2,7	44:1,3 52:14 54:6	40.13 47.3,23 50.23 51:1 52:2 55:2 58:4
45:10 48:22	59:3,12,18 61:5,6	64:10 65:18 66:3,22	58:8 67:1 68:14,16
	69:5	68:4,16	50.007.100.14,10

[we've - yomreporting.com]

69:4 71:6	years 4:5 30:6,13
web 12:21,25 13:1	31:21 49:4 52:4,18
20:23 25:3	53:14,15
week 14:22 53:2,9	yomreporting.com
71:2	72:23
weeks 70:21	
weigh 69:10	
welcome 4:22 6:19	
6:23 27:25 37:18	
went 8:11 11:2,11	
24:23	
willful 26:13	
winslow 4:11	
winter 33:7,8	
winter 55.7,8 wisconsin 10:17	
wish 45:17	
witness 72:18	
wondering 22:23	
23:9	
word 59:10	
work 4:10 39:5	
45:10 67:25	
worked 32:20	
working 24:16	
26:19 33:22 36:12	
40:3 51:19 68:25	
workings 68:22	
works 33:20 45:10	
45:12 66:15	
worksheet 26:21	
worksheets 24:7,18	
26:17	
world 40:6 45:18,18	
writing 20:22	
written 12:25 16:9	
17:19 41:8 43:2	
44:13,14,18 60:17	
y	
yeah 21:12	
year 15:14,14,17,17	
15:20 16:13 30:5	
35:24 53:5 69:7,7	
69:13	