



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240



MAR 15 2006

Dear Tribal Leader:

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. §§2701-2721, was signed into law on October 17, 1988. Section 20 of IGRA, 25 U.S.C. § 2719, contains specific provisions that will apply when gaming is to occur on lands that the Secretary of the Interior acquires in trust for an Indian tribe after October 17, 1988.

In accordance with Executive Order 13175, the Department of the Interior will engage in consultation with tribal governments on the development of proposed regulations which will establish standards for implementing Section 20 of IGRA. This section provides that Indian tribes cannot conduct class II or class III gaming on lands acquired in trust after October 17, 1988, unless one of several exceptions applies. The proposed rule will establish the criteria that will be considered by the Department to determine whether a parcel of land acquired in trust after October 17, 1988, qualifies under any of the exceptions listed in 25 U.S.C. § 2719.

As a result of and in keeping with the policy commitment of the Department of the Interior on government-to-government consultation, we are providing you with a copy of the proposed draft regulations developed by the Office of Indian Gaming Management. The Department will conduct consultation sessions on the following dates and at the following locations in order to receive input on these draft regulations.

March 30, 2006 9:00am-12:00pm

Mohegan Sun Casino and Resort
1 Mohegan Sun Blvd.
Uncasville, Connecticut 06382

April 5, 2006 2:00pm-5:00pm

Albuquerque Convention Ctr.
San Miguel Rm 330 Tijeras NW
Albuquerque, New Mexico

April 18, 2006 9:00am-12:00pm

Radisson Hotel Sacramento
500 Leisure Lane
Sacramento, California

April 20, 2006 9:00am-12:00pm

Crown Plaza
2200 Freeway Blvd.
Minneapolis, Minnesota

Comments may be mailed or hand delivered to the Office of Indian Gaming Management, 1849 C Street N.W., MS-3657-MIB, Washington, D.C. 20240. If you need additional information regarding the consultation process please contact the Office of Indian Gaming Management at (202)219-4066. Thank you for your interest in Indian gaming issues.

Sincerely,

George T. Skobine
Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary
for Policy and Economic Development

Enclosure