



United States Department of the Interior

Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Washington, DC 20240

Fact Sheet and Q&A:

May 12, 2022

Notice of Fee-to-Trust Acquisition for the Ho-Chunk Nation Proposed Beloit Site Casino Project Rock County, Wisconsin

Decision:

- On May 12, 2022, the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs made a final agency determination to acquire the approximately 32 acres of land known as the Beloit Site in the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, for gaming and other purposes.

Background:

- In 2012, the Ho-Chunk Nation of Wisconsin (Nation) submitted an application to the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), requesting that the United States acquire in trust approximately 32 acres of land known as the Beloit Site in the City of Beloit, Rock County, Wisconsin, for gaming and other purposes.
- The Nation’s Proposed Project consists of the following components: (1) The Department’s acquisition of the Site in trust for the Nation pursuant to Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C § 5108; and (2) a determination, known as a “Two-Part Determination,” that the Site is eligible for gaming pursuant to Section 20 of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2719 (b)(1)(A).
- On April 16, 2020, the Department issued a positive Two-Part Determination finding that a gaming establishment at the Beloit Site would be in the best interest of the Nation and its members, and that gaming at the Beloit Site would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.
 - An Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) assessed the environmental effects of the Proposed Project.
 - The Department issued a Record of Decision with the Two-Part Determination. The Record of Decision determined that the issuance of the Two-Part Determination, acquisition of the Beloit Site in trust, and subsequent development of the Proposed Project will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The Record of Decision completes the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act.
- On March 24, 2021, Governor Evers concurred with the Department’s Two-Part Determination. Under IGRA, with the Governor’s concurrence, the Nation is eligible to conduct gaming on the Site after it is acquired in trust.



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Q&A

Question: Does the publication of the Notice of Land Acquisition in the *Federal Register* mean that the Department has approved the Nation's application to take land in trust?

Answer: Yes. The Nation's fee-to-trust application has been favorably reviewed and meets all applicable legal requirements.

Question: What information does the EIS contain?

Answer: The EIS analyzed the Proposed Project's impacts on the quality of the human environment under the National Environmental Policy Act. The EIS concluded that the Proposed Project will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment.

Question: Can the Nation conduct gaming at the Site now?

Answer: Yes. The Department determined that the Beloit Site is eligible for gaming pursuant to the "Two Part Determination" of Section 20 of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2719 (b)(1)(A). Governor Evers concurred in the Two-Part Determination on March 24, 2021.

Question: Does the Nation have support for the Proposed Project?

Answer: Yes. Both the City of Beloit and Rock County have expressed support for the Proposed Project and has the Governor's concurrence as well.