



United States Department of the Interior

Office of the Assistant Secretary - Indian Affairs

Washington, DC 20240

Fact Sheet and Q&A:

Feb. 17, 2023

Notice of Fee-to-Trust Acquisition for the Oneida Indian Nation Madison County and Oneida County, New York

Decision:

- On , the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs has made a final determination to acquire approximately 270 acres of land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation. The land consists of 16 parcels located in Madison County and Oneida County, New York on the Nation’s Indian Reservation. The Nation plans to continue to use the land for gaming and other purposes

Background:

- In 2015, the Oneida Indian Nation (Nation) submitted a request to the Department of the Interior (Department) for the acquisition in trust of approximately 270 acres of land into trust for the Oneida Indian Nation. The land consists of 16 parcels located in Madison County and Oneida County, New York on the Nation’s Reservation. The Nation also requested confirmation that the West Mason Site would remain eligible for gaming if acquired in trust.
- The land is within the boundaries of the Nation’s Reservation and is held in fee by the Nation.
- The Nation currently operates four gaming facilities on the land:
 - SavOn Canastota - 131-acres - 356 North Peterboro Street in Canastota, Madison County, New York. The property consists of 8 tax parcels and is identified as OIN Parcel Numbers 75-81 and 87.
 - Yellow Brick Road Casino - 37.8-acres - 800/900 West Genesee Street, Village of Chittenango, Madison County, New York. The property consists of 5 contiguous tax parcels and is identified as OIN Parcel Numbers 343-47.
 - Point Place Casino - 101-acres - 8908 Bridgeport Kirkville Road, Town of Sullivan, Madison County, New York The property consists of 3 contiguous tax parcels and is identified as OIN Parcel Numbers 363-64.
 - The Lake House - 0.66-acres - 301 Park Avenue, Village of Sylvan Beach, Town of Vienna, Oneida County, New York. The property consists of single tax parcel and is identified as OIN Parcel Number 384.

- The Nation’s requested federal action consists of the following: (1) The Department’s acquisition of the approximately 270 acres in trust for the Nation pursuant to Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C § 5108; and (2) a determination that the land remains eligible for gaming pursuant to Section 2719 (a)(1) (on-reservation exception) of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA).
- Land is located within the Nation’s Reservation boundaries as they existed on October 17, 1988. The Nation may continue to conduct gaming pursuant to IGRA after the land is acquired in trust. The Department’s acceptance of the land in trust reinforces the Nation’s governmental authority over it.

Q&A

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

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

Question: What NEPA review process is applicable to this acquisition?

Answer: Because there will be no change of use on the land, Categorical Exclusion Exception Reviews were completed by the BIA for the 16 parcels on April 22, 2022. The BIA determined that no extraordinary circumstances existed that would require further analysis or the preparation of an environmental assessment.

Question: Can the Nation continue to conduct gaming on the 16 parcels now?

Answer: Yes. The Department determined that the land is eligible for gaming pursuant to the “on-reservation exception” of Section 20 of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, 25 U.S.C. § 2719 (a)(1).

Question: Is there opposition for the Proposed Project?

Answer: No. There is no opposition to the Tribe acquiring land into trust within its reservation.