



December 16, 2011

Dear Tribal Advisory Committee Member:

On behalf of the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC/Commission), we would like to take this opportunity to wish all of the members of the Tribal Advisory Committee (TAC) a happy holiday season. Further, we wish to commend the members of the TAC for their continued hard work and diligence.

We realize that all members of the TAC hold important jobs within their respective tribes. The Commission is mindful and respectful of each Committee member's time, expertise and resources. As mentioned by some members of the TAC, we know that week long in-person meetings can be burdensome to your daily responsibilities.

It is also clear to us that the TAC is on target to finish ahead of schedule. In light of this rapid progress and the costs associated with in-person meetings, the Commission requests that the group complete its in-person review and recommendations at the January meeting. Preparations for the January meeting will continue as scheduled, allotting three (3) full days to complete the review of the remaining material. Should the TAC not need a full three days, we would welcome a modified, shorter schedule. This approach will conserve everyone's time and resources.

The Commission is implementing practices throughout the Agency to maximize the efficiency of limited resources. In addition to our own practices, we are mindful of the President's recent Executive Order 13589 "Promoting Efficient Spending" issued on 11/09/11 which calls on Federal agencies to use cost-efficient methods to perform their duties.

Considering the TAC's progress, the NIGC's efficiency efforts and President Obama's recent Executive Order, the final in-person meeting will be the January meeting with no February or March in-person meetings. In February and March, work will continue as needed through conference calls and correspondence to allow both the TAC and the NIGC to complete its work in a timely and effective manner.

This "virtual" format will allow discussions to continue, as necessary, to address overarching policy questions and will serve to facilitate delivery of the TAC's final recommendations.

Further, the TAC will not be requested to provide consensus responses to the policy questions. Committee members may respond to such questions through written submissions or calls. Additionally, during this time, members are encouraged to discuss areas not raised in the Tribal Gaming Working Group's proposal and to expand upon areas previously covered that may warrant further consideration by the NIGC.

The TAC was formed to provide the Commission with advice on the development of these regulations. We look forward to considering the Committee's final recommendations as the Commission moves forward with the promulgation of regulations. Our goal is to produce the best regulations in a timely and efficient manner that will serve to best protect the industry.

Lastly, at the December meeting the TAC discussed the possibility of early submittal of its recommendations for technical standards (Part 547). Again, being mindful of everyone's time and desire to complete this review, the Commission welcomes the early submission of its recommendations on Part 547 as suggested by the TAC.

We thank each and every one of the members of the Tribal Advisory Committee and look forward to the work ahead of us.


Sincerely,



Tracie L. Stevens
Chairwoman



Steffani A. Cochran
Vice-Chairwoman



Daniel J. Little
Associate Commissioner