



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240



JAN 18 2008

Dear Tribal Leader:

I am writing to inform you that I have asked my staff to develop a proposed regulation that will set forth the process for submitting Class III Tribal-State gaming compacts and compact amendments to the Department of the Interior for review and approval pursuant to Section 11(d)(8) of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2710(d)(8).

IGRA authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to approve Tribal-State compacts entered into between an Indian tribe and a State governing the conduct of Class III gaming activities on the tribe's Indian lands. If the Secretary does not approve or disapprove a compact before the date that is 45 days after the date on which the compact was submitted to the Secretary for approval, the compact shall be considered to have been approved by the Secretary, but only to the extent the compact is consistent with the provisions of IGRA. The Secretary is required to publish in the Federal Register notice of any Tribal-State compact that is approved, or considered to have been approved, and the compact takes effect on the day the notice is published.

IGRA does not address how compacts are submitted to the Secretary for review and approval, when they are submitted, by whom, or when the 45-day timeline is triggered. As a result, I have concluded that we should consider formalizing the process through rulemaking.

In the meantime, please note that any compact or compact amendment must be submitted to the Office of Indian Gaming at the following address:

Director, Office of Indian Gaming
U.S. Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
MS 3657 MIB
Washington, DC 20240

If sent to this address, the 45-day statutory timeline will be triggered when the compact or compact amendment is received by the Office of Indian Gaming.

Sincerely,

Carl J. Artman
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs