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*Acting Chairman
George Skibine*

*Vice Chairperson
Steffani A. Cochran*

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National Indian Gaming Commission Newsletter

THE NATIONAL INDIAN GAMING COMMISSION WELCOMES NEW COMMISSIONER



Secretary Salazar swearing in Commissioner Cochran

Nominated by Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar on October 12, 2009, Steffani A. Cochran began her three-year term as Commissioner on January 4, 2010. Ms. Cochran fills a position vacant since December of 2007.

The Commission is a three-member panel. The Chairman is nominated by the President and confirmed by the United States Senate. Two Commissioners are appointed by the Secretary of the Interior. Ms. Cochran joins George Skibine, Acting Chairman.

For over a decade, Ms. Cochran has built an exceptional understanding of Indian law by serving in high-level positions throughout Indian country, such as Special Counsel for Indian Affairs in the New Mexico Attorney General's Office and her previous role as General Counsel for the Pueblo of Pojoaque.

Cochran commented, "My career as a public servant has included work for tribal and state governments, so this will be my first opportunity to serve the federal government.

Gaming is unquestionably a vital component of tribal economies, which is one reason that I am so excited about this opportunity." Cochran is eager to begin her role in the regulation of Indian gaming and to promote the integrity of the growing industry.

My career as a public servant has included work for tribal and state governments, so this will be my first opportunity to serve the federal government.

Ms. Cochran is an enrolled member of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. She received her Bachelor of Science from Oklahoma State University, her Masters in Public Administration from George Mason University, and her Juris Doctorate from American University.

NIGC ROLLS OUT REGULATING GAMING TECHNOLOGY TRAINING

The National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) begins a series of training opportunities this year focused on gaming machines. This is an ongoing effort to continue providing comprehensive technical assistance and training opportunities for tribal gaming operations and tribal leadership. This training is geared for introductory and intermediate level participants.

The three-day course was developed to provide an understanding of various gaming technologies and strategies to effectively regulate such technology, including gaming machine-related Minimum Internal Control Standards (MICS).

A recent gaming technology training session held in Sacramento, California, was generally well received; there was a good level of feedback, with both positive and constructive input. Recommendations ranged from bigger font size for presentations to specific suggestions for the content presented during the training. The Commission will be continually implementing improvements as it offers the course throughout the country.

The training includes three workshops in which tribal gaming regulatory authorities (TGRAS) get together and



discuss given topics. At the end of the workshop, there is an audience-wide discussion on the TGRAS findings. There is also a video incorporated into these sessions, so that TGRAS can get exposure to industry specific materials from subject-matter experts.

The NIGC will continue to provide technical assistance to tribes to ensure compliance with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and to improve the functioning of tribal gaming operations and regulatory authorities.



FINAL FEE RATE FOR 2009 & PRELIMINARY RATE FOR 2010

The NIGC adopted and published in the Federal Register on December 23, 2009, a final annual fee rate of 0.00% for tier 1 and 0.058% (.00058) for tier 2 for calendar year 2009. These rates shall apply to all assessable gross revenues from each gaming operation under the jurisdiction of the Commission. The rate is the same as the preliminary rate set earlier in 2009.

If a tribe has a certificate of self-regulation under 25 CFR part 518, the final fee rate on class II revenues for calendar year 2009 shall be one-half of the annual fee rate, which is 0.029% (.00029).

In addition, the NIGC has adopted preliminary annual fee rates of 0.00% for tier 1 and 0.060% (.00060) for tier 2 for calendar year 2010. These rates shall apply to all assessable gross revenues from each gaming operation under the jurisdiction of the Commission.

If a tribe has a certificate of self-regulation under 25 CFR part 518, the preliminary fee rate on class II revenues for calendar year 2010 shall be one-half of the annual fee rate, which is 0.030% (.00030).

NIGC EMPLOYEE PROFILE

NIMISH PUROHIT

Mr. Purohit is the Gaming Machine Investigator for the National Indian Gaming Commission. Purohit started with the agency in July of 2009 and is a gaming technology liaison between the agency and tribal gaming regulatory authorities, tribal casinos, state testing laboratories, gaming equipment manufacturers, and independent testing laboratories.

Prouhit has created a dynamic training course and began offering training on Regulating Gaming Technology earlier this year. He is scheduled to teach the three-day class approximately once a month for the coming year.

Purohit has extensive experience in the gaming industry, most recently as manager of analytics and statistics for BMM Compliance, where Purohit worked with various jurisdictional requirements including the Class II Technical Standards. While employed at BMM, he assisted the BMM field services department providing trainings and presentations aimed at preserving the integrity and protecting the assets of tribal gaming properties.

As Manager of Statistical Review for the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board, Purohit was one of three managers that oversaw day-to-day operations of the lab, and assisted the board of directors, the executive director, and other



Nimish Purohit

bureau directors with presentations and trainings aimed at understanding of the latest gaming products. Purohit was part of a team responsible for overseeing the opening of seven casinos in fifteen months. Prior to his tenure with the Board, he was employed with the New Jersey Division of Gaming Enforcement as a statistician, where a majority of his duties included the analysis of game mathematics.

Purohit graduated from Rutgers University with a degree in Statistics with a Mathematics Concentration, and a minor in Computer Science. He enjoys working out at the gym, reading about philosophy and technology and meditating. He resides in Largo, Maryland.

TRAINING VIDEOS AVAILABLE ONLINE

The NIGC is offering various methods of training in order to provide technical assistance to tribes. A new method is online training. Please visit the NIGC website to view training videos currently available to tribal gaming operators and regulators. The following videos are now available.

- **The Value of Casino Internal Control Systems**

Instructor: Joe H. Smith
NIGC Director of Audits

- **A Quick History of Federal Indian Policy and How it Underlies the Structure of Indian Gaming**

Instructor: Phil Hogen
Former NIGC Chairman (2002-2009)

Additional videos are being developed and will be available later this year and posted on the website. There is no charge for viewing these videos. In order to access them, please send your name and the name of your tribe to onlinevideos@NIGC.gov and specify the videos that you wish to view.

CALENDAR

UPCOMING TRAINING OPPORTUNITIES

Gaming Technology Training 2010

Feb. 23–25, 2010 Portland, Oregon Region
Muckleshoot Gaming
Commission
2820 Auburn Way South
Auburn, WA
(253) 218-0600

Mar. 30–Apr. 1, 2010 Tulsa, Oklahoma Region
Double Tree-Downtown
616 W. Seventh Street
Tulsa, Oklahoma
741278983
(918)-587-8000

Apr. 27–29, 2010 St. Paul, Minnesota Region
Cray Plaza
(formerly Galtier Plaza)
195 E. Fifth Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
(651) 290-4004

Regional Training (Audit Division) 2010

Feb. 16–18, 2010 Phoenix, Arizona Region
Radisson Hotel
Phoenix City Center
3600 North Second Avenue
Phoenix, Arizona 85013
(602) 604-4900

Mar. 23–25, 2010 St. Paul, Minnesota Region
McCarnly Plaza Hotel
50 Capital Avenue Southwest
Battle Creek, Michigan 49017
(888) 622 2659

2010 GOVERNMENT-TO-GOVERNMENT CONSULTATION SCHEDULE

The National Indian Gaming Commission will be holding government-to-government consultations during several regional and national events listed below. Throughout the year, the Commission will provide details on the consultations and any potential changes and updates.

Apr. 7-8 **NIGA 2010 Trade and Conference**
San Diego, CA

Jun. 22-23 **NCAI Mid-Year Conference**
Rapid City, SD

Jul. 13-14 **Northwest Indian Gaming
Conference at Squaxin Island
Little Creek Casino**
Shelton, WA

Aug. 17-18 **Southwest Indian Gaming
Conference at Sandia
Resort Casino**
Albuquerque, NM

Aug. 23-24 **Oklahoma Indian Gaming
Conference**
Tulsa, OK

Sep. 17-18 **Arizona Desert Classic Gaming
Conference at Talking Stick Resort**
Scottsdale, AZ

Nov. 23-24 **NCAI Annual Conference**
Albuquerque, NM

CORRECTION

On January 19, 2010, the NIGC published in the Federal Register a correction regarding collection of fees. Fee statements are due on June 30th and December 31st of each year, not March 1st and August 1st as published in the Federal Register July 27, 2009. This was an inadvertent mistake in publishing final rule regarding fee statements.