

the Department established a comprehensive understanding of current trust business operations, identified needs and opportunities for improvement, and was able to understand the variances among geographic regions, and their causes.

The development of the initial "To-Be" model takes into consideration those recommendations and lessons learned from the "As-Is" process. The Department is in the process of comparing these processes to the initial "To Be" model processes to determine how existing processes can be improved. Finally, the Department will integrate the final "To-Be" model processes with universal support and operational functions, and these reengineered business processes will be documented with appropriate policies, procedures, guidelines and handbooks.

The Department has identified a reengineering core team for the purpose of engaging appropriate Interior bureaus, agencies and offices, and Tribes in the reengineering effort at different levels. The Department recognizes that Tribal assistance is critical to the identification of trust business process alternatives and opportunities for improvement. The core team is divided into a technical group (Tier 1) and a review and validation group (Tier 2). Because the activities of these core teams will involve consultations with tribes and tribal organizations, the Department will not be convening a new working group.

Dated: September 10, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Acting Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

Ross O. Swimmer,

Special Trustee.

[FR Doc. 03-25231 Filed 10-3-03; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310-3-M

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for the Proposed Mohawk Mountain Resort and Casino, Sullivan County, NY

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice.

SUMMARY: This notice advises the public that the Bureau of Indian Affairs, with the cooperation of the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians, intends to gather the information necessary for preparing an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)

for the proposed Mohawk Mountain Resort and Casino, Town of Thompson, Sullivan County, New York. The purpose of the proposed action is to help meet the economic development needs of the tribe. This notice also announces a public scoping meeting to identify potential issues and content for inclusion in the EIS.

DATES: Written comments on the scope and implementation of this proposal must arrive by October 15, 2003. The public scoping meeting will be held on October 8, 2003, at 7 p.m.

The draft EIS is expected to be completed by November 1, 2003, and to be available for public review and comment for a period of 45 days from the date the Notice of Availability of the draft EIS is published in the **Federal Register**. The final EIS is expected to be completed by January 15, 2004, and to be available to the public for a period of 30 days from the date the Notice of Availability of the final EIS is published in the **Federal Register**. The Record of Decision on the proposed action will be issued on or about March 1, 2004.

ADDRESSES: You may mail, hand carry or telefax written comments to Mr. Franklin Keel, Regional Director, Eastern Regional Office, Bureau of Indian Affairs, 711 Stewarts Ferry Pike, Nashville, Tennessee 37214, Telefax (615) 467-1701.

The public scoping meeting will be held at the Sullivan County Government Center, Legislative Meeting Room, 2nd Floor, 100 North Street, Monticello, New York 12701.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Jim Kardatzke, (615) 467-1675.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) proposes to take 66 acres of land into trust on behalf of the St. Regis Band of Mohawk Indians (Tribe), on which the Tribe, through a development agreement with Park Place Entertainment Corporation, proposes to build a resort and casino complex to be called the Mohawk Mountain Resort and Casino. The property is located along the east side of Anawana Lake Road (C.R. 103) in the Town of Thompson, Sullivan County, New York, approximately 3 miles north of the Village of Monticello. The project design contemplates a 750 room hotel and 450,000 square foot casino and support area, a 2,000 seat theater and several restaurants spread across the 66 acres to be taken into trust, with a 5,040 stall parking garage on an adjacent 141 acre parcel.

The Tribe prepared and submitted to the BIA an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the proposed action in December 2002. Upon consideration of

the EA, and of project changes made after the EA was prepared, the BIA found that an EIS would be required for the proposed action. The EA will, however, serve as a part of the scoping process for the EIS. In addition, the project is undergoing review pursuant to the New York State Environmental Quality Review Act, which has included public hearings held by the Town of Thompson to receive public comments on the EA. The comments from these hearings will also serve as a part of the scoping process for the EIS.

Issues identified to date to be addressed in the EIS include, but are not limited to the following:

- **Traffic**—concerns that traffic jams may result from the project and that emergency services may be compromised.
- **Noise**—concerns that sounds from the resort and casino will travel offsite and adversely affect nearby residences, wildlife and/or livestock.
- **Water Supply/Water Quality**—concerns that the project will have an adequate water supply and will not adversely affect water quality in Anawana Lake or its tributaries.
- **Wetlands**—the minimization and/or avoidance of wetland impacts.
- **Wildlife**—concerns regarding the project's impact on fish and wildlife and their habitats, including threatened and endangered species.
- **Sewage Disposal**—concerns regarding the handling of sewage effluent.
- **Land Use/Community Character**—concerns regarding how the project might affect the character of surrounding lands and communities.
- **Socio-economics**—concerns regarding how the project might affect local business and property values.
- **Air Quality**—concerns regarding the additive air impacts of project-induced traffic.
- **Cumulative Effects**—concerns regarding the cumulative environmental impacts of the project when considered together with other reasonably foreseeable development projects in the region.
- **Alternatives to the preferred alternative.**

The range of issues and alternatives addressed in the EIS may be further expanded based on comments received in response to this notice, or to the scoping meeting announced in this notice.

Public Comment Availability

Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the mailing address shown in the

ADDRESSES section, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Individual respondents may request confidentiality. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address from public review or from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your written comment. Such requests will be honored to the extent allowed by law. We will not, however, consider anonymous comments. All submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses will be made available for public inspection in their entirety.

Authority

This notice is published in accordance with section 1503.1 of the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) implementing the procedural requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), and the Department of the Interior Manual (516 DM 1-6), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: October 1, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-25394 Filed 10-2-03; 2:05 pm]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Notice of Fund Availability (NOFA)

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of extension of application deadlines.

SUMMARY: This notice extends the deadline for submitting applications originally published on June 25, 2003.

DATES: Applications must be received by November 5, 2003.

ADDRESSES: Mail applications to Ralph Gonzales, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Office of Tribal Services, Division of Tribal Government Services, Room 320-SIB, 1951 Constitution Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20240; or submit by facsimile (fax) message to (202) 208-5113.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ralph Gonzales, (202) 513-7629.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: As published in the **Federal Register** of June 25, 2003, (68 FR 37857), the Bureau of Indian Affairs announced the availability of funds for tribal courts (including Courts of Indian Offenses) and qualified tribal applicants that assume responsibility to assist the Bureau of Indian Affairs with certain Supervised Individual Indian Money (IIM) Accounts, more specifically those referenced in subparts B and C of 25 CFR part 115 (2003 ed.). The deadline for submittal of application under this NOFA was July 25, 2003. We are extending this deadline to provide an opportunity for those tribal governments that want to apply for funds to compile the relevant information regarding Supervised IIM Accounts that are under the control and management of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Requests were received from tribal governments stating that the initial publication time was simply too short. Therefore, the application deadline date is extended from July 25, 2003, to November 5, 2003.

Applications

Applications are due November 5, 2003 and must be postmarked by midnight on this date. Applications will be considered as meeting the deadline if they are received on or before the deadline date, or sent on or before the deadline date. Applicants may hand deliver applications to the address indicated in the **ADDRESSES** section by close-of-business (5 p.m. EST) on the deadline date. Applications will be accepted by facsimile until the close-of-business (5 p.m. EST) on the deadline date, provided the original application is postmarked by midnight the day after the due date. No applications can be transmitted by e-mail (electronic mail). Applicants are responsible for ensuring proper delivery of the application and are encouraged to contact Ralph Gonzales at (202) 513-7629 to confirm receipt.

The application packet information was included with the June 25, 2003, NOFA, and was also forwarded to the Tribal Government Services or Tribal Operations officers in the respective BIA Regional Offices. Interested applicants may contact Ralph Gonzales at the number provided above, or the Division of Tribal Government Services, (202) 513-7641, for information on application packets.

Dated: September 29, 2003.

Aurene M. Martin,

Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 03-25229 Filed 10-3-03; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Land Management

[OR-030-1020-PG; G 04-0002]

Teleconference Meeting Notice for the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM), Vale District, Interior.

ACTION: Teleconference meeting notice for the John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council.

SUMMARY: The John Day/Snake Resource Advisory Council (JDSRAC) will conduct a public meeting by teleconference on Tuesday, October 21 from 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Pacific Time inclusive. The meeting is open to the public, however, teleconference lines are limited. Please call or contact Peggy Diegan at the Vale District Office, 100 Oregon Street, Vale, OR 97918 (541) 473-3144 or e-mail Peggy_Diegan@or.blm.gov to obtain the dial-in number. During the teleconference, the JDSRAC will come to consensus on their Program of Work for the year, Sustaining Working Landscapes and Sagegrouse Strategy.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Any member of the public wishing further information concerning the meeting or who wishes to submit oral or written comments should contact Debbie Lyons at the above address (541) 473-6218 or email Debra_Lyons@or.blm.gov. Requests for oral comments must be in writing to Debbie Lyons by October 16, 2003. For teleconference call meetings, opportunities for oral comment will be limited to no more than five minutes per speaker and no more than fifteen minutes total.

Dated: September 30, 2003.

Sandra L. Guches,

Associate District Manager.

[FR Doc. 03-25234 Filed 10-3-03; 8:45 am]

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