The Commission recognizes the concern expressed in comments regarding the use of TACs. Additionally, the Commission also recognizes the potential benefit of a TAC, particularly when addressing a complex or technical regulation. While the Commission agrees with those comments suggesting a regulation may not be necessary, the Commission will consider drafting a policy guiding the development of a TAC, member selection, and meeting rules. The Commission anticipates that a TAC policy will be developed during 2011. The process for developing a TAC policy will be consistent with the NIGC’s Tribal Consultation policy.

B. Communication Policy

The NOI asked whether the NIGC should consider developing a regulation or include as part of a regulation a process for determining how it communicates with Tribes. The NOI noted that NIGC communicates directly with the Tribal Gaming Regulatory Agency (TGRA) or Tribal Gaming Commission (TGC) as well as directly with the tribal government. The NOI asked whether the NIGC should consider promulgating a regulation or policy establishing a default method of communication unless otherwise directed by tribal resolution.

Many comments recommended that the Commission should not consider adopting a universal standard for communicating with Tribes. Tribes noted the variety in government structures and methods used by Tribes when taking official action. However, Tribes also noted the need for more effective communication with all affected parties, including the elected government officials, TGC, TGRA and the gaming operation. While the Commission agrees with those comments suggesting a regulation may not be necessary, the Commission will consider drafting a policy guiding how the Commission communicates with Tribes, their gaming regulatory bodies, and the gaming operation. This Commission anticipates that a policy will be developed over the course of the regulatory review process outlined above. The process for developing a Communication policy will be consistent with NIGC’s Tribal Consultation policy.

C. Other Regulations

During this review process, the Commission attempted to identify those regulations identified by Tribes and/or the Commission in most need of review. However, the Commission reserves the right to review other regulations if needed throughout this review process.

Review of regulations not specifically identified in this Notice will be reviewed utilizing the process described in Section IIB of this Notice.

Authority: 25 U.S.C. 2706(b)(10); E.O. 13175.

Dated: March 30, 2011, Washington, DC.

Tracie L. Stevens, Chairwoman.
Steffani A. Cochran, Vice-Chairwoman.
Daniel J. Little, Associate Commissioner.

Availability of Information


E-mail notification: To subscribe to receive e-mail notification when the Agency publishes rulemaking documents in the Federal Register, go to: http://www.msha.gov/subscriptions/subscribe.aspx.

Extension of Comment Period and Request for Comments

On February 2, 2011 (76 FR 5719), MSHA published a proposed rule on Pattern of Violations (POV). In response to requests from interested parties, MSHA is extending the comment period from April 4, 2011, to April 18, 2011. MSHA solicits comments from the mining community on all aspects of the proposed rule. The proposed rule is available on MSHA’s Web site at http://www.msha.gov/REGS/FEDREG/PROPOSED/2011PROP/2011-2255.pdf.

Dated: March 30, 2011.

Joseph A. Main, Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement

30 CFR Part 938

[SAWS No. PA–156–FOR; Docket ID: OSM 2010–0004]

Pennsylvania Regulatory Program

AGENCY: Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement (OSM), Interior.

ACTION: Proposed rule; reopening of the public comment period.

SUMMARY: We are reopening the public comment period related to an amendment to the Pennsylvania regulatory program (the “Pennsylvania program”) under the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act of 1977 (SMCRA or the Act). The amendment is in response to fourteen required program amendments and the remining financial guarantee program. The