



(4337-15-P)

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

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Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Little River Band Trust Acquisition and Casino Project, Township of Fruitport, Muskegon County, Michigan

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Reopening of public comment period.

SUMMARY: The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) is reopening the public comment period for the Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Little River Band Trust Acquisition and Casino Project, Township of Fruitport, Muskegon County, Michigan (DEIS).

DATES: BIA will consider all comments submitted or postmarked by [INSERT DATE 30 DAYS AFTER DATE OF PUBLICATION IN THE *FEDERAL REGISTER*]. Comments submitted to BIA concerning the DEIS prior to this announcement do not need to be resubmitted.

ADDRESSES: You may mail or hand-deliver written comments to Mr. Timothy LaPointe, Acting Midwest Regional Director, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Region, Norman Pointe II Building, 5600 West American Boulevard, Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55347. Please include your name, return address, and the caption: “DEIS Comments, Little River Band Trust Acquisition and Casino Project,” on the first page of your written comments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Scott Doig, Regional Environmental Scientist, Division of Environmental, Facilities, Safety and Cultural Resource Management (DEFSCR), Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Region, Norman Pointe II Building, 5600

West American Boulevard, Suite 500, Bloomington, MN 55347; phone: (612) 725-4597; email: scott.doig@bia.gov. Information is also available online at www.littleriverEIS.com.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: BIA published a notice of availability of the DEIS on November 21, 2018. *See* 83 FR 58783. Public review of the DEIS is part of the administrative process for the evaluation of the Tribe's application to the BIA for the Federal trust acquisition of approximately 60 acres in the Township of Fruitport, Muskegon County, Michigan, upon which the Tribe proposes to develop a casino, hotel, parking, and other supporting facilities. The BIA held a public meeting on the DEIS on December 12, 2018 at Fruitport Middle School 3113 E. Pontaluna Road, Fruitport, Michigan 49415.

Background: The Proposed Project consists of the following components: 1) the transfer of an approximately 60-acre property from fee to trust status; 2) issuance of a Secretarial Determination by the Secretary of the Interior (Secretary) under Section 20 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) that gaming on the project site would be in the best interest of the Tribe and not detrimental to the surrounding community (25 U.S.C. 2719 (b)(1)(A)); and 3) development of the trust parcel and adjacent land owned by the Tribe, totaling approximately 86.5 acres, with a variety of uses including a casino, hotel, conference center, parking, and other supporting facilities. At full build-out, the proposed casino facility would include approximately 149,069 square feet of gaming floor; a hotel with 220 guest rooms; a 250-seat buffet, as well as a café, sports bar, food court, and other food and beverage providers; and an approximately 38,790-square foot convention center. Access to the project site would be provided via two driveways: one along Harvey Street and one along East Ellis Road. Five service driveways, not for public use, would be located on East Ellis Road.

The following alternatives are considered in the DEIS: (1) Proposed Project; (2) Reduced Intensity Alternative; (3) Non-Gaming Alternative; (4) Custer Site Alternative, and (5) No Action/No Development. Environmental issues addressed in the DEIS include geology and soils, water resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural and paleontological resources, socioeconomic conditions (including environmental justice), transportation and circulation, land use, public services, noise, hazardous materials, aesthetics, cumulative effects, and indirect and growth-inducing effects.

Locations where the DEIS is available for review: The DEIS will be available for review at the Fruitport Public Library located at 605 Eclipse Blvd, Fruitport, Michigan 53511, and online at *www.littleriverEIS.com*. To obtain a compact disk copy of the DEIS, please provide your name and address in writing to Mr. Scott Doig, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office. Contact information is listed in the FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT section of this notice. Individual paper copies of the DEIS will be provided only upon payment of applicable printing expenses by the requestor for the number of copies requested.

Public comment availability: Comments, including names and addresses of respondents, will be available for public review at the BIA address shown in the **ADDRESSES** section, during regular business hours, 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask in your comment that your personal identifying information be withheld from public review, the BIA cannot guarantee that this will occur.

AUTHORITY: This notice is published pursuant to Sec. 1503.1 of the Council of Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR parts 1500 through 1508) and Sec. 46.305 of the Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR part 46), implementing the procedural requirements of the NEPA of 1969, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4371, *et seq.*), and is in the exercise of authority delegated to the Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs by 209 DM 8.

Dated: March 8, 2019.

Tara Sweeney,

Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs.

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