February 19, 2020

RE: Notice of Proposed Rulemaking

This Letter is public notice of proposed rulemaking that affects the Tribal Internal Control Standards intended to regulate Casino Operations and associated business.

Affected Regulation

PNGC Licensing Regulations

At a regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, February 18, 2020, the Commission recommended approval for the following policy changes:

- Updating Licensing Regulations

The most recent revision to these rules occurred sometime in 2014. As outlined in the Ordinance:

ARTICLE 5- LICENSING

“SECTION 5.1 LICENSE REQUIREMENTS

1) Any Person seeking to conduct, operate or manage any Gaming Activity on Pawnee Nation Lands shall apply for and receive all the required licenses from the Commission prior to engaging in such Gaming Activity…

2) All Gaming Employees shall apply for and receive all required licenses from the Commission prior to employment…”

Pursuant to authority granted by the Ordinance to the Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission with respect to the following:
ARTICLE 3- TRIBAL GAMING COMMISSION
“SECTION 3.6 AUTHORITY AND RESPONSIBILITY
4) Approve, deny, suspend or revoke gaming licenses for Class II or Class III Gaming”

The Pawnee Gaming Commission proposes implementing the following:

Proposed Changes

1) The Gaming Commission support staff will be responsible for all initial license determinations.
   a) Business days exclude Pawnee Nation of Oklahoma observed holidays, regardless if the Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission conducts business on those days.
      i) If a deadline is exceeded, a notification will be made promptly to the Gaming Commission, the Applicant, and PTDC Human Resources Department explaining the delay, resolution and timeframe expected.
   b) A license application will be open for a maximum of ten (10) business days.
      i) An extension may be requested by the applicant only.
      ii) If an extension is requested, a deadline may not be extended more than an additional ten (10) business days.
   c) An internal document, known as “Internal Guidance on Licensing Matters”, shall be produced, reviewed, and utilized, as appropriate, by the Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission and Staff.
   d) The Licensing Manager will make an initial license determination within twenty (20) business days of the submission of a complete license application.
      i) The Licensing Manager will make every attempt possible to apply the Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission Internal Guidance on Licensing Matters with sufficient information contained within the application as well as information obtained with authorization of the license applicant to make the initial license determination.
      ii) If information is not available to adequately make a license determination, a notation will be made on the application and the application will be forwarded to the Director for initial license determination.
         (1) If a licensing determination can be made without additional information, the Director will approve the application and forward it for processing.
         (2) If a licensing determination cannot be made, the applicant will be requested to provide more information and the application deadline will be extended an additional five (5) business days from the date of notification.
      iii) If the application cannot be approved by the Manager, the application will be denied and a temporary informal hearing can be scheduled within (ten) 10 business days.
         (1) The Licensing Manager and Director should be present at the scheduled informal hearing. This will be executed in the form of a “pre-hearing Conference”.
         (2) If the applicant wishes to exercise their appeal of the initial decision, a full formal hearing, at the applicant’s request, may be scheduled. All Pawnee Nation Administrative Procedure Act policies and procedures will be enforced.
e) In the absence of the Licensing Manager, the Director of the Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission will act in the role of the Licensing Manager.

Attached to this notice is a copy of the proposed rule in its entirety.

Please send your comments to our office at the following address before close of business Monday, March 23, 2020:

Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission
Post Office Box 514
Pawnee, Oklahoma 74058

We will accept electronic correspondence at the following e-Mail address:

aattocknie@pawneenation.org
-Please include “Rulemaking 20-001 Comment” in subject line

Thank you in advance for your time and constructive comments.

Sincerely,

Arthur L. Attocknie
Director

Pawnee Nation Gaming Commission