

Fact Sheet: Menominee Indian Tribe of Wisconsin Approval

Decision

- The Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs has reviewed the Menominee Indian Tribe’s off-reservation gaming application under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) and determined that:
 - Gaming on the proposed site would be in the best interest of the Tribe and its members; and,
 - Gaming on the proposed site would not be detrimental to the surrounding community.
- The application now goes to the Governor of the State of Wisconsin for concurrence in this determination. The Governor has one year to concur. Upon concurrence, the Tribe will be able to conduct gaming on the lands, when they are acquired in trust.

Background

- The Tribe has proposed to develop an off-reservation class III gaming facility on a 228-acre parcel in the City of Kenosha, Wisconsin. This parcel was formerly used for a greyhound racing and betting facility, known as Dairyland Greyhound Park.
- The proposed Kenosha gaming facility would be geographically located between two of the Menominee Tribe’s existing satellite government offices in Milwaukee and Chicago. The Tribe intends to establish another satellite office at the Kenosha site to provide services to the Menominee tribal members that currently live in the area.

Overview of Analysis – Best Interest Determination

- Menominee County (whose population is 90% Menominee tribal members) is the poorest county in Wisconsin, with the highest unemployment and the worst health indicators. The Tribe has also has significant unmet tribal government and policing needs.
- The Menominee Indian Tribe is relatively large tribe with approximately 8,551 members.
- The proposed gaming facility is expected to create more than 3,000 jobs in Menominee and Kenosha Counties, many of them on the Menominee Reservation in tribal government service positions. In addition, gaming revenue would allow the Tribe to address its significant unmet needs.

- Although not required to do so, the Tribe submitted evidence demonstrating a historic connection to the Kenosha area.

Overview of Analysis – Not Detrimental to the Surrounding Community

- The Kenosha project has the strong support of the local units of government. The Tribe has entered into several agreements with local units of government to mitigate any local impacts of the proposed gaming facility. The volume of job creation from the proposed gaming facility is likely to sustain local employment that otherwise might be lost due to the declining population.
- The Forest County Potawatomi Community has had great success in operating its own casino in Milwaukee, which is located more than 210 miles from its reservation. The evidence in the record did not demonstrate that the Menominee Indian Tribe's proposed gaming facility would have a detrimental impact on the 1500-member Forest County Potawatomi Community, beyond a modest short-term economic effect from competing with its existing gaming facility. The Forest County Potawatomi Community obtained its gaming facility in 1990 through the same process being used here for the Menominee tribe.
- The proposed Kenosha gaming facility is approximately 162 miles from the Menominee Reservation.