

required to support the RNAV GPS standard instrument approach procedures for Bellefonte Airport. Controlled airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface would be established for the safety and management of IFR operations at the airport.

Class E airspace designations are published in Paragraph 6005 of FAA Order 7400.9V, dated August 9, 2011, and effective September 15, 2011, which is incorporated by reference in 14 CFR 71.1. The Class E airspace designation listed in this document will be published subsequently in the Order.

The FAA has determined that this proposed regulation only involves an established body of technical regulations for which frequent and routine amendments are necessary to keep them operationally current. It, therefore, (1) Is not a “significant regulatory action” under Executive Order 12866; (2) is not a “significant rule” under DOT Regulatory Policies and Procedures (44 FR 11034; February 26, 1979); and (3) does not warrant preparation of a Regulatory Evaluation as the anticipated impact is so minimal. Since this is a routine matter that will only affect air traffic procedures and air navigation, it is certified that this proposed rule, when promulgated, would not have a significant economic impact on a substantial number of small entities under the criteria of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

The FAA’s authority to issue rules regarding aviation safety is found in Title 49 of the United States Code. Subtitle I, Section 106 describes the authority of the FAA Administrator. Subtitle VII, Aviation Programs, describes in more detail the scope of the agency’s authority. This proposed rulemaking is promulgated under the authority described in Subtitle VII, Part A, Subpart I, Section 40103. Under that section, the FAA is charged with prescribing regulations to assign the use of airspace necessary to ensure the safety of aircraft and the efficient use of airspace. This proposed regulation is within the scope of that authority as it would establish Class E airspace at Bellefonte Airport, Bellefonte, PA.

Lists of Subjects in 14 CFR Part 71

Airspace, Incorporation by reference, Navigation (air).

The Proposed Amendment

In consideration of the foregoing, the Federal Aviation Administration proposes to amend 14 CFR part 71 as follows:

PART 71—DESIGNATION OF CLASS A, B, C, D, AND E AIRSPACE AREAS; AIR TRAFFIC SERVICE ROUTES; AND REPORTING POINTS

1. The authority citation for part 71 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 49 U.S.C. 106(g); 40103, 40113, 40120; E.O. 10854, 24 FR 9565, 3 CFR, 1959–1963 Comp., p. 389.

§ 71.1 [Amended]

2. The incorporation by reference in 14 CFR 71.1 of Federal Aviation Administration Order 7400.9V, Airspace Designations and Reporting Points, dated August 9, 2011, effective September 15, 2011, is amended as follows:

Paragraph 6005 Class E airspace areas extending upward from 700 feet or more above the surface of the earth.

* * * * *

AEA PA E5 Bellefonte, PA [New]

Bellefonte Airport, PA
(Lat. 40°53′08″ N., long. 77°48′59″ W.)

That airspace extending upward from 700 feet above the surface within a 15-mile radius of Bellefonte Airport.

Issued in College Park, Georgia, on December 13, 2011.

Michael Vermuth,

*Acting Manager, Operations Support Group,
Eastern Service Center, Air Traffic
Organization.*

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Indian Gaming Commission

25 CFR Part 537

RIN 3141–AA46

Management Contracts—Background Investigations

AGENCY: National Indian Gaming Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: This action proposes to amend NIGC regulations to include tribes, wholly owned tribal entities, and national banks that are already federally regulated or required to undergo a background investigation and licensure by a state or tribe pursuant to a tribal-state compact as entities that the Chair may exercise discretion regarding the submission of information and background investigations.

This process may provide for a streamlined review for such entities in the background investigation process required for management contracts. The

proposed revision may reduce duplication of efforts while maintaining the integrity of NIGC review. The proposal maintains the Chair’s discretion in determining which entities should be allowed to proceed through an expedited background investigation. This amendment has been included in this proposed rule.

The Commission also considered revising its regulations to clarify that a management contractor should be required to submit background information when the contract is for management of both Class II and Class III gaming activities. Many public comments noted that it was not a necessary revision. The Commission agrees with those public comments and does not propose that clarification.

DATES: The agency must receive comments on or before February 21, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods, however, please note that comments sent by electronic mail are strongly encouraged.

■ **Email comments to:**
reg.review@nigc.gov.

■ **Mail comments to:** National Indian Gaming Commission, 1441 L Street NW., Suite 9100, Washington, DC 20005.

■ **Hand deliver comments to:** 1441 L Street NW., Suite 9100, Washington, DC 20005.

■ **Fax comments to:** National Indian Gaming Commission at (202) 632–0045.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: National Indian Gaming Commission, 1441 L Street NW., Suite 9100, Washington, DC 20005. Telephone: (202) 632–7009; email: reg.review@nigc.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Comments Invited

Interested parties are invited to participate in this proposed rulemaking by submitting such written data, views, or arguments as they may desire. Comments that provide the factual basis supporting the views and suggestions presented are particularly helpful in developing reasoned regulatory decisions on the proposal.

II. Background

The Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA or Act), Public Law 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2701 *et seq.*, was signed into law on October 17, 1988. The Act establishes the National Indian Gaming Commission (“Commission”) and sets out a comprehensive framework for the regulation of three classes of gaming on Indian lands. The purposes of IGRA

include providing a statutory basis for the operation of gaming by Indian Tribes as a means of promoting tribal economic development, self-sufficiency, and strong tribal governments; ensuring that the Indian tribe is the primary beneficiary of the gaming operation; and declaring that the establishment of independent federal regulatory authority for gaming on Indian lands, the establishment of federal standards for gaming on Indian lands, and the establishment of a National Indian Gaming Commission are necessary to meet congressional concerns regarding gaming and to protect such gaming as a means of generating tribal revenue. 25 U.S.C. 2702.

On November 18, 2010, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC) issued a Notice of Inquiry and Notice of Consultation (NOI) advising the public that the NIGC was conducting a comprehensive review of its regulations and requesting public comment on which of its regulations were most in need of revision, in what order the Commission should review its regulations, and the process NIGC should utilize to make revisions. 75 FR 70680. On April 4, 2011, after holding eight consultations and reviewing all comments, NIGC published a Notice of Regulatory Review Schedule setting out a consultation schedule and process for review. 76 FR 18457. The Commission's regulatory review process established a tribal consultation schedule with a description of the regulation groups to be covered at each consultation. This Part 537 was included in the regulatory review process.

III. Development of the Proposed Rule

The Commission conducted a total of 10 tribal consultations as part of its review of Part 537. Tribal consultations were held in every region of the country and were attended by over 137 tribes and 381 tribal leaders or their representatives. In addition to tribal consultations, on June 28, 2011, the Commission requested public comment on a Preliminary Draft of amendments to Part 537. The Notice of Regulatory Review Schedule (NRR) announced the Commission's intent to review whether Part 537 should be revised to clarify that a management contractor should be required to submit background information when the contract is for management of both Class II and Class III gaming activities. Additionally, comments received from the NRR included a recommendation for the Commission to include a provision to streamline background investigations for certain entities already subject to background requirements and for tribes.

A. Streamlined Background Investigation for Tribes and Entities Otherwise Subject to Background Investigations

The NRR identified a recommendation that the NIGC should provide streamlined or expedited review for tribes, tribal entities or other entities required to be licensed by a compact or are otherwise federally regulated. The discussion draft of the Part included a new section providing discretion to reduce the background requirements for "a tribe, a wholly owned tribal entity, national bank, or institutional investor that is federally regulated or is required to undergo a background investigation and licensure by a state or tribe pursuant to a tribal-state compact". Comments were supportive of this change. One commentator stated that they welcomed this change, while another commentator disagreed that the reduced scope be at the discretion of the Chair.

The Commission believes that this is a reasonable addition to the regulations. The proposed revision can reduce duplication of efforts. However, it is important for the Chair to retain the discretion in determining which entities should be allowed to proceed through an expedited background investigation. This amendment has been included in this proposed rule through a revision to 25 CFR 537.1(a)(4).

B. Background Investigations for Management Contractors of a Class II and Class III Gaming Operation

The NRR identified background investigation information requirements for management contractors of a Class II and Class III gaming operations as a topic for review. Responses to the NOI indicated that this was an area that may need some clarification. The NIGC developed a discussion draft making this clarification and requested comment on the draft. After consulting extensively on this issue and receiving comments from tribes, it is clear that while most comments were amenable to the proposed revision, many noted that it was not a necessary revision.

The Commission does not believe the revision is necessary and has not made the proposed change included in the discussion draft.

Regulatory Matters

Regulatory Flexibility Act

The proposed rule will not have a significant impact on a substantial number of small entities as defined under the Regulatory Flexibility Act, 5 U.S.C. 601 *et seq.* Moreover, Indian tribes are not considered to be small

entities for the purposes of the Regulatory Flexibility Act.

Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act

This proposed rule is not a major rule under 5 U.S.C. 804(2), the Small Business Regulatory Enforcement Fairness Act. This rule does not have an effect on the economy of \$100 million or more. This rule will not cause a major increase in costs or prices for consumers, individual industries, federal, state or local government agencies or geographic regions. Nor will the proposed rule have a significant adverse effect on competition, employment, investment, productivity, innovation, or the ability of U.S. based enterprises to compete with foreign-based enterprises.

Unfunded Mandates Reform Act

The Commission, as an independent regulatory agency within the Department of the Interior, is exempt from compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act. 2 U.S.C. 1502(1); 2 U.S.C. 658(1).

Takings

In accordance with Executive Order 12630, the Commission has determined that the proposed rule does not have significant takings implications. A takings implication assessment is not required.

Civil Justice Reform

In accordance with Executive Order 12988, the Commission has determined that the proposed rule does not unduly burden the judicial system and meets the requirements of sections 3(a) and 3(b)(2) of the Order.

National Environmental Policy Act

The Commission has determined that the rule does not constitute a major federal action significantly affecting the quality of the human environment and that no detailed statement is required pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, 42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*

Paperwork Reduction Act

The information collection requirements contained in this rule were previously approved by the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) as required by 44 U.S.C. 3501 *et seq.* and assigned OMB Control Number 3141-0007, which expired in August of 2011. The NIGC is in the process of reinstating that Control Number.

List of Subjects in 25 CFR Part 537

Gambling, Indians—tribal government, Indians—business and finance.

For the reasons discussed in the Preamble, the Commission proposes to revise its regulations at 25 CFR Part 537 as follows:

PART 537—BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS FOR PERSONS OR ENTITIES WITH A FINANCIAL INTEREST IN, OR HAVING MANAGEMENT RESPONSIBILITY FOR, A MANAGEMENT CONTRACT

1. The authority citation for art 537 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 25 U.S.C. 81, 2706(b)(10), 2710(d)(9), 2711.

2. Amend § 537.1 by revising paragraph (a)(4) to read as follows:

§ 537.1 Applications for approval.

(a) * * *

(4) Any entity with a financial interest in a management contract (in the case of any tribe, a wholly owned tribal entity, national bank, or institutional investor that is federally regulated or is required to undergo a background investigation and licensure by a state or tribe pursuant to a tribal-state compact, the Chairman may exercise discretion and reduce the scope of the information to be furnished and the background investigation to be conducted); and

* * * * *

3. Revise § 537.3 paragraphs (b), (c) and (d) to read as follows:

§ 537.3 Fees for background investigations.

* * * * *

(b) The management contractor shall post a deposit with the Commission to cover the cost of the background investigations as follows:

* * * * *

(c) The management contractor shall be billed for the costs of the investigation as it proceeds; the investigation shall be suspended if the unpaid costs exceed the amount of the deposit available.

* * * * *

(d) The deposit will be returned to the management contractor when all bills have been paid and the investigations have been completed or terminated.

4. Section 537.4 is revised to read as follows:

§ 537.4 Determinations.

The Chair shall determine whether the results of a background investigation preclude the Chair from approving a management contract because of the

individual disqualifying factors contained in § 533.6(b)(1) of this chapter. The Chair shall promptly notify the tribe and management contractor if any findings preclude the Chair from approving a management contract or a change in financial interest.

Dated: December 16, 2011, Washington, DC.

Tracie L. Stevens,

Chairwoman.

Steffani A. Cochran,

Vice-Chairwoman.

Daniel J. Little,

Associate Commissioner.

[FR Doc. 2011–32759 Filed 12–21–11; 8:45 am]

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Indian Gaming Commission

25 CFR Parts 556 and 558

RIN 3141–AA15

Tribal Background Investigations and Licensing

AGENCY: National Indian Gaming Commission.

ACTION: Notice of proposed rulemaking.

SUMMARY: The proposed rule modifies certain NIGC regulations concerning background investigations and licenses to reduce the quantity of documents that must be submitted to the Commission; to require that two notifications be submitted to the Commission in order to comply with the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA); and to establish the requirements for the issuance of temporary and permanent gaming licenses.

DATES: Submit comments on or before February 21, 2012.

ADDRESSES: You may submit comments by any one of the following methods, however, please note that comments sent by electronic mail are strongly encouraged.

■ *Email comments to:*

reg.review@nigc.gov.

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