



**PRESS RELEASE** from the Washington State Gambling Commission: April 8, 2014

**Updates made April 30, 2014, are in red.**

Tribal and State negotiators have agreed to a tentative Tribal-State Compact for Class III Gaming for the Cowlitz Indian Tribe. The proposed compact is substantively similar to existing compacts with other Indian tribes within the state.

## **Summary of the Tentative Cowlitz Indian Tribe - State Gaming Compact**

### **Background**

- The Tribe possesses Tribal Lands located in Clark County that are approved by the U.S. Department of the Interior for trust acquisition and designation as Initial Reservation of the Cowlitz Tribe pursuant to 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii).
- A challenge to the Secretary of the Interior's decision to acquire the land in trust and to issue a Reservation Proclamation is currently in litigation. Provisions of the proposed Compact regarding the establishment, operation and regulation of a gaming operation and gaming facilities shall not apply unless or until a final disposition affirms the Secretary's decisions. The Tribe may, however, lease or transfer any of its allocated Tribal Lottery System player terminal rights to another Washington tribe pursuant to Appendix X2.

### **Highlights of the Agreement**

- **Facilities** - The Tribe may establish up to two gaming facilities, to be located on its Tribal Lands, for the operation of any Class III ( e.g., Las Vegas-style) gaming authorized pursuant to the Compact.
- **Number of Gaming Stations (Table games)** – The Tribe may operate up to 75 gaming stations within one facility and up to 50 gaming stations within a second facility plus, at the option of the Tribe, one additional nonprofit gaming station for 25 gaming stations allowed in each gaming facility.
- **Wagering Limits** – During the first 12 months of operation, the Tribe may offer wager limits up to \$250. However, the Tribe may increase the wager limits up to \$500 if it demonstrates to the State its compliance with certain compact conditions, including developing a strong regulatory program and system of controls.
- **Tribal Lottery System** - The Tribe may operate up to 3,000 player terminals, with a maximum of 2,500 at one facility. Any player terminals in operation beyond the Tribe's allocation of 975 must be leased from other Washington Tribes.

- **Licensing** - The Tribe will license all Class III gaming employees, manufacturers, and service suppliers. The State will certify all individuals and organizations tribally licensed for Class III gaming activity. As part of this process, the State will conduct criminal background investigations to ensure applicants are qualified.
- **Community Contribution** - The Tribe will withhold and disburse up to 2.0% of the net win from the gaming stations for an Impact Mitigation fund, which may be disbursed to local law enforcement agencies, emergency services, and other services impacted by Tribe's gaming activities.
- **Charitable Contributions** – The Tribe will withhold and disburse 0.5% of the net win from Tribal Lottery System activities to non-tribal bona fide non-profit and charitable organizations in the State of Washington.
- **Smoking Cessation Contribution** – The Tribe will contribute 0.13% of the net win from all Tribal Lottery System activities to government or non-profit organizations that help discourage the use of tobacco.
- **Problem Gaming Contribution** – The Tribe will contribute 0.13% of the net win from all Class III gaming activities to government or non-profit organizations that help reduce problem gambling.

#### **The Compact Approval Process**

- The Gambling Commission Director sent notification about the proposed Compact on April 4, 2014.
- A designated committee from each house of the Legislature must hold public hearings within 30 days after receiving the proposed Compact. **Hearings have been scheduled as follows:**
  - **Friday, May 2, 2014: The Senate Commerce and Labor Committee has scheduled a hearing for Friday May 2, 2014, at 12 noon in the John A. Cherberg Building, Hearing Room 4.**
  - **Monday, May 5, 2014: The House Government Accountability and Oversight Committee has scheduled a hearing for May 5, 2014, at 12 noon in the John L. O'Brien Building, Hearing Room C.**
- **The Gambling Commission will hold a public hearing during the May 8, 2014, Commission meeting** and must vote to forward the proposed Compact to the Governor or return it to the Director for further negotiations. [Click here for meeting information.](#)
- The Cowlitz Tribal Chairman and the Governor will consider and sign the Compact.
- The Tribe will forward the final Compact to the U.S. Secretary of the Interior for review and signature, followed by publication in the Federal Register.

For questions, please contact Melinda Froud, staff attorney, Washington State Gambling Commission, at (360) 486-3468.