

**NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR THE EKLUTNA NATIVE VILLAGE GAMING FACILITY PROJECT**

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), Department of the Interior, has released an Environmental Assessment (EA) (DOI-BIA-AK-61628) dated December 2024 for the development of a class II gaming facility by the Eklutna Native Village (Tribe) on an approximately 6.37-acre portion of a restricted fee Native Allotment (Project Site) owned by members of the Tribe in the unincorporated community of Chugiak within the boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska (Proposed Project). The EA has been completed in accordance with requirements set forth in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] §4321 et seq.), the 2024 Council on Environmental Quality regulations for Implementing NEPA (40 CFR § 1500 et seq.), the Department of the Interior's Procedures for the Implementation of NEPA (43 CFR Part 46), and the BIA NEPA Handbook (59 Indian Affairs Manual 3-H), and assesses the environmental impacts that could result from the BIA's approval of a business lease between the Native Allotment landowners and the Eklutna Native Village tribal government for the development and operation of a class II gaming facility on the Project Site (Proposed Action).

The Project Site consists of a restricted fee Native Allotment comprised of three parcels located in the unincorporated community of Chugiak within the boundaries of the Municipality of Anchorage, Alaska. The Project Site previously contained a residence and several outbuildings but currently consists of vacant partially wooded land. Surrounding land uses include low density residential, industrial, the Alaska Railroad, and the Birchwood Airport.

The BIA serves as the Lead Agency for NEPA compliance. Based on the analysis and impacts discussed in the EA and comments received during the public review period, the BIA will decide whether to reach a Finding of No Significant Impact, direct further work on the EA, or initiate the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The public comment period for the EA will be open for 15 days, beginning on December 20, 2024 and ending on January 6, 2025. For additional information, please contact Harrilene Yazzie, Division of Environmental & Cultural Resources Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs - Alaska Region, at 907.271.4004, or by email at Alaska_NEPA@bia.gov. Written comments may be emailed to Alaska_NEPA@bia.gov or mailed or hand-delivered to the following address:

Jolene John, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs - Alaska Region
3601 C Street, Suite 1200
Anchorage, AK 99503

*Due to a pending federal government shutdown, written comments on the EA are strongly encouraged to be submitted electronically or by mail. **If there is a lapse in federal appropriations the comment period will continue to run but the Bureau of Indian Affairs, Alaska Region will not be able to accept hand delivered comments.***

The EA is available for public review online at <http://www.EklutnaEA.com> and in hard copy at the Chugiak-Eagle River Library located in the Eagle River Town Center at 12001 Business Blvd. 176, Eagle River, AK 99577, telephone number 907.343.1530.