



23RD NAVAJO NATION COUNCIL OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER

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Gaming Compact with New Mexico set to take effect on Monday

WINDOW ROCK—On behalf of the U.S. Department of the Interior, on June 22 the Bureau of Indian Affairs will publish a notice of approved Tribal-State gaming compacts in the Federal Register, between the State of New Mexico and five gaming tribes including the Navajo Nation.

The official publication will mark the final step in the process of implementing the recently approved Gaming Compact. All terms and conditions of the Compact will be in effect on Monday.

“I am grateful to my current and former Council colleagues, New Mexico State Legislature, Governor Susana Martinez and her staff, Navajo Nation Gaming Enterprise, our lobbyists, and representatives from the other gaming tribes for their persistent efforts to make the Compact a reality,” stated Speaker LoRenzo Bates (Nenahnezad, Newcomb, San Juan, Tiis Tsoh Sikaad, Tse’Daa’Kaan, Upper Fruitland).

The Compact preserves over 800 jobs for Navajo and non-Navajo families who are employed at the Nation’s three gaming facilities in New Mexico — Fire Rock Navajo Casino, Northern Edge Navajo Casino, and Flowing Water Navajo Casino.

Under the terms of the new Compact, the Nation’s gaming facilities in New Mexico will be allowed to operate 24-hours a day, seven-days a week. Additionally, revenue from the Navajo Nation to the State will escalate from eight-percent to nine-percent and to 10.75% over the duration of the 23-year compact, which will expire on June 30, 2037.

The Council’s Naabik’iyáti’ Committee gave its final approval of the Compact on Dec. 29, 2014, which was later approved by the New Mexico State Senate and House of Representatives and signed by Gov. Martinez on April 13.

The federal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act states that all compacts are subject to review and approval by the U.S. Department of the Interior within 45 days of their submission. Furthermore, it states that if no action is taken within that timeframe, the Compact is deemed approved on the 46th day.

The Secretary took no action on the Compact within the 45-day period, therefore, the Compact was deemed approved in early June. Along with the Navajo Nation, the Jicarilla Apache Nation, Mescalero Apache Nation, Pueblo of Acoma, and Pueblo of Jemez are also part of the Compact.

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