



United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Washington, DC 20240

DEC 31 2012

The Honorable Cedric Cromwell
Chairman, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, MA 02649


Dear Chairman Cromwell:

This letter is to update you on the status of the Mashpee Wampanoag's application and request for a Secretarial determination of the Tribe's eligibility to game pursuant to the "initial reservation" exception found in Section 20 of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), 25 U.S.C. § 2719(b)(1)(B)(ii). After an initial review of the Tribe's application and other applicable documents in the record, we will be directing the Eastern Regional Director to begin processing the Tribe's application pursuant to this exception. The Office of Indian Gaming will complete its final analysis of the applicability of the initial reservation exception in January 2013.

Additionally, we continue to review the record to develop our determination of the Secretary's authority to acquire land for the Tribe pursuant to Section 5 of the Indian Reorganization Act, 25 U.S.C. § 465. We intend to finalize our analysis also in early 2013.

Please contact the Office of Indian Gaming at (202) 219-4066 if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary – Indian Affairs