DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Indian Affairs

Indian Gaming

AGENCY: Bureau of Indian Affairs, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of approval of amendment to Tribal-State Compact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 11 of the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA), Pub. L. 100–497, 25 U.S.C. 2710, the Secretary of the Interior shall publish, in the **Federal Register**, notice of approved Tribal-State Compacts for the purpose of engaging in Class III gaming activities on Indian lands. The Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior, through his delegated authority, has approved an Amendment, executed on May 2, 2000, to the Gaming Compact between the Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana and the State of Louisiana.

DATES: This action is effective May 16, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: George T. Skibine, Director, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Washington, DC 20240, (202) 219–4066.

Dated: May 4, 2000.

Levin Gover,

Assistant Secretary—Indian Affairs.

[FR Doc. 00–12321 Filed 5–15–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–02–P

EXTENSION OF THE TRIBAL-STATE COMPACT

FOR THE CONDUCT OF CLASS III GAMING

BETWEEN THE

COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

AND THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

WHEREAS: in 1988, the Congress of the United States of America enacted the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, which provided a statutory basis for the operation and regulation of gaming by Indian Tribes; and

WHEREAS: pursuant to the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act, the Tribal-State Compact for the conduct of Class III Gaming Between the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** and the **State of Louisiana** was executed and signed by Chairman Lovelin Poncho on September 4, 1992 (and as amended on October 28, 1992) and by Governor Edwin W. Edwards on September 2, 1992 (and as amended on October 29, 1992); and became effective upon publishing of approval by the Secretary of the Interior of the United States of America, in the *Federal Register* on November 4, 1992;

WHEREAS: in accordance with the relevant provisions of this Compact, the **State of Louisiana,** through Governor Murphy J. Foster, Jr., gave the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** notice of non-renewal of the Compact on its present terms;

WHEREAS: the original compact was previously extended, until May 4, 2000, by the mutual agreement of the parties with the approval of the Secretary of the Interior, and was duly published in the *Federal Register;*

WHEREAS: the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** and the **State of Louisiana** continue to mutually desire to negotiate for an amended and extended Class III Gaming Compact, without any alteration or interruption in the terms of the existing Compact;

WHEREAS: the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** and the **State of Louisiana** desire to extend the existing and original Tribal-State Compact, which had previously been extended until May 4, 2000, and which extension will expire on or about May 4, 2000, for a period of time sufficient to permit the parties a reasonable opportunity to complete the ongoing negotiations, to amend and extend the original compact for a period of an additional seven (7) years or such other period of time as the parties may agree upon;

NOW THEREFORE WE, the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** and the **State of Louisiana**, by virtue of the authority vested through the Constitution and laws of the United States of America and of the **State of Louisiana**, and of the laws and Resolutions of the Tribal Council of the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana,** and in order to preserve and protect the health, safety, and welfare of our people, do hereby extend the existing, and hereinabove described Tribal-State Compact for the conduct of Class III gaming, until 5:00 o'clock P.M. Central Standard Time, on the 17th day of November, 2000, or until an amended and extended compact is agreed upon and becomes effective, whichever occurs first. This agreement is entered into solely for the purpose of extending the existing compact, for the time specified in this agreement, and not for the purpose of renewing the existing compact beyond the date herein specified.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, as duly authorized representatives of the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** and the **State of Louisiana**, we have hereunto set our hands officially and caused to be affixed the Great Seals of the **Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana** and the **State of Louisiana**.

COUSHATTA TRIBE OF LOUISIANA

LOVELIN PONCHO
TRIBAL CHAIRMAN

DATE: 5/2/00

STATE OF LOUISIANA

MURPHY J. FOSTER, JR.
GOVERNOR

DATE: 5/2/00

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

KEVIN GOVER
ASSISTANT SECRETARY-INDIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: