

National Indian Gaming Commission

2020 Annual FOIA Report

I. Basic Information Regarding Report

Any questions concerning this report should be directed to:

Tim Osumi
Agency FOIA Officer
National Indian Gaming Commission
1849 C Street, N.W.
Mail Stop 1621
Washington, D.C. 20240
Telephone number: (202) 632-7003
Fax number: (202) 632-7066

This report is available on the NIGC Web site:

<http://www.nigc.gov/commission/foia-reports>

To obtain a copy of the report in paper form contact:

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II. Making a FOIA Request

For basic information on how to make a FOIA request, visit our Web site at:

<https://www.nigc.gov/utility/freedom-of-information-act>

Address of office that receives FOIA requests:

FOIA requests are centralized and written requests should be addressed to:

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Type of Agency records responsive to FOIA exemptions:

Responsive documents include Bulletins, Commission Final Decisions, Management Contracts, Enforcement Actions, Gaming Ordinances, Proprietary Interest Matter, and Game Classification Opinions.

Brief description of why some requests are not granted:

Requests for information are not granted if the information sought falls within one of the FOIA exemptions; the information requested falls under the jurisdiction of another authority; or no responsive records are located.

III. Acronyms, Definitions, and Exemptions

Agency-specific acronyms or other terms:

FOIA	Freedom of Information Act
NIGC	National Indian Gaming Commission
PA	Privacy Act

Basic terms, expressed in common terminology:

- a. Administrative Appeal – a request to a federal agency asking that it review at a higher administrative level a FOIA determination made by the agency at the initial request level.
- b. Average Number – the number obtained by dividing the sum of a group of numbers by the quantity of numbers in the group. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the average number is 8.
- c. Backlog – the number of requests or administrative appeals that are pending at an agency at the end of the fiscal year that are beyond the statutory time period for a response
- d. Component – for agencies that process requests on a decentralized basis, a ‘component’ is an entity, also sometimes referred to as an Office, Division, Bureau, Center, or Directorate, within the agency that processed FOIA requests. The FOIA now requires that agencies include in their Annual FOIA Report data for both the agency overall and for each principal component of the agency.
- e. Consultation – the procedure whereby the agency responding to a FOIA request first forwards a record to another agency for its review because that other agency has an interest in the document. Once the agency is receipt of the consultation finishes its review of the record, it responds back to the agency that forwarded it. That agency, in turn, will then respond to the FOIA requester.
- f. Exemption 3 Statute – a federal statute that exempts information from disclosure and which the agency relies on to withhold information under subsection (b)(3) of the FOIA.
- g. FOIA Request – a FOIA request is generally a request to a federal agency for access to records concerning another person (i.e., a ‘third-party’ request), or concerning an organization, or a particular topic of interest. FOIA requests also include requests made by requesters seeking records concerning themselves (i.e., ‘first-party’ requests) when those requesters are not subject to the Privacy Act, such as non-U.S. citizens. Moreover, because all first-party requesters should be afforded the benefit of both the access provisions of the FOIA as well as those of the Privacy Act, FOIA requests also include any first-party requests where an agency determines that it must search beyond its Privacy Act ‘systems of records’ or where a Privacy Act exemption applies, and the agency looks to FOIA to afford the greatest possible access. All requests which require the agency to utilize the FOIA in responding to the requester are included in this Report.
- h. Full Grant – an agency decision to disclose all records in full in response to a FOIA request.

- i. Full Denial – an agency decision not to release any records in response to a FOIA request because the records are exempt in their entireties under one or more of the FOIA exemptions, or because of a procedural reason, such as when no records could be located.
- j. Median Number – the middle, not average, number. For example, of 3, 7, and 14, the median number is 7.
- k. Multi-Track Processing – a system in which simple requests requiring relatively minimal review are placed in one processing track and more voluminous and complex request are placed in one or more other tracks. Requests granted expedited processing are placed in yet another track. Requests in each track are processed on a first in/first out basis.
 - i. Expedited Processing – an agency will process a FOIA request on a expedited basis when a requester satisfies the requirements for expedited processing as set forth in the statute and in agency regulations.
 - ii. Simple Requests – a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in its fastest (non-expedited) track based on the low volume and/or simplicity of the records requested.
 - iii. Complex Request – a FOIA request that an agency using multi-track processing places in a slower track based on the high volume and/or complexity of the records requested.
- l. Partial Grant/Partial Denial – in response to a FOIA request, an agency decision to disclose portions of the records and to withhold other portions that are exempt under the FOIA, or to otherwise deny a portion of the request for a procedural reason.
- m. Pending Request or Pending Administrative Appeal – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has not taken final action in all respects.
- n. Perfected Request – a request for records which reasonably describes such records and is made in accordance with published rules stating the time, place, fees (if any) and procedures to be followed.
- o. Processed Request or Processed Administrative Appeal – a request or administrative appeal for which an agency has taken final action in all respects.
- p. Range in Number of Days – the lowest and highest number of days to process requests or administrative appeals.
- q. Time Limits – the time period in the statute for an agency to respond to a FOIA request (ordinarily twenty working days from receipt of a perfected FOIA request).

Description of nine FOIA exemptions:

- a. Exemption 1 – classified national defense and foreign relations information.
- b. Exemption 2 – internal agency rules and practices
- c. Exemption 3 – information that is prohibited from disclosure by another federal law.
- d. Exemption 4 – trade secrets and other confidential business information.
- e. Exemption 5 – inter-agency or intra-agency communications that are protected by legal privileges.
- f. Exemption 6 – information involving matter of personal privacy.
- g. Exemption 7 – records or information compiled for law enforcement purposes, to the extent that the production of those records (A) could reasonably be expected to interfere with enforcement proceedings, (B) would deprive a person of a right to a fair trial or an impartial adjudication, (C) could reasonably be expected to constitute an unwarranted invasion of personal privacy, (D) could reasonably be expected to disclose the identity of a confidential source, (E) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or would disclose guidelines for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions, or (F) could reasonably be expected to endanger the life or physical safety of any individual.
- h. Exemption 8 – information relating to the supervision of financial institutions.
- i. Exemption 9 – geological information on wells.

3. Agency Component Abbreviations

Component Abbreviation	Component Name
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IV. Exemption 3 Statutes

Statute	Type of Information Withheld	Case Citation	Agency / Component	Number of Times Relied upon by Agency / Component	Total Number of Times Relied upon by Agency Overall
N/A	N/A	N/A	NIGC	0	0

V.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED AND PENDING FOIA REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Requests Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Requests Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
NIGC	2	29	27	4
AGENCY OVERALL	2	29	27	4

V.B.(1). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- ALL PROCESSED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Full Grants	Number of Partial Grants / Partial Denials	Number of Full Denials Based on Exemptions	Number of Full Denials Based on Reasons Other than Exemptions									TOTAL
				No Records	All Records Referred to Another Component or Agency	Request Withdrawn	Fee-Related Reason	Records not Reasonably Described	Improper FOIA Request for Other Reason	Not Agency Record	Duplicate Request	Other *Explain in Chart Below	
NIGC	9	8	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	27
AGENCY OVERALL	9	8	0	7	0	2	0	0	0	0	1	0	27

V.B.(2). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- "OTHER" REASONS FOR "FULL DENIALS BASED ON REASONS OTHER THAN EXEMPTIONS"

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denials from Chart B(1)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
NIGC	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

V.B.(3). DISPOSITION OF FOIA REQUESTS -- NUMBER OF TIMES EXEMPTIONS APPLIED

Agency / Component	Ex. 1	Ex. 2	Ex. 3	Ex. 4	Ex. 5	Ex. 6	Ex. 7(A)	Ex. 7(B)	Ex. 7(C)	Ex. 7(D)	Ex. 7(E)	Ex. 7(F)	Ex. 8	Ex. 9
NIGC	0	0	0	5	2	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	5	2	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	0

VI.A. ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS OF INITIAL DETERMINATIONS OF FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Appeals Pending as of Start of Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Received in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Processed in Fiscal Year	Number of Appeals Pending as of End of Fiscal Year
NIGC	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0

VI.B. DISPOSITION OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS -- ALL PROCESSED APPEALS

Component	Records	Referred at Initial Request Level	Withdrawn	Related Reason	not Reasonably Described	Request for Other Reasons	Agency Record	Request or Appeal	in Litigation	Based Solely on Denial of Request for Expedited Processing	*Explain in chart below
NIGC	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

VI.C.(3). REASONS FOR DENIAL ON APPEAL -- "OTHER" REASONS

Agency / Component	Description of "Other" Reasons for Denial on Appeal from Chart C(2)	Number of Times "Other" Reason Was Relied Upon	TOTAL
NIGC	N/A	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL			0

VI.C.(4). RESPONSE TIME FOR ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS

VII.A. FOIA REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR ALL PROCESSED PERFECTED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
NIGC	5	6	2	23	49	158	24	713	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	5	6	2	23	49	158	24	713	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.B. PROCESSED REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME FOR PERFECTED REQUESTS IN WHICH INFORMATION WAS GRANTED

Agency / Component	SIMPLE				COMPLEX				EXPEDITED PROCESSING			
	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days	Median Number of Days	Average Number of Days	Lowest Number of Days	Highest Number of Days
NIGC	4	7	2	23	48	47	26	88	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
AGENCY OVERALL	4	7	2	23	48	47	26	88	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A

VII.C. PROCESSED SIMPLE REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
NIGC	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21
AGENCY OVERALL	20	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	21

VII.C. PROCESSED COMPLEX REQUESTS -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

Agency / Component	<1-20 Days	21-40 Days	41-60 Days	61-80 Days	81-100 Days	101-120 Days	121-140 Days	141-160 Days	161-180 Days	181-200 Days	201-300 Days	301-400 Days	401+ Days	TOTAL
NIGC	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6
AGENCY OVERALL	0	2	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	6

VII.C. PROCESSED REQUESTS GRANTED EXPEDITED PROCESSING -- RESPONSE TIME IN DAY INCREMENTS

		Request									
NIGC	Date of Receipt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2020-09-25	2020-09-11	2015-01-15
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	1426
AGENCY OVERALL	Date of Receipt	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	2020-09-25	2020-09-11	2015-01-15
	Number of Days Pending	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	4	14	1426

VIII.A. REQUESTS FOR EXPEDITED PROCESSING

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate	Number Adjudicated Within Ten Calendar Days
NIGC	0	1	2	2	1
AGENCY OVERALL	0	1	2	2	1

VIII.B. Requests for Fee Waiver

Agency / Component	Number Granted	Number Denied	Median Number of Days to Adjudicate	Average Number of Days to Adjudicate
NIGC	2	2	10	10
AGENCY OVERALL	2	2	10	10

IX. FOIA Personnel and Costs

Agency / Component	PERSONNEL			COSTS		
	Number of "Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Number of "Equivalent Full-Time FOIA Employees"	Total Number of "Full-Time FOIA Staff"	Processing Costs	Litigation-Related Costs	Total Costs
NIGC	1	0.00	1.00	60000.00	0.00	60000.00
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0.00	1.00	60000.00	0.00	60000.00

X. Fees Collected for Processing Requests

Agency / Component	Total Amount of Fees Collected	Percentage of Total Costs
NIGC	1603.75	2.6700
AGENCY OVERALL	1603.75	2.6700

XI.A. Number of Times Subsection (C) Used

Agency / Component	Number of Times Subsection Used
NIGC	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0

XI.B. Number of Subsection (A)(2) Postings

Agency / Component	Number of Records Posted by the FOIA Office	Number of Records Posted by Program Offices
NIGC	18	112
AGENCY OVERALL	18	112

XII.A. Backlogs of FOIA Requests and Administrative Appeals

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of Fiscal Year	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of Fiscal Year
NIGC	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0

XII.B. CONSULTATIONS ON FOIA REQUESTS -- RECEIVED, PROCESSED, AND PENDING CONSULTATIONS

XII.D.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- REQUESTS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF REQUESTS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NIGC	37	29	47	27
AGENCY OVERALL	37	29	47	27

XII.D.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF REQUESTS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED REQUESTS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual	Number of Backlogged Requests as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current
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	Report	Annual Report
NIGC	2	1
AGENCY OVERALL	2	1

XII.E.(1). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- APPEALS RECEIVED AND PROCESSED

Agency / Component	NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>RECEIVED</u>		NUMBER OF APPEALS <u>PROCESSED</u>	
	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Received During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Last Year's Annual Report	Number Processed During Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NIGC	1	0	1	0
AGENCY OVERALL	1	0	1	0

XII.E.(2). COMPARISON OF NUMBERS OF ADMINISTRATIVE APPEALS FROM PREVIOUS AND CURRENT ANNUAL REPORT -- BACKLOGGED APPEALS

Agency / Component	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Previous Annual Report	Number of Backlogged Appeals as of End of the Fiscal Year from Current Annual Report
NIGC	0	0
AGENCY OVERALL	0	0