



Public Scoping Meeting
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Cayuga Indian Nation of New York – Trust Land Acquisition Application
March 1, 2006, 6:30 p.m.
New York Chiropractic College

Purpose of Tonight's Meeting

The purpose of this scoping meeting is to discuss the environmental review process that will be conducted under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) for the trust land application of Cayuga Indian Nation lands in Cayuga and Seneca Counties, New York.

This meeting has been called by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA), United States Department of the Interior (DOI). The BIA has retained AKRF, Inc. as the third party contractor to prepare the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).

The environmental review process includes opportunities for public involvement. Tonight's meeting is the first forum in which the public is invited to give oral or written comments and suggestions on the scope of work for the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) that will be conducted as part of the NEPA process.

Agenda for Tonight's Scoping Meeting

5:00 – 6:30 p.m. Doors open & sign-in for oral comments

6:30 – 7:00 p.m. Welcome and introductions

- Opening remarks by Kurt Chandler (BIA)
- Statement by Clint Halftown, Cayuga Indian Nation
- Presentation on proposed action by EIS Contractor

7.30 p.m. Open floor for public comments

- Potential Cooperating Agencies
- Federal & State Elected Officials
- General Public – per sign-in sheet

When everyone on the list has had a chance to speak, we will ask if any additional person would like to speak they will have a chance to sign-in. We will also ask whether any person has more to add to their comments.

Adjournment When the last person is done.

Commenting at Tonight's Scoping Meeting

The scoping meeting is an opportunity for the public to provide input to the BIA on what the EIS should analyze. You may provide *oral comments* tonight, or you may send *written comments* to the address below. *Written comments must be received* by the BIA (not postmarked) *by March 15, 2006. Comments may be faxed.*

If you wish to speak tonight, you must sign-in. The Speaker Sign-in is at the designated table.

Send Written Comments to:

Mr. Franklin Keel, Regional Director
Bureau of Indian Affairs
545 Marriott Drive, Suite 700
Nashville, TN 37214
Fax: (615) 564 6571

Overview

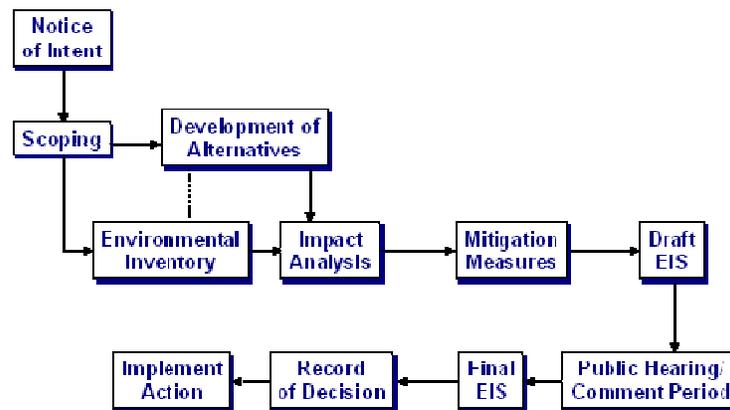
The Proposed Action includes the approval of a 125± acre fee-to-trust property transfer to be held on behalf of the Nation. The property is located on seven separate parcels in the Village of Union Springs and the Towns of Springport and Montezuma in Cayuga County and the Town of Seneca Falls in Seneca County, New York. The Nation wishes to continue use of its properties for multiple purposes, involving the continuation of existing uses. Existing uses include convenience store and gas station operations, gaming facilities, a car wash and related activities. No new development is proposed on the subject properties.

Placing lands into trust is a real estate transaction which creates federal title to the lands involved. Trust status can be granted through an application like this made to the United States Department of the Interior. If approved, the land in question will belong to the United States of America, and will be held for the use and benefit of the Cayuga Indian Nation. Land held in trust ensures the cultural preservation, expression and identity, self determination, self-sufficiency and economic independence of the Cayuga Indian Nation as a federally recognized Indian tribe.

Overview of the Environmental Review Process

Federal agencies, such as BIA, must comply with NEPA before approving any major federal actions that may have a significant effect on the human environment. BIA's decision on the Cayuga Indian Nation's request that BIA accept the lands into trust for purposes of the proposed project constitutes such a major federal action. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will be necessary. The EIS would assess the environmental consequences of the Nation's application to the BIA to take 125± acres into federal trust.

The EIS process has numerous steps. The first step is the publication of a "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement." This notice was published by the BIA on February 13, 2006. The second step is scoping – the purpose of tonight's meeting.



Scoping

Scoping is the means to initiate discussion among affected agencies and the public in respect to the actions, alternatives, and potential impacts to be considered in the EIS. Scoping is intended to allow you – the public – to help identify significant issues related to the proposal so they may be analyzed in depth in the EIS.

The purpose of scoping is to help:

- determine the range of environmental issues to be included in the EIS analysis;
- identify potentially significant impacts that should be considered in the EIS; and
- eliminate issues that are not significant or relevant.

Scoping is chance for BIA to listen; it is not a debate about the proposal.

The EIS

An EIS is a document that analyzes the potential impacts of a proposed action and the reasonable alternatives to that action. According to the requirements of NEPA, the most detailed way to analyze potential impacts to the environment is by the preparation of an EIS.

An EIS typically contains:

- A concise statement of the purpose and need for the proposed action.
- A description of the proposed action and alternatives considered.
- A discussion of the affected environment.
- A discussion of potential impacts of the proposed action.
- A discussion of mitigation for those impacts.

The EIS for the Cayuga Indian Nation's proposal *may* examine the following subject areas:

- Land Use, Planning and Community Character
- Land and Water Resources
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Historical Resources
- Socioeconomic Conditions
- Traffic and Transportation
- Public Services and Infrastructure

During scoping, the public can address the above subject areas and suggest other subject areas that the BIA should consider evaluating in the EIS. These comments help the EIS review team identify issues that are important to you, the public. Your comments supplement the above list of potential issues and help determine the level of analysis necessary.

Comments received will be made part of the public record and incorporated into a scoping report. The scoping report will record the issues and alternatives identified during the scoping process and summarize the scoping meetings. Copies of the scoping report will be made available to the public.