



May 15, 2013

**Subject: Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Proposed Destination Resort Casino
Taunton, Massachusetts
Draft Environmental Impact Report
EEA # 14924**

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Dear Reviewer:

On behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Epsilon Associates is pleased to send you the enclosed Draft Environmental Impact Report for the Tribe's proposed destination resort casino in Taunton, which will be built on lands taken into trust by the federal Department of the Interior.

The Tribe's Preferred Alternative comprises the casino, three 300-room hotels, an events center, several dining options, retail space, a water park, and parking for approximately 6,370 vehicles in both a garage and surface lots. In accordance with the ENF Certificate, the DEIR also examines two less intensive development scenarios and compares all of the alternatives to a future no-build condition.

The proposed project will create thousands of well-paying jobs and be a great economic benefit to the City of Taunton, the Commonwealth, and the Tribe. Construction alone is expected to generate approximately \$837 million in total economic activity in Massachusetts, while on-going operation of the resort is expected to generate approximately \$512 million annually. Direct employment for annual operation of the project is estimated at 3,500 full- and part-time jobs.

The Tribe has a strong tradition of careful use and conservation of natural resources. Since the filing of the ENF, the Tribe has continued to refine the design of the project to avoid and minimize impacts, and to mitigate for those that are unavoidable. For example, on-site impacts to wetlands and other water resources have been minimized by constructing the large majority of the development on areas that have already been disturbed and by making adaptive reuse of two existing buildings on site. Permanent on site wetland (BVW) impacts will be less than 5,000 square feet.

The Tribe has also continued to work with City of Taunton and MassDOT officials on the design for traffic mitigation measures, including improvements to the Route 24/140 Interchange. This collaborative planning is ongoing and the Tribe expects that the DEIR will be helpful in gathering further input regarding the proposed mitigation, which the Tribe expects will be finalized in the Final EIR.

How to Submit Comments

The DEIR was submitted to MEPA on May 15th, and will be noticed on-line at the Environmental Monitor Web site (<http://www.env.state.ma.us/mepa/emonitor.aspx>) on May 22nd. The Tribe has voluntarily extended the normal comment period by two weeks. **Comments are due on July 12, 2013**, and should be sent to the following address:

Secretary Richard K. Sullivan, Jr.
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
Attn: MEPA Office
Ms. Holly Johnson, EEA #14924
Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

You may also submit comments via e-mail at Holly.S.Johnson@state.ma.us or via facsimile at (617) 626-1181.

We expect that Secretary Sullivan will issue a Certificate outlining the scope for a Final Environmental Impact Report on July 19, 2013.

How to Request a Hard Copy of the Document

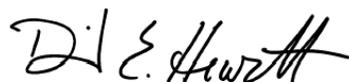
The DEIR is hundreds of pages. To conserve paper, the Tribe has provided some persons an electronic version on compact disc in PDF format. To view the document you will need a computer with a CD drive and the software needed to view PDF documents (available for free at <http://get.adobe.com/reader/>).

If you would like to receive a hard copy of the DEIR, you can request one free of charge from Epsilon Associates, by calling (978) 897-7100 or via email at csnowdon@epsilonassociates.com.

On behalf of the Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, thank you for your interest in their proposed destination resort casino.

Sincerely,

EPSILON ASSOCIATES, INC.



David Hewett, LEED AP
Associate