NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT FOR THE PRAIRIE ISLAND INDIAN COMMUNITY EMERGENCY GAMING FACILITY AND FEE-TO-TRUST PROJECT

Notice is hereby given that the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) has completed a final Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Prairie Island Indian Community (Tribe) Emergency Gaming Facility and Fee-to-Trust Project pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 United States Code [USC] §4321 et seq.). The Proposed Action consists of the issuance of a Two-Part Determination by the Secretary of the Interior under Section 20 of Indian Gaming Regulatory Act and acquisition by the BIA of 419.8 acres (Project Site) into federal trust status for the benefit of the Tribe for gaming purposes (Proposed Action). Once in trust, the Tribe proposes to improve the Project Site for the potential future operation of an emergency gaming facility should a catastrophic event force the closure of the Tribe's existing Treasure Island Resort & Casino (Proposed Project). The Project Site is located directly east of Highway 52 and is partially within unincorporated Olmsted County and partially within the City of Pine Island, Minnesota. The Project Site includes land on either side of White Pine Road SE, directly south of its intersection with White Bridge Road NW.

Based on the EA, it has been determined that the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, therefore, an EIS is not required. The FONSI is a finding on environmental effects, not a decision to proceed, therefore it cannot be appealed. 25 CFR Part 2.7 requires a 30-day appeal period after the decision to proceed with the action is made before the action may be implemented. Appeal information will be made publicly available when the decision to proceed is made.

The EA and FONSI are available for public review online at http://www.PIICcasinoEA.com.

For additional information, please contact Scott Doig, Division of Environmental & Cultural Resources Management (DECRM) Branch Chief and Regional Environmental Scientist, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Midwest Regional Office, at 612.719.5337 or by email at scott.doig@bia.gov.