

This Chapter discusses the potential impacts that the Proposed Action and the alternatives may have on the community facilities that currently serve the Nation's properties subject to the fee-to-trust application and immediate surrounding area.

A. ALTERNATIVE 1: PROPOSED ACTION

Under this alternative, the Nation's property would be taken into and held in trust by the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA). The Nation's use of the properties would remain the same as under the existing conditions. Under this alternative the Nation would reopen the temporarily closed two LakeSide Entertainment gaming facilities per the baseline environmental conditions.

It is anticipated that these LakeSide Entertainment facilities would resume operations as they existed at the time of the fee-to-trust application, following which the gaming operations were temporarily suspended. Per the baseline environmental conditions, the facilities will be small-scale Type II gaming operations consisting of a total of 119 electronic bingo machines. Consistent with federal regulations, the LakeSide Entertainment Class II gaming facilities will not be "casinos" with table gaming (e.g., poker, blackjack, or roulette) or slot machines.

Due to the small size and small scale of the LakeSide gaming facilities, and due to lack of on-site entertainment venues or food and alcoholic beverage services, it is the Nation's experience from having formerly operated these facilities that patrons are drawn from the localized Cayuga and Seneca County areas.

The continuing of existing business operations and the reopening of these facilities is not expected to result in any adverse impacts to community service providers in the affected communities. The gaming facilities were in full operation prior to October 2005 and during the period of operation were adequately serviced by local emergency service providers. The same level of business operations and local service needs would be anticipated in the future under this alternative.

As discussed in Section 4.8, "Socioeconomic Effects," as trust land, the Nation's property would not be subject to local or county taxation, and would therefore not contribute to the funding of these services through the property taxation system. As discussed in Section 4.8, the Nation's current minimal property tax contribution to local revenue budgets is not expected to affect local service providers. The Nation, however, would assume the full range of jurisdiction over the subject properties. Further, the Nation will continue to pay for necessary community services it uses, and the Nation will explore cooperative agreements in regard to community service providers, including emergency services, to ensure that the Nation's properties and patrons of its businesses are adequately protected.

B. ALTERNATIVE 2: NO ACTION

Under this alternative, the Nation's properties would not be placed into trust, and the Nation would continue to own the properties in fee. The Nation would continue use of its properties for the multiple purposes in operation at the time of the fee-to-trust application (e.g., gas stations and convenience stores, and a car wash). Under this alternative, the Nation may elect to return the subject properties to the environmental baseline conditions by reopening its temporarily closed gaming facilities, in which case, no changes from the environmental baseline would occur. Under this alternative, the BIA would assume that the Nation would continue to pay property taxes on all subject parcels in Cayuga and Seneca Counties, and the Nation's properties would continue to be serviced by existing community services, including all Town and Village emergency service providers. However, the Nation would have to determine whether or not it would continue to pay these real property taxes. If the Nation made a determination not to continue payment of real property taxes, the effects on community services and fiscal conditions would be as described above under Alternative 1: The Proposed Project, and in Section 3.8, Socioeconomic Effects.

C. ALTERNATIVE 3: ENTERPRISE PROPERTIES INTO TRUST

Under Alternative 3, the Nation's subject enterprise properties in Seneca Falls and Union Springs would be placed into trust. Taxes would only be paid on the parcel in Springport. Under this Alternative, the reduction in property tax revenue for the Village of Union Springs and the Town of Seneca Falls would be the same as those discussed under Alternative 1 and detailed in Section 4.8, Socioeconomic Effects.

The effects on community services of this alternative would be the same as those of Alternative 1: Proposed Action, although the Town of Springport would receive its full share of property taxes as levied on the non-trust properties. While no increased demand for community services is anticipated under this alternative, the Nation will continue to pay for necessary community services it uses, and the Nation will explore cooperative agreements with regards to community service providers, including emergency services, to ensure that the Nation's properties and patrons of its businesses are adequately protected.

D. CUMULATIVE IMPACTS

No cumulative impacts on community services are anticipated for the proposed action under any of the analyzed alternatives. No other currently active proposals are similar to the proposal in either county. Tribal fee-to-trust applications in other New York counties are also not anticipated to produce statewide cumulative impacts, since any impacts on community services from other proposals, if any, would be localized. Implementation of the Nation's proposal would return both Counties' conditions to those of the environmental baseline date of the Nation's application, which included the gaming operation. With no impacts on community services resulting from the proposal, and no other proposals impacting the same resources, no cumulative impacts are anticipated.