

## Springing Forward to Increase Efficiency Through the Use of Pay.gov

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The 21st century has seen a dramatic rise in the use of Internet technologies in the business environment. The continued evolution of these technologies has created a spring board of applications that allow for day-to-day processes to be more efficient and has increased ease-of-access. In late 2014, the National Indian Gaming Commission (NIGC), in its efforts to enhance its technological capabilities, announced the implementation of an electronic payment system through Pay.gov.

"The NIGC recognizes that many of its stakeholders have integrated technology systems into many aspects of their operations," said Director of Finance Yvonne Lee. As tribal gaming facilities and operations are the agency's primary stakeholder, it is important for the NIGC to provide systems



that stay ahead of the technology curve.

The Pay.gov system allows end-users to authorize electronic payments through fund transfers. This safe and secure system offers tribes and gaming facilities an opportunity to submit their quarterly payment of annual fees and submission of associated worksheets free, fast and easy from any computer connected to the internet. With access to the system 24 hours a day, seven days a week; within minutes, tribes can pay their NIGC quarterly payments electronically. The use of Pay.gov is not mandatory. If tribes prefer, they can continue to submit paper worksheets and fee payments by check.

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While the implementation of this system is relatively new to the agency, the NIGC has seen a reduction in the number of errors related to fee submissions by tribal gaming operations utilizing Pay.gov.

"Pay.gov provides immediate feedback when errors are made," says Lee. Additionally, when the NIGC announces its preliminary annual Indian gaming operations fee rate, Pay.gov is updated.

By using the Pay.gov electronic payment system, tribes will find that it is no longer a hassle to calculate the current fee rate, according to Lee. "The fee rate calculation is built right into the online worksheet, insuring the use of the correct fee rate for the period that is being reported," added Lee.

"Indian gaming is a technologically driven industry," said Acting Chairman Jonodev Chaudhuri. "As technology continues to evolve, it is imperative that, as a regulatory agency, we remain up-to-date and current to better serve tribes and tribal regulators."

In a world that is ever moving towards paperless business activities and electronic systems, it is important that NIGC adapt and integrate electronic systems into its own practices. ♣

*Tribes interested in using the new Pay.gov electronic payment system should visit [www.pay.gov](http://www.pay.gov) and select the NIGC using the tab 'Find an Agency.' Additionally, tribes can visit the Commission's website at [www.nigc.gov](http://www.nigc.gov) for details on how to sign into the system, what information is required to be submitted and who to contact for questions.*

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RubinBrown adds value to our clients through our understanding of gaming regulations and our ability to navigate the complexities of the ever-changing regulatory environment.

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