



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Indian Nation

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

March 20, 2001

F. X. Cameron
Office of The General Counsel
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

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Dear Mr. Cameron:

I was pleased to learn of the Commission's recent decision to renew interactions with Indian Nations via its Office of Governmental and Public Affairs. As you know the Yakama Nation had substantial and beneficial consultations with the NRC in the 1980's regarding the proposed Basalt Waste Isolation Project at Hanford and we are interested in renewing a consultative relationship with the Commission with respect to the disposition of the Department of Energy's Hanford high level radioactive waste and other matters within the scope of NRC's responsibility and regulatory authority.

Our immediate goal is to understand the NRC's role at Hanford in the future and to inform the Commission of the Yakama Nation's concerns relative to the management of nuclear and hazardous mixed wastes there and thereby help assure safety and protection of the environment.

To this end we invite you and other NRC representatives as warranted to meet with me and other Yakama Nation representatives at our Headquarters in Toppenish to become reacquainted, to consult on pertinent nuclear issues and regulation and otherwise agree upon a mode of interaction to achieve an effective and cooperative government-to-government relationship.

Assuming such a meeting is agreeable, I will prepare a proposed agenda for a meeting date about mid-April and send it for your review and approval. Thank you in advance, and please call me at your convenience at (509) 452-2502.

Sincerely,

Russell Jim, Manager
Environmental Restoration Waste Management Program
Yakama Nation

cc: Carroll Palmer, Deputy Director, DNR

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ADD: F.X. Cameron
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