



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

101.2 PDR-1
LPDR-WM-10 (2)
WM-11 (2)
WM-16 (2)

87-AMC-648

AUG 17 1987 WM Record File

101.2

WM Project 10

Docket No.

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* LPDR ✓ (B)

Distribution:

Linehan Wastler

(Return to WM, 623-SS)

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Mr. William H. Burke, Director
Nuclear Waste Study Program
Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation
P. O. Box 638
Pendleton, OR 97801

Dear Mr. Burke:

RELIGIOUS AND OTHER CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AT HANFORD

This is in response to your letter dated July 20, 1987, expressing your concerns relating to religious and cultural significance of the Hanford Reservation.

I would like to thank you for your comments and to assure you that they have been considered in our plans for consultation with the affected tribes. Enclosed for your information is the July 27, 1987, letter from DOE to Elwood Patawa which responds to your concerns.

In future correspondence on cultural resource topics, it would be more efficient in facilitating a Hanford-wide cultural resource program if you were to direct concerns and comments to Mr. J. J. Sutey, Director, Site and Laboratory Management Division, with a courtesy copy to me.

Sincerely,

R. P. Saget for

John H. Anttonen, Assistant Manager
for Commercial Nuclear Waste

AMC:MLP

Enclosure

cc w/encl:
E. Patawa, CTUIR
L. Dick, CTUIR
Distribution List

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PDR WASTE
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WM Project: WM-10

PDR w/encl

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WM Record File: 101
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CORRESPONDENCE MAILING LIST

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Washington State Dept. of Ecology
MS PV-11
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Mr. Don Provost
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Mr. Russell Jim, Manager
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Yakima Indian Nation
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Mr. William H. Burke, Director
Nuclear Waste Study Program
Confederated Tribes of the
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Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Ronald T. Halfmoon, Manager
Nuclear Waste Policy Act Program
Nez Perce Indian Tribe
P. O. Box 305
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Richland, WA 99352

Dr. Abdul Alkezweeny
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Siting, Licensing and Quality
Assurance Division, RW-24

Ralph Stein, Director
Engineering and Geotechnology
Division, RW-23



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JUL 27 1987

Mr. Melvin R. Sampson, Chairman
Yakima Tribal Council
P. O. 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

Mr. Allen V. Pinkham, Chairman
Nez Perce Tribal Executive Committee
P. O. Box 305
Lapwai, ID 83540

Mr. Elwood Patawa, Chairman
CTUIR, Board of Trustees
P. O. Box 638
Pendleton, OR 97801

Mr. Frank Buck
Wanapum Indian Band
P. O. Box 235
Beverly, WA 99321

Gentlemen:

GABLE MOUNTAIN NEAR SURFACE TEST FACILITY CONSULTATION

Thank you for your prompt response to our June 15, 1987, letter concerning the significance of Gable Mountain and Gable Butte and our contemplated operational improvement to the near surface test facility. Comments were received from the Yakima, Umatilla, and Nez Perce tribes as well as the Wanapum Band.

In general, the comments indicated that the Gable Mountain and Gable Butte area is of great significance to Native Americans; that our consultation process referencing the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (P.L. 96-95) should have also addressed the Nuclear Waste Policy Act (P.L. 97-245), the National Historic Preservation Act (P.L. 89-665) and the American Indian Religions Freedom Act (P.L. 95-341) and that more time and information was needed before concurrence could be considered. We agree with all of these points. In that regard, we would like to hold a technical meeting preferably during the week of August 3rd to fully discuss your concerns and to better describe the planned project-related activities on Gable Mountain and the plans to minimize the impact of such activities. We plan to have representatives from both the Basalt Waste Isolation Project (BWI) and Site and Laboratory Management Division (SMD) at the meeting to discuss these issues with you.

The Yakima Indian Nation has asked to evaluate current information concerning Gable Mountain and Gable Butte and requests the following information:



Addressees

-2-

JUL 27 1987

- 1) A time series of all available imagery showing the alteration of the landscape;
- 2) All reports, letters, and documents related to cultural resources including copies of National Register Nomination Forms and site forms and including all contacts, references, and interviews conducted with Native Americans;
- 3) A time series of maps detailing all land altering activities associated with site characterization showing what has occurred and what may occur in the future;
- 4) Information and reasons why, in the opinion of the Department of Energy, past and present activities do not constitute the defilement of known religious places; and,
- 5) A flow chart from the Department of Energy detailing the role and responsibility of individuals involved with cultural resources.

We are currently compiling this information and will provide it to all tribes as soon as possible.

We trust that the consultations will lead to an improved mutual understanding of the issues and that we can find an acceptable way to meet the needs of the Native Americans and the nation's energy programs. Please let us know if you can attend a meeting the week of August 3, 1987.

If you have any further questions, please contact Mr. Kevin Clarke of my staff at (509) 376-6354 or Mr. Steve Whitfield of BWI at (509) 376-2048.

Sincerely,

Original Signed

J. J. Sutey

J. J. Sutey, Director

Site and Laboratory Management Division

SMD:KVC

cc: Russell Jim, YIN
Lonnie Selam, YIN
Walter Speedis, YIN



Department of Energy

Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

87-AMC-650

AUG 17 1987

Mr. William H. Burke, Director
Nuclear Waste Study Program
Confederated Tribes of the
Umatilla Indian Reservation
P. O. Box 638
Pendleton, OR 97801

Dear Mr. Burke:

REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AND OTHER CULTURAL REPORTS

This is in response to your letter dated June 26, 1987, requesting information on known archaeological sites and other cultural reports related to the reference repository location. I would like to clarify our position on the release of archaeological and cultural information.

The intent of DOE-RL is to protect the cultural resources and ensure the confidentiality of information on the nature and location of archaeological resources. One very effective measure to date has been to limit the access to Hanford cultural resource files. The data requested by Deward Walker and Michael Burney is extremely sensitive and includes the location of sites and burials, and we believe this information should be transmitted to the affected tribes for their subsequent release.

In this regard, DOE-RL is preparing a record of release which, when signed by the tribal chairman, will acknowledge the sensitive nature of the transmitted documents and extend the responsibility to the tribe to protect and limit the dissemination of the materials. We will send the record of release to you within a few days.

We apologize for any misunderstanding and again stress that it is DOE's intent to protect the cultural resources.

Sincerely,

R. P. Laget for
John H. Anttonen, Assistant Manager
for Commercial Nuclear Waste

AMC:MLP

cc: E. Patawa, CTUIR
L. Dick, CTUIR
Distribution List

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