



Department of Energy

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

87-AMC-904

NOV 9 1987

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

Dear Mr. Sampson:

CONDUCTING SEPARATE MEETINGS

This is in response to your letter dated October 23, 1987, requesting the Department of Energy conduct separate meetings with each tribe. First, let me assure you that we recognize the Yakima Indian Nation as a separate nation with unique rights and concerns, and it is not our intent nor belief that all tribes are basically the same. As has been stated in prior cultural resource meetings, we are supportive of separate meetings; but please recognize that in the majority of cases we do not know, nor wish to anticipate when the tribes wish to meet individually or collectively. Because of this, it is important that we receive from you input in identifying what meetings should be attended by all and which should not be. We are more than willing to schedule a meeting with the Yakima Indian Nation at your office to discuss this subject.

Additionally, on other subjects, I or my staff would be delighted to meet with you or other members of the Yakima Nation in separate meetings any time that we can reach mutually acceptable dates. It would please me to conduct these meetings at your facilities in Toppenish as well as Richland.

Although I am recent to the BWIP, I would like to express my thanks to the Yakima Nation for the support and creative suggestions for helping to resolve mutual difficulties. I feel that further progress can be made if we can regularly meet with members of the Yakima Nation.

Please contact me on (509) 376-7334 if you have questions or if I can be of any further assistance.

Sincerely,

R. D. Izatt, Director
Basalt Waste Isolation Division

AMC:MLP

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