

BEAR RIVER BAND of ROHNERVILLE RANCHERIA

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December 22, 2005

Scott F. Flanders, Director
Environmental and Performance Assessment Directorate
Division of Waste Management and Environmental Protection
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards
Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555-0001

Subject: Response to Request for Information Concerning Cultural Resources in the Vicinity of the Proposed Humboldt Bay Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation

Dear Mr. Flanders,


This letter is in response to your request for information dated August 19, 2005 regarding cultural resources in the vicinity of the proposed Humboldt Bay Independent Spent Fuel Storage Installation. As per our subsequent request, a field visit was scheduled on October 5, 2005 with Hank Bernard of the Rohnerville Rancheria, Mike Wilson of HWR, and Marnie Atkins of the Table Bluff Reservation attending. We were disappointed that you were unable to attend. Even so, we appreciate the openness and friendliness put forth by the PG&E staff during our visit. Our guide, Lawrence Pulley, was helpful in answering our questions and concerns, and consultation with the Tribe on this matter is greatly appreciated.

We believe that safe and secure storage of nuclear materials is important. We concur with the opinion that the current storage method of the spent fuel is inadequate and that the proposed upgrades to dry cast storage will offer more safety for the communities and environment around the Bay. However, it remains our opinion that the permanent storage of these materials on Humboldt Bay is inappropriate. Humboldt Bay is the spiritual center of the Wiyot world and a sacred place. Additionally, the proposed site for the upgraded facility is on Buhne Point, a significant cultural and geological feature of the Bay.

We understand that the disposal of nuclear materials is a contentious topic, and recognize the difficulty the commission faces in locating storage facilities. However, the Tribe has been, and will continue to be, opposed to the location of nuclear materials directly adjacent to the most sacred of places to our culture and encourage you to seek alternative disposal sites that will not impact other native peoples.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,


Edwin Smith, Cultural Liaison
Bear River Band of Rohnerville Rancheria
27 Bear River Drive
Loleta, CA 95551

cc: Marnie Atkins, Cultural Programs Director, Wiyot Tribe, 1000 Wiyot Dr., Loleta, CA 95551
Mike Wilson, HWR Engineering and Science, POB 165, Arcata, CA 95518