June 19, 2015

Chairman JoDe L. Goudy
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
PO Box 151
401 Fort Rd.
Toppenish, WA 98948

SUBJECT: OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT ON PROPOSED AMENDMENTS TO LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL REGULATIONS, 10 CFR PARTS 20 AND 61 (RIN 3150-AI92) (NRC-2011-0012)

Dear Chairman Goudy:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is proposing to amend Parts 20 and 61 of Title 10 of the Code of Federal Regulations (10 CFR) which establishes the licensing requirements for land disposal of low-level radioactive waste (LLW). The proposed amendments would require LLW waste disposal licensees and license applicants to prepare revised and new site-specific technical analyses. The new requirements would ensure that LLW streams that are significantly different from the LLW streams considered in the current 10 CFR Part 61 regulatory basis can also be disposed of safely and meet the performance objectives in the regulations. The amended regulations would also allow the development of site-specific criteria for the acceptance of LLW based on the result of the technical analyses. Finally, the proposed amendments would better align the requirements with current health and safety standards. Additional background information can be found at: http://www.nrc.gov/about-nrc/regulatory/rulemaking/potential-rulemaking/uw-streams.html

You are receiving this letter because your Tribe's Reservation land is approximately 32 miles from the US Ecology run LLW disposal site in Hanford, Washington, which is one of the four sites that will be affected by this rule. The NRC is specifically contacting the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation to provide information about the proposed rule, the comment period and a point of contact in the NRC to request further information.

The proposed rule was published in the *Federal Register* (80 FR 16082) on March 26, 2015. The rule is posted on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: http://www.regulations.gov under Docket No. NRC-2011-0012. Also, on March 26, 2015, the NRC published a notice in the *Federal Register* (80 FR 15930) of availability of the draft guidance (NUREG-2175) to go with these proposed changes. The notice of availability of the draft guidance is also posted on the Federal eRulemaking Portal at: http://www.regulations.gov under Docket No. NRC-2015-0003.

The *Federal Register* Notices for the proposed rule and guidance document may also be found in the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's Agencywide Documents Access and Management System (ADAMS) at ML14289A152 (Rule) and ML15056A516 (NUREG-2175). ADAMS is accessible from the NRC Web site at http://www.nrc.gov/reading-rm/adams.html.

Comments for both the proposed rule and the conforming guidance documents should be submitted by July 24, 2015. Comments received after these dates will be considered if it is practical to do so, but the NRC is able to ensure consideration only for comments received on or before the due date. If you would like more time to provide your comments, please contact me.

In accordance with 10 CFR 2.390 of the NRC's "Agency Rules of Practice and Procedure," a copy of this letter will be available electronically for public inspection in the NRC Public Document Room or from the Publicly Available Records component of NRC's ADAMS.

Please contact me if you have any questions at stephen.dembek@nrc.gov or by phone at 301-415-2342.

Sincerely,

/RA/

Stephen Dembek, Senior Project Manager
Low-Level Waste Branch
Division of Decommissioning, Uranium Recovery and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Docket No.: NRC-2011-0012

cc: Warren Spencer Jr., Chairman
Radioactive/Hazardous Committee
PO Box 151
401 Fort Rd.
Toppenish, WA 98948

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Stephen Dembek, Senior Project Manager
Low-Level Waste Branch
Recovery and Waste Programs
Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards

Docket No.: NRC-2011-0012

Cc: Warren Spencer Jr., Chairman
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