



**Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakama Nation**

0097470

Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

July, 07, 2011

Jill Conrad
Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P. O. Box 550
Richland, WA 99352

RE: Photographs of bones

Dear Ms Conrad,

On May 18, 2011 Yakama Nation Environmental Restoration/Waste Management (YN ER/WM) received the Cultural Resource Review (CRR) for the Miscellaneous Debris Cleanup in Blocks 10, 11, 14, and 17 of the Wahluke Unit, Hanford Reach National Monument (HCRC 2010-600-041E). In this CRR bones were photographed at the 45GR306C archaeological site and included in the report.

According to the Hanford Cultural Resource Management Plan (HCRMP) section 5.4.2 photos of human bone is prohibited unless there is uncertainty if the bone is human or animal. As site 45GR306C is a recorded human burial site, there should be little question that the bone fragments were likely human. YN ER/WM protests the use of such photographs in this document.

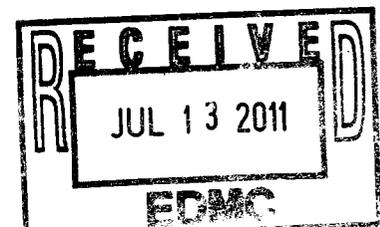
When ER/WM was first notified of the APE for this project, we requested to be notified and present during any activities that would occur in the vicinity of 45GR306. Our request was ignored and DOE contractor cultural staff proceeded with the project without YN ER/WM presence.

This leads to several unanswered questions. Given the sensitivity of this site, why was YN ER/WM's request to be present ignored? Why are DOE contract cultural personnel not aware of proper protocol for handling of human bone? Have contract archaeologist been required to read the HCRMP? Is there no accountability to ensure they know protocols and management practices as stated in the HCRMP? Why did DOE allow this document to be published and sent to the consulting parties? Most important, what is DOE's course of action to ensure this chain of events does not happen again?

We look forward to your response. If you have further questions or concerns with regards this please contact the YN ER/WM cultural staff, Leah Aleck, Dana Miller or Rose Ferri at 509-452-2502.

Sincerely

Russell Jim
ERWM Program Manager



cc:

Vera Hernandez, RHWC
Sam Jim Sr., RHWC
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