



Confederated Tribes and Bands
of the Yakima Indian Nation

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Established by the
Treaty of June 9, 1855

July 28, 1988

John Herrington, Secretary
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Herrington:

On June 17, 1988 the State of Washington Nuclear Waste Board unanimously adopted a resolution recommending that the U.S. Department of Energy and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency recognize the concerns of the Yakima Indian Nation during negotiation of the Three-Party Agreement and Hanford Action Plan. This letter is written to inform you that the Tribe not only endorses that resolution, but also endorses the concept of accelerating funding to the affected parties in order to assure a timely clean up of the Hanford area.

It is important that the Yakima Nation have adequate information about the conduct of negotiations between the three parties. The four national priority list sites on the Hanford area lie within the ceded lands of the Tribe, of which we have Treaty reserved rights. Our unique legal, cultural, and historic relationship with that land provide us with a different perspective on the USDOE clean up efforts.

The Yakima Nation supports the primary goal of the negotiation: assuring adequate funding and institutional coordination in overseeing and regulating the Hanford clean up. We feel that the Tribe has a definite stake in the decisions made on the priorities and timing of waste management efforts being negotiated. Because of these obvious interests we urge you to support the effective inclusion of the Tribe in the negotiations.

I look forward to your prompt reply. If you have any questions, please call me at (509) 865-5121.

Sincerely,


Melvin R. Sampson, Chairman
Yakima Tribal Council

cc: Tribal Council
Mike Lawrence, DOE-RL
Ron Izatt, DOE-RL
Warren Bishop, Washington State NWB

