



Nez Perce

ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION & WASTE MANAGEMENT
P.O. BOX 365 • LAPWAI, IDAHO 83540-0365 • (208) 843-7375 / FAX: 843-7378

August 30, 2001

Paul F. X. Dunigan, Jr.
U.S. Department of Energy
Richland Operations Office
P.O. Box 550
Richland, Washington 99352

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EDMC

RE: **Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) For Use Of Existing Borrow Areas,
Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (DOE/EA-1403)**

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Dear Mr. Dunigan,

Since 1855, reserved treaty rights of the Nez Perce Tribe in the Mid-Columbia have been recognized and affirmed through a series of Federal and State actions. These actions protect Nez Perce rights to utilize their usual and accustomed resources and resource areas in the Hanford Reach of the Columbia River and elsewhere. Accordingly, the Nez Perce Tribe's Environmental Restoration and Waste Management Program (ERWM) responds to actions that impact the Hanford ecosystem.

The ERWM has reviewed the *Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) For Use Of Existing Borrow Areas, Hanford Site, Richland, Washington (DOE/EA-1403)*. We recognize the need for using geologic materials to support many different Hanford activities.

We support your position to follow the guidance in the Hanford Biological Resources Management Action Plan in the event that any of the existing borrow sites are expanded. We were also gratified to see that no new borrow sites are being proposed at the Hanford Site. In the past there have been proposals to develop borrow areas at Gable Mountain and Gable Butte which the tribe could not support.

If you have any questions please contact Dan Landeen of my staff at 208-843-7375.

Sincerely,

Patrick Sobotta
Director

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DOE RL/CCC