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**DON'T SAY IT - - WRITE IT!**

Date: October 12, 1995

To: Larry Dean

From: N. A. Cedoret PNL

**Subject:** Summary of archaeological materials identified in the McGee Ranch and Vernita Quarry areas.

Larry,

Below is an inventory of physical manifestations left by Native American Peoples and later Euroamericans in the areas proposed for a fine soil borrow pit at McGee Ranch and for a basalt source at the Vernita Quarry. It does not address other values the areas may have to Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples. I hope this information is useful in your preparation of the TWRS EIS. As you know, locational information regarding archaeological resources is exempt from the freedom of information act.

#### McGee Ranch Fine Soil Borrow Pit

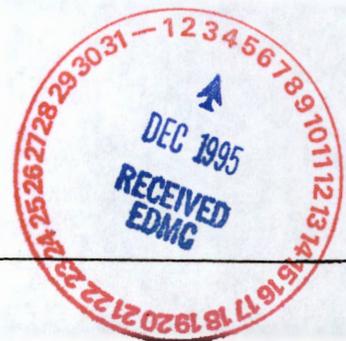
An area up to 8.8 km<sup>2</sup> is proposed to be used as a borrow pit for fine soil. The area has been defined by Westinghouse Hanford/Bechtel Hanford project staff as Area A (0.6 km<sup>2</sup>) and Area B (8.8 km<sup>2</sup>) (see attached figure). The entire proposed borrow area has been surveyed by staff of the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory (HCRL). Area A was surveyed in 1985, 1989, and 1990. Area B was surveyed in 1991 and 1992 and the results of that survey were reported in Gard (1992).

Gard argued that all of the prehistoric sites and six of the historic sites in Area B were eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) and identified the need to obtain Determinations of Eligibility to the National Register for all sites that would be impacted by borrow activities.

Further evaluation of the resources within the proposed borrow area was made by the staff of the HCRL in 1994. A Request for Determination of Eligibility was completed for a proposed McGee Ranch/Cold Creek Valley District. The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) concurred with the DOE's determination that the McGee Ranch/Cold Creek Valley District is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (letter dated November 23, 1994, from Gregory A. Griffith to Robert S. Holt). The proposed district is dominated by early homesteads/farmsteads and associated former irrigated fields. The district boundaries coincide with project boundaries to a large degree because the fine-grained sediments in the area that have the correct properties for use in protective barriers were also good for farming.

Resources identified during survey of Area A were included in the Request for Determination of Eligibility. An additional 1.0 km<sup>2</sup> of the remainder of the proposed district had also been surveyed. Resources identified during those surveys as well as additional resources identified in the project area during the summer of 1994 while conducting additional documentation of previously identified features were also incorporated in the Request for Determination of Eligibility.

The McGee Ranch/Cold Creek Valley District is located on the western edge of the Hanford Site within the Cold Creek Valley and on the southeastern edge of Umtarum Ridge. The district is dominated by early homestead/farmsteads and associated formerly irrigated fields. The property is bounded on the south and east by Highway 24, on the west by the Hanford Site Boundary, and on the north by an historic road and legal boundaries (i. e., 1/4 section boundaries). The land adjoining the Hanford Site to the west is private and much is in cultivation, both irrigated and dryland crops. Only a very small remnant (~150 m by 50 m) of an old field associated with one of the homestead/farmsteads in the district is present to the south of Highway 24. No cultivated land is present to the east of Highway 24, nor to the north, adjacent to the district boundaries.



The McGee Ranch/Cold Creek Valley forms a neighborhood that is distinctly different from other farm/ranch properties on the Hanford Site. Geographically, the district is distinct from other areas of the Hanford Site. The district is located in a valley, between two ridges and the elevation is over 100 m higher than other irrigated properties along the Columbia River. The settlers were unique in the area for their reliance on artesian wells for irrigation. Other settlers in the region relied on the Columbia and Yakima Rivers for irrigation. The method of irrigation, slope and rill, associated with two of the homestead/farmsteads, Ford and Rothrock, has not been documented elsewhere on the Hanford Site. The dissected Cold Creek Valley allowed for the development of this unique method of irrigation. The irrigation system at the McGee Ranch was also gravity fed, but because of the variation in topography, the configuration of the water lines was different.

The district includes both historic and prehistoric elements. Historic sites and features include six homestead and farmstead sites, two semi-subterranean dwelling complexes, a cellar and cistern, irrigation systems, debris concentrations, fence lines, fields, and roads. Evidence of prehistoric use of the area is manifested by isolated lithic tools and debitage, lithic concentrations, and calms. To date, a total of 25 sites and isolates have been found within the district boundaries.

Eight projectile points have been found to date within the district. A chronology based on point types has not been described for this region of the Columbia Basin, however, comparing these artifacts to points from neighboring regions (i. e., Nelson 1969 and Leonhardy and Rice 1970) a tentative assessment of age can be made. The points appear to represent several different periods in prehistory including the late Cascade Phase of Leonhardy and Rice and the Cold Springs (~8700-4500 BP) of Nelson. Two points are similar to Frenchman Springs and one is similar to Rabbit Island Stemmed (Type 3 of Nelson) dated approximately 4500-2500 BP. One point is similar to Frenchman Springs and Tucannon phase points. Another is a similar style to the Cayuse phase (subphase I, II?) of Nelson dated to approximately 1000-1800 A.D.

#### Vermis Quarry Site

Approximately 84 hectares has been inventoried by the HCRL as part of the Section 110 responsibility for the DOE. This represents approximately 43 % of the proposed quarry. The area has been used in both prehistoric and historic times.

Archaeological sites and isolates identified within the proposed quarry include:

- one prehistoric lithic concentration,
- several isolated lithic artifacts
- 2 rock calms of undetermined origin, but lichen growth suggests some antiquity.
- one talus pit of undetermined origin, possibly historic
- 3 historic debris concentrations
- one site with several rock alignments, of undetermined origin but may represent stock enclosures or animal guides/barriers for hunting purposes.
- several isolated historic artifacts

An additional lithic concentration and calm have been identified in the near vicinity of the proposed quarry. None of the sites have been formally evaluated against the criteria for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

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Reference: Gard, H. A. and R. M. Post. 1992. *Archaeological Survey of the McGee Ranch Vicinity, Hanford Site, Washington*. PNL-8186, Pacific Northwest Laboratory, Richland Washington.



## TWRS EIS COMMUNICATION RECORD

**Date of meeting or telephone conversation**

21 feb 1995

**Participants or Attendees (with organization):**

Connell Oil, Inc., Union Oil Distributor

**Subject(s) Discussed/Summary of Discussions:**

I TALKED WITH LOCAL UNION OIL DISTRIBUTOR. THEY HANDLE KEROSENE IN SMALL QUANTITIES AND THEY HAVE A FAIR SIZE TANK FARM. THE PERSON I NEEDED TO TALK WITH WAS NOT AVAILABLE. THE IMPRESSION I GOT FROM THE RECEPTIONIST/SECRETARY WAS THAT THEY PROBABLY WOULDN'T HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT VOLUME.

**Issues/Concerns Identified (Unresolved questions):**

None

**Required actions:**

None

**Prepared/recorded by:** L. Dean**Date:** February 28, 1995**Distribution:**C.C. Haass, DOE-RL, S7-51  
Participants

## TWRS EIS COMMUNICATION RECORD

**Date of meeting or telephone conversation:** 21 Feb 1995

**Participants or Attendees (with organization):**

R.E. Powell, Texaco/BP/Mobil Oil Distributor, Pasco

**Subject(s) Discussed/Summary of Discussions:**

I TALKED WITH R.E.POWELL, A LOCAL OIL DISTRIBUTOR. THEY CURRENTLY SUPPLY KEROSENE IN 55 GALLON BARRELS. DEMAND IS NOT REAL HIGH. A DELIVERY RATE OF 10,00 GALLONS A DAY HOWEVER DOES NOT PRESENT MUCH OF A PROBLEM. R.E. POWELL ALONE HAS SUFFICIENT TANK SPACE AND TRANSPORTATION TO HANDLE THAT VOLUME.

**Issues/Concerns Identified (Unresolved questions):**

Two types of kerosene are available: a high grade stove oil and K1 Odorless Kerosene. K1 has a lower BTU rating and costs more. Which one will be used?

**Required actions:**

None

**Prepared/recorded by:** L. Dean

**Date:** February 28, 1995

**Distribution:**

C.C. Haass, DOE-RL, S7-51  
Participants

## TWRS EIS COMMUNICATION RECORD

**Date of meeting or telephone conversation**

21 Feb 1995

**Participants or Attendees (with organization):**

"Mac" MacDonal, Benton County Medical Society

**Subject(s) Discussed/Summary of Discussions:**

TALKED WITH MAC MACDONAL AT THE BENTON COUNTY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION. THERE IS NOT A SHORTAGE OF DOCTORS. SOME PATIENTS MAY HAVE A PROBLEM WITH GETTING IN TO SEE A PARTICULAR DOCTOR, BUT THERE IS NO SHORTAGE. INFLUX OF 1,200 PRIMARY CARE DOCTORS LAST YEAR. NO SHORTAGE OF SPECIALIST EITHER. COULD USE ANOTHER ENT AND A DERMATOLOGIST.

HOSPITAL OCCUPANCY IS RUNNING 25 - 30%...VERY LOW. THIS IS DUE TO GROWTH OF OUTPATIENT SURGERY PRIMARILY.

MAC FEELS THE AREA COULD EASILY ABSORB ANOTHER 5,000 PEOPLE WITHOUT ADVERSELY IMPACTING CURRENT MEDICAL SERVICES. EACH PRIMARY CARE DOC HANDLES 1,00 - 1,800 PATIENTS, SOME UP TO 2,400. THERE IS ROOM FOR GROWTH

**Issues/Concerns Identified (Unresolved questions):**

None

**Required actions:**

None

**Prepared/recorded by:** L. Dean**Date:** February 28, 1995**Distribution:**C.C. Haass, DOE-RL, S7-51  
Participants