

FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D. C. 20426

COPY

OFFICE OF ENERGY PROJECTS

Project No. 2145 - Washington  
Rocky Reach Hydroelectric Project  
Public Utility District No. 1 of Chelan County

Mr. Chris Landreau  
Project Archeologist  
Yakama Indian Nation  
PO Box 151  
Toppenish, WA 98948

MAY 24 2000

Dear Mr. Landreau:

This responds to a request, dated April 27, 2000, from the Rocky Reach Cultural Resources Working Group (CRWG) that we: (1) describe the planned relicensing action involving the Rocky Reach Project, (2) delegate to Chelan PUD the day-to-day consultation responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and (3) offer to send a representative of the Commission to meet with tribal representatives of the Yakama Indian Nation.

First, the relicensing action that we are working toward, is a decision by the Commission whether to issue a new license and if so, under what conditions to issue a new license for the Rocky Reach Project. That decision will come after review of Chelan PUD's license application, which must be filed by June 30, 2004, and all comments, recommendations, and terms and conditions filed for this project. Currently, Chelan PUD and many other entities are participating in an alternative licensing process (ALP) that was approved by the Commission in October 1999. The ALP is intended to: combine much of the pre-filing<sup>1</sup> consultation and post-filing environmental review into a single process, improve and facilitate communication and cooperation among the participants, and promote agreement on issues raised by licensing. The ALP also allows the prospective applicant to file an applicant-prepared environmental assessment (APEA) with their application. After Chelan PUD files their final application and APEA, the Commission will complete the environmental review process under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), and will then issue its licensing decision.

Second, by copy of this letter, we are authorizing Chelan PUD to initiate consultation with the Washington State Historic Preservation Officer, Yakama Indian

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<sup>1</sup> Pre-filing means the consultation period before an application is filed with the Commission.

Nation, and other consulting parties, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(5) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This consultation pertains to the relicensing effort by Chelan PUD involving this project, and relates to the day-to-day activities under the ALP. However, the Commission remains responsible for all findings and determinations regarding the effects of the project on historic properties pursuant to Section 106. To that end, Commission staff will continue to consult with the applicant, relevant resource agencies, Indian tribes, and others during the ALP.

Third, we will, at the written request of the Yakama Indian Nation, send an appropriate FERC representative to meet with the tribal business council.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Frank Winchell at 202-219-2865.

Sincerely,



J. Mark Robinson, Director  
Division of Environmental and  
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cc with attachments:

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