

From: [Jonathon Lambert](#)
To: [Kelly Bacon \(CD\)](#)
Cc: [John Marvin](#); [Brandon Rossi](#)
Subject: Yakama Nation comments for slaughterhouse development
Date: Friday, May 26, 2023 7:48:05 AM
Attachments: [YN Conceerns CU 23-00001.pdf](#)

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Good morning Kelly,

Yakama Nation would like to provide a comment letter regarding the proposed construction of a commercial slaughterhouse in Kittitas County. There are concerns that could potentially contaminate nearby Lyle and Wilson Creeks, as well as nearby groundwater wells. Please refer to the attached letter for more descriptive comments.

Thank you,

Jonny Lambert
Habitat Biologist
Yakama Nation - Yakima/Klickitat Fisheries Project
Work #: 509-949-0336
Cell #: 503-756-6742



May 25, 2023

Kittitas County Community Development Services
Kelly Bacon, Planner 1
411 North Ruby Street, Ste 2
Ellensburg, WA 98926

Sent Via Email

RE: Conditional Use Application CU 23-00001 3 BR Custom Cuts

Dear Ms. Bacon,

I am writing this letter to express Yakama Nation's concerns on ground and surface water issues within the property under consideration for a conditional use permit (CU-23-000001 3 BR Custom Cuts). The SEPA application states that this area is predominantly graded gravel. However, looking at aerial imagery, it appears there are moist soil areas (potential wetlands) within this property boundary. The neighboring property to the south (same owner) has emergent freshwater wetlands present, and it appears that this wetland expands northward into the property under consideration. Having wetlands present generally means groundwater is close to the surface throughout the calendar year. This property also sits on the alluvial fan of Wilson and Naneum Creeks. Alluvial fans are excellent sources of surface and groundwater exchange in natural systems. Using NHD flow lines to view water potential of this area, it appears the aforementioned wetlands could be the source of origination for Lyle Creek. Sources of potential contamination from commercial production that may harm Treaty Reserved resources are not taken lightly by the Yakama Nation.

Secondly, the Yakama Nation request developing a detailed water use plan for this proposed facility. The average rural resident in Kittitas County uses 192 gallons per day, which means this facility will be equivalent to 16 new homes using the existing well. It is unknown or not well documented if the current well proposed for use can withdraw that much water without impacting the aquifer, in-stream surface water levels, or their neighbor's ability to receive fresh, clean water.

For these reasons, we feel that a proper groundwater analysis needs to be performed by a licensed geomorphologist. A clear understanding of the interaction between surface and groundwater will give a better view of the potential for this project to impact Treaty Reserved resources.

Sincerely,

Phil Rigdon, Superintendent
Yakama Nation DNR