



ititamalpama

Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program

Na-Mi-Ta-Man-Wit Nak-Nu-Wit Owt-Nee At-Tow

Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation

Post Office Box 151

Toppenish, WA 98948

Dusty Pilkington
Kittitas County Community Development Services
411 N. Ruby St #4
Ellensburg, WA 98926

March 29, 2017

Subject: SEPA LP-17-00003 River Ridge, Kittitas County

Dear Mr. Pilkington,

Thank you for contacting the Yakama Nation Cultural Resource Program (CRP) regarding the SEPA LP-17-00003. The project is located within the Ceded Lands of the Yakama Nation, the legal rights to which were established by the Treaty of 1855, between the Yakama Nation and the United States Government. The Treaty set forth that the Yakama Nation shall retain the rights to resources upon these lands and, therefore, it is with the assistance and backing of the United States Federal Government that Yakama Nation claims authority to protect traditional resources.

We have reviewed the SEPA LP-17-00003 and have the following comments:

- Regarding cultural resources under 13 part A, it states *"please see section 3.10 and Appendix H of the DEIS and Section of the FEIS document"*.

It would have been beneficial for the applicant to include this document, as it was prepared in 2000 and the associated cultural resources investigation was conducted in 1998.

- Regarding cultural resources under 13 part B, it states *"please see Section B.13.b of attachment"*.

This did not appear attached to the SEPA document. A review of the Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) database indicates there is one historic resource eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) within the project area. There are over fifty archeological resources within one half mile of the project area.

- Regarding cultural resources under 13 part C, it states *"Measures outlined in the MPR Conditions of Approval, sections C-21 through C-23 would be implemented"*.

Please clearly outline these stipulations. The MPR was not attached to this SEPA.

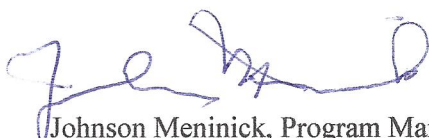
- Regarding cultural resources under 13 part D, it states *"Not applicable"*.

As there is one NRHP eligible resource within the project area, the project has the potential to impact this resource. Therefore, this response is not correct.

The landscape is a rich ancestral use area of the Yakama people. The archaeological survey is nearly twenty years old. It is our recommendation the project area is re-surveyed to identify any potential significant cultural resources. This is based on the number of resources within proximity to the project area, eligible resources within the project location, proximity to the Cle Elum River, and elder testimony of the area's traditional use.

Please contact me at 509-865-5121 ext. 4737 or Yakama Nation archaeologists Corrine Camuso at ccamuso@yakama.com or Noah Oliver at noliver@yakama.com if you have any questions regarding the above.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Johnson Meninick', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Johnson Meninick, Program Manager
Cultural Resources Program

CC: Gretchen Kaehler, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation