



The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation

History/Archaeology Program
P.O. Box 150, Nespalem, WA 99155

(509) 634-2693
FAX: (509) 634-2694



14 November 2017

Stephen Posner, EFSEC Manager
State of Washington
Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
P.O. Box 43172
Olympia, Washington 98504-3172

HA# U17-396
17.0484

RECEIVED
RECORDS MANAGEMENT
2017 NOV 27 PM 3:21
STATE OF WASH
UTIL. AND TRANS
COMMISSION

RE: Columbia Solar Project – Fumaria Location Cultural Resources Report

Dear Stephen Posner:

We have received copies of five cultural resources reports pertaining to the proposed Columbia Solar Project for our review and concurrence. Please be advised that, of the five project subareas identified, the Fumaria location lies within the traditional territories of the Wenatchi Tribe, one of twelve constituent tribes of the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation (also known as the Colville Confederated Tribes or CCT), which is governed by the Colville Business Council (CBC). The CBC has delegated to the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) the responsibility of representing the CCT with regard to cultural resources management issues throughout the traditional territories of all of the constituent tribes under Resolution 1996-29. This area includes parts of eastern Washington, northeastern Oregon, the Palus (Palouse) territory in Idaho, and southern British Columbia.

We cannot at this time concur with the findings of the survey report, *Cultural Resources Assessment Fumaria Solar Project, Kittitas County, Washington* (Cannon, et al. 2017). The report states that the project location is situated within the ceded lands of the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation and that these bands include the Wenatchi. Both the Yakama Nation and the CCT consider the Wenatchi to be constituent tribes of their own confederacies. The Indian Claims Commission (ICC) determined that, for the purposes of land claims, the CCT is the legal representative of the Wenatchi Tribe. The ICC also places the project area within the exclusive use area of the Wenatchi Tribe. We do not dispute the Yakama Nation’s claims. However, we do request that the report be amended to also reflect the ICC’s determination. We request that the authors provide ethnographic and historical information pertaining to the Wenatchi Tribe and the CCT, as well as include consideration of Traditional Cultural Properties (TCPs) significant to the CCT. We further request that the revised report be forwarded to our office for review and concurrence.

Thank you for consulting with the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation. Please note that these comments are based on information available to us at the time of the project review.

We reserve the right to revise our comments as information becomes available. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Dr. Karen Capuder at (509) 634-2876 or karen.capuder@colvilletribes.com. If you wish to speak with me, contact me at (509) 634-2695.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Guy Moura', written in a cursive style.

Guy Moura, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

cc: Chron
File (KMC)
Rob Whitlam, PhD, Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation