

1212 N. 32nd Ave.  
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Oct. 24, 1954

Mr. Glenn A. Smothers, manager,  
Grant County FUD,  
Moses Lake, Washington.

Dear Mr. Smothers:

The Wanapum Indians are happy that the Federal Power Commission has included mention of their condition in the exploratory permit. And they wish you to know of their cooperation in all ways possible.

I am writing at this time to let you know that they would extend any aid in their power to the firm you have engaged for drilling, etc. Right now most of them are out trying to pick up a little money to help them through the winter--picking apples, potatoes etc. They will be in and out of Priest Rapids.

I have suggested to them that since their place is quite large--like an old-time grange hall at Priest Rapids--that in event the drilling crew needs shelter, etc. and they think it suitable, they can find it at the Wanapum home if adverse weather gets in. This is located on the right bank, about 12 miles below ~~xxxx~~ Leavenworth Rapids.

I am writing too, to assure you that these people are very friendly and cooperative. For instance, while they have numerous graves up and down the river they are interested mainly that they not be looted, but just left there. And the main burial place is on a bluff, in a location that may or may not come under water, depending upon the site or sites selected. But even were it to come under water, there would be no need for any fear that these people would not cooperate to the fullest.

A Mr. Brooks, employed by the Bureau of Indian Affairs Portland Area Office, made a tentative survey several years ago and has data on the graveyard, its elevation etc. so if you are interested I presume it could be secured from him.

A couple of the young men and perhaps a third man would be available around Priest Rapids later if the firms engaged have need for "manual laborers," that is if it would become necessary to bring in a few people to do ordinary laborers' work.

If there is anything you wish of the Wanapums, let me know and they will be glad to meet with you to show you their cooperation. As I have said before, they are non-treaty people, not recognized by the government, yet this place is their last home along the river, and they have a very old culture.

We are hopeful that the same type of a proviso can be included with any license granted for construction. It would make them happy and

would be a safeguard against any real mistreatment of human rights.

The matter of the "historical relics," need not seem as great as it sounds. There are some rocks, as mentioned previously, that pertain to the genesis of these people. And it would be an asset to the location were they removed and made available later--that is looking toward the time there is a highway crossing the river somewhere in that region, or even the placing of one or so of them at Vantage would be of more than usual interest to "visitors" and would preserve the culture of these nearly extinct people. But here again you will find them most cooperative. If the cost were out of line they would be the first to say, leave them there then.

They have been pestered in the past by the various diggings along the Mid-Columbia, yet were any particular good site discovered or uncovered, they would agree to its proper development and exploration by the proper scientific groups--the University of Washington or the Smithsonian Institution, but they would oppose the indiscriminate looting of burial places.

I am looking toward an opportunity to visit Moses Lake and perhaps tell of the deep culture and the long history behind these people. If it is possible I would bring the head man, a venerable, well liked old man, there so everyone could meet him and I think that those working in the area would like to know something of the background of these people and would especially like to know that they are different from the treaty Indians who continue to press excessive claims against the government, and their attorneys continue to draw down large sums for their fees.

As I have written in the past, the Wanapums are not participating in any way in "politics". I know of no one who feels as they do about their home, their religion, culture etc. nor are more proud of their cooperation, always, with the government. The way they picked up and moved away from their ancient fishery near White Bluffs, when the Atomic Energy Commission moved in, was the best example of this. The government had no difficulty with them yet had extensive condemnation to go through for possession of land lately settled by whites.

When a dam site or sites are selected, and construction is authorized, the Wanapums will appreciate your good will and support toward any congressional legislation or request for Presidential Proclamation that will give them a location near their old home. And you will come to trust these people as you know them, as they continue to trust others to treat them fairly. They have a good record and I will do my greatest to see that no outside greedy Indians destroy it. This I am sure can easily be done if the occasion arises, because I have spent too many years in research, and would not have done so, had not these people's conduct been of the finest.

I am enclosing a carbon copy in case one is desired by Mr. Arlt or Mr. Washington.

Sincerely

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