

March 30, 1953

Area Director,  
Dept. of Indian Affairs,  
Attn: Mr. George P. LaVatta

Dear Sir:

Relative to the proposed visit of an engineer for an inspection of the Wanapum band (non treaty) burial sites at Priest Rapids:

I have inquired of the Firing Center and others, and find that the road from Vantage, leading south to Priest Rapids, a distance of some 20 miles, is considered impassable.

The only practicable way to visit Priest Rapids is via Yakima, Moxee thence north a few hundred yards south of the Hanford "EC Barrier, approximately 60 miles from Yakima, thence northward along the river to the Priest Rapids camp and the burial ground, near by. There are occasional burials along the river.

I have contacted the head men and they should be available. I believe they will be down to Moxee in another week or 10 days. One of the men, while not a fluent talker, can I believe converse satisfactorily.

I am explaining to these people that the visit is for the one purpose: To locate, on government maps, the burial sites.

When I am advised of the time of the visit or approximate time, I will have the principal people, who can speak for the others, available. Thank you very much for your interest.

Sincerely  
Click Relander