

1212 N. 32nd Ave.
XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

Sept. 9, 1954

Re: United States of America, Federal Power Commission in the Matter
of Washington State Power Commission Project No. 2162.

Federal Power Commission,
Washington, D.C.,

Mr. Leon M. Fuquay, secretary:

Dear Mr. Fuquay:

The attached communication is written at the request
and upon authorization of the Wanapum Band of Priest Rapids Indians.

These remnant people are poor, having no means of acquiring
legal or other counsel. They therefore humbly ask that their views
relative to the Washington State Power Commission application,
Project No. 2162, be included in correspondence relative to the
application. And they respectfully request that such views be
made a part of any subsequent applications looking toward development
of a Dam, at Priest Rapids site, Washington.

Sincerely

Click Relander

[Enclosure. 9 Sep 1954]

In the matter of Washington State Power Commission Project No. 2162, notice of application for preliminary permit to construct a dam at the location commonly known as Priest Rapids on the Columbia River, state of Washington.

The Wanapum band of non-treaty Indians wish it known, through their head man, Puck Hyah Teot, that they interpose no protest nor petition of intervention with the Federal Power Commission relative to the above matter.

Since they are a poor people, they however request that due cognizance be taken of their dire situation in event of the issuance of any temporary permit, permit or license for construction of a dam or dams at or in proximity to Priest Rapids, their home since time immemorial.

In order that there be no misconception concerning these people, because of the numerous ~~suits~~ suits brought by Indians throughout the nation, they wish it known that they are a non-treaty people, unrecognized by the government of the United States. They refused to sign a treaty with the government because they did not make war against the government in 1855 or in subsequent years, resulting in a great expense to the government.

The Wanapum leader wishes to point out again that his people have never been dependant upon government nor been a burden to the government as have Treaty Indians, and have always maintained their residence at Priest Rapids.

This was the essence of testimony in behalf of the Government of the United States in resisting the claim of the Yakima Nation at the hearing of Indian Claims Case No. 160 a year ago, and is so entered in the record.

Their moral right to protection and justice in common with free men has been established by precedent.

They wish it pointed out that during the long period of development along the Columbia River their once wide area of occupancy where they obtained their subsistence was gradually surrendered without contest

until the only home left to them is at Priest Rapids.

Should that home become a dam site, they will be left no place to turn to for a haven. Living in such seclusion has made it possible for them to exist. They could not afford to "rent" elsewhere, nor would their religion, existing long before the white man came to the Northwest, permit them to move from their home.

The location of their graveyard and scattering burials have been marked and the graveyard has been proclaimed a legal and proper burial ground.

One of the large islands in the river at that site contains their genesis rocks, sacred to them and a part of their religion.

They ask that in event a permit of any type is granted to any agency, commission or group, or a license for construction is issued, that the welfare of these people be considered in the terms. These are small.

They wish an in lieu home site near by, normal protection for their graveyard and the scattering burials against vandalism, a suitable area where they may resume the grazing of their horses such as was customary with their people before the advent of the white man, removal of their home above the reach of the water line, and removal of the sacred rocks to the safety of a designated place, near by.

They assure that they, unlike other Indian groups, do not wish to block progress or development along the river. They wish it known that they do not condone the action of organized groups who have interposed costly and delaying obstacles in the way of progress of other dams, resulting in costly litigation, detrimental to the economy of both the government and the Indians. And they challenge the government to cite any Indian group that takes or has taken a similar stand.

They wish it known that they realize they are unrecognized, whereas groups that opposed and were hostile to the government are recognized and treated with, but point out that they have moral rights

as deep as the very foundation of the Government of the United States. They wish to trust to the fairness and justice that small protective measures be included in any form of authorization relating to construction of a dam at Priest Rapids. This they know would be the wish of the majority of the freedom and enterprising people of the United States of America.

They are ready to provide evidence as to occupancy and use of the site under consideration, but as they are only eight to twelve in number, and protection of their welfare would be of such meager consequence, combined with the fact that they are without funds to employ legal counsel, they wish to present their situation simply and in this manner.

Moreover they are appreciative of receiving official notice of various steps taken leading toward development of the Priest Rapids Dam site, including notices of hearings and copies of hearings, so they may keep in touch with proceedings.

Respectfully submitted

By Click Relander [Now Tow Look] for and at the request of the
Wanapum Band of Indians.