

teckcominco

Via Fax
(hard copy to follow)

David W. Godlewski
Manager, Environmental and Public Affairs

COPY

LINCOLN COUNTY
COMMISSIONERS

MAY 12 2003

Alfred Peone
Chairman
Spokane Tribe of Indians
Alex Sherwood Memorial Center
6208 Ford Welipinit Road
Wellpinit, WA 99040

May 8, 2003

Dear Chairman Peone:

Teck Cominco American Incorporated has proposed to the Environmental Protection Agency that a group headed by the County Commissioners of northeastern Washington called the Upper Columbia Working Group for Responsible Stewardship pursue independent studies aimed at a number of pressing issues regarding Lake Roosevelt. The EPA requested that TCAI prepare a summary of the approach and potential structure of the group. Appended to this cover letter is our response to the EPA.

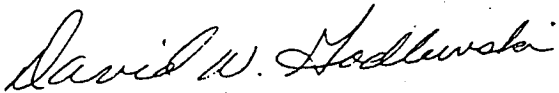
The County Commissioners have made it clear that they intend the Working Group to be inclusive in its participation. We believe that the commissioners have contacted you independently regarding possible tribal involvement. The framework proposed in the letter is intentionally non-specific. This is due to the wishes of both TCAI and the Commissioners that third-party scientific experts be allowed the fullest measure to design and implement studies within the mandate of the Working Group. This mandate is meant to answer three questions posed by the citizens of the region: can I drink the water?, can I eat the fish?, can I play on the beaches?. We hope that the answers to these questions can begin a process of engagement to satisfy the needs of the people to have some assurance regarding recreating and living on the Lake.

We have not presupposed that the EPA would take this as a strict Superfund Alternative as some may believe. We only ask that time be granted for the studies to be carried out and that the EPA defer listing on the National Priorities List until they are complete.

Alfred Peone
Page two
May 8, 2003

If you have any questions regarding this proposal, please do not hesitate to contact me at our Spokane Office. I will make myself available for any further discussion that you desire. For clarity in future discussion, I have sent this letter to both the Spokane and Colville tribes. Thank you for your attention, and I look forward to hearing from you on this matter.

Sincerely,



David W. Godlewski
Manager, Environmental
and Public Affairs

DWG:df
attach.

cc: John Iani
Tom Eaton
Renee Marc Mangin

bcc: Cathy McMorris
Bob Morton
Bob Sump
Cathy Labret
Merrill Ott
Tony Delgado
Mike Blankenship
Deral Boleneus