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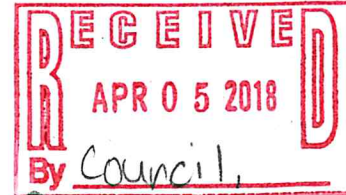
STATE OF WASHINGTON  
DEPARTMENT OF ECOLOGY

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April 4, 2018

Donald R. Michel, Director  
Upper Columbia United Tribes  
25 W. Main, Suite 434  
Spokane, WA 99201



Pam W., Deane O.,  
Zach W. Dave B.

Re: HiTest Silicon proposal

Dear Director Michel:

Thank you for your letters in which you share the concerns of the Upper Columbia United Tribes (UCUT) and the concerns of other tribes regarding the HiTest Silicon proposal. We at the Department of Ecology (Ecology) share in the interests you list. The health and ecological issues you mention are integral to Ecology's mission and inherent in our responsibility to make sure that any permits we may authorize are protective of both health and environment. We welcome an opportunity to more fully hear UCUT's concerns, interests and suggestions about how to proceed with these issues.

We first heard about the HiTest proposal over two years ago and as of the date of this letter, Ecology has not received any submittals, permit applications or State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) documents, from HiTest Silicon. It has been a long period of waiting for information and we appreciate your patience. An overarching role we have is that of communicating about our work as clearly as we are able. This task has been especially frustrating for us because we have little concrete detail about the HiTest proposal and nothing has been submitted that we can act on. I know that UCUT members and many community members are frustrated as well.

In addition to specific permits that may be required to construct and operate the facility, Ecology also has the responsibility of administering Washington's State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. The SEPA process guides decision makers, including those here at Ecology, in their permit reviews and ultimate decisions (whether to approve, condition or deny).

Your gracious offer to convene a meeting with UCUT and member tribes could assist us in advance of the SEPA process by identifying potential impacts from a proposal and effective ways to evaluate the potential impacts and alternatives. We have heard about air quality concerns, as you mentioned in your letter, along with concern regarding water and wastewater.



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We would like to include some of Ecology's air, water resources and water quality experts in such a meeting and I have asked Grant Pfeifer to work with you or Mr. Sirois to schedule. You can contact Grant Pfeifer at [grant.pfeifer@ecy.wa.gov](mailto:grant.pfeifer@ecy.wa.gov) or (509) 329-3516. Again, thank-you for reaching out to us!

Sincerely,

*Maia Bellon by Polly Zeh*

Maia D. Bellon  
Director

cc: Spokane Tribe  
Kalispel Tribe  
Kootenai Tribe  
Rob Duff, Governor's Office  
Grant Pfeifer, Ecology Regional Director