



Kalispel Tribe of Indians
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RECEIVED

SEP 29 2016

Office of the Governor

September 26, 2016

Governor Jay Inslee
Office of the Governor
PO Box 40002
Olympia, WA 98504-0002

RE: Proposed Silicon Smelter in Usk, WA

Dear Governor Inslee:

The Kalispel Tribe took offense to the State of Washington's recent decision to designate a proposed silicon smelter in Usk as a Project of Statewide Significance. Although this facility would be constructed a mere half mile upwind of our Reservation, the State announced its designation without ever discussing it with the Tribe and without considering the smelter's potential adverse impacts on our home and people. Due to the Tribe's exclusion from the designation process, the Tribe is now in the untenable position of being asked to support a "State-vetted smelter" that the Tribe knows very little about. Given that representatives of your office and the Washington State Department of Commerce have acknowledged that the Tribe knows as much about the smelter proposal as the State does, we urge your administration to work with the Tribe and Pend Oreille County to complete a thorough vetting process before public resources are spent or further steps are taken to bring the smelter into our community.

Please understand that the Tribe's concern over the smelter proposal stems from the history of environmental injustice we have endured due to large-scale developments near the Reservation. Ten percent of our Reservation is permanently inundated by Box Canyon Dam. Bull trout have been extirpated from our waters since the 1950s due to the construction of Albeni Falls Dam. Ponderay Newsprint has fouled our air and water for nearly three decades from essentially the same location where the proposed smelter would be constructed. In light of past experience, the Tribe is not content to have its questions answered through the customary environmental review process. Additionally, the Tribe's understanding is there are significant similarities between the proposed smelter in Usk and other facilities around the country. Therefore, the Tribe believes HiTest should be able to provide answers to our questions in advance of the environmental review process. If HiTest Sands, Inc. cannot prove in relatively short order that its proposed smelter will improve our economy without harming our health, air, and water, it is not welcome.

We conveyed this message directly to HiTest at a meeting last week and were encouraged by their response. They assured us that the smelter will have minimal water demands and will not result in a discharge into the Pend Oreille River; that the smelter will use high quality quartz and coal, the purity of which will reduce the toxicity of potential air emissions; that all emissions with the exception of carbon dioxide will be removed by scrubbers; and that all solid wastes will be useful and sold to market. They committed to provide us with information to prove up these claims. We will share this information with the State and County to the extent allowed by our non-disclosure agreement, and ask that the State does the same with any information it receives from HiTest in the future. The Tribe appreciates the commitment the State made to the Tribe on September 12 to share all information the State has received to date from HiTest.

We looking forward to working with the State and County to promptly obtain and evaluate forthcoming information from HiTest, and trust that we will be intimately involved in any economic, cultural, and environmental analysis that occurs from this point forward.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Glen Nenema".

Glen Nenema
Chairman, Kalispel Tribe of Indians



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