

# BRIAN FULLEN

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Chevron Enforcement Order related to the Stillwater Holdings site. As a local resident within close proximity (a quarter to half mile) and a representative of the Umatilla Tribes, I am deeply invested in the environmental safety and health impact assessments concerning this site.

The June 2024 Participation Plan notes that federally recognized tribes, including the Yakima Nation, Umatilla Confederated Tribes, and Nez Perce Tribe, are invited to engage in decision-making processes regarding this site. However, it seems that there may be a lack of effective communication and outreach to ensure meaningful tribal participation.

Despite public notices in the Walla Walla Union-Bulletin and the Department of Ecology's website, further steps should be taken to actively engage tribal communities. Posting notices in tribal newspapers, such as the Confederated Umatilla Journal, and reaching out directly through phone calls or emails to the tribes' natural resources and water resources departments, would ensure more comprehensive communication.

The potential for environmental impact is significant, with the site being situated above the Mill Creek channel, which feeds into the Walla Walla River basin. Any contamination at this site could affect water tables and subsequently, the local fisheries, which are of utmost importance to the tribes and the region's ecological balance.

It is imperative that the government fulfills its duty to protect all local residents and tribal members by ensuring all governments, including tribal entities, are fully involved in the consultation process. Better engagement strategies should be implemented before public comments are closed to uphold the integrity and safety of our shared environment.

Thank you for considering these concerns and taking action to improve communication and engagement with the involved tribal communities.

## Tribal engagement

Ecology is inviting the federally recognized Yakama Nation, Umatilla Confederated Tribes, and Nez Perce Tribe to engage with all decision-making processes for this site, and we will ensure these Tribes have ample opportunity to be involved throughout the process on a government to-government basis.