



January 30th, 2026

Tricia Miller
Permit Coordinator
Washington State Department of Ecology
Northwest Region Office
PO Box 330316
Shoreline, WA 98133-9716

Re: Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy – PFAS Release, Permit Number WA0031836

Dear Tricia Miller:

The Snoqualmie Indian Tribe [Tribe] is a federally recognized sovereign Indian Tribe and a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott of 1855 in which it reserved to itself certain rights and privileges and ceded certain lands to the United States. As a signatory to the Treaty of Point Elliott, the Tribe specifically reserved to itself, among other things, the right to fish at usual and accustomed areas and the “privilege of hunting and gathering roots and berries on open and unclaimed lands” off-reservation throughout the modern-day state of Washington. Treaty of Point Elliott, art. V, 12 Stat. 928. The Tribe has been a steward of the land and waters of the Snoqualmie Valley since time immemorial and seeks to work collaboratively with Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) to address environmental concerns. We ask that Ecology prioritize cleanup of PFAS at the Washington State Patrol Fire Training Academy (Academy) through set effluent limits, regular testing, and an Agreed Order with the Academy.

The issues surrounding PFAS soil, groundwater, and surface water contamination at the Academy span over half a decade of recent water quality violations, and possibly decades of unknown contamination throughout the Academy's time of discharging firefighting foams that are now documented as sources of PFAS. During this time, Ecology's response has been insufficient to address the concerning levels of PFAS that have already been detected, which exceed drinking water standards. We request that Ecology work with the Academy to establish monthly testing for both PFAS and petroleum through the NPDES permit process, so that the extent of the contamination can be fully understood. We also ask that Ecology establish effluent limits through the NPDES permit process that are protective of drinking water, both including contamination on the premises and water leaving the property through surface water and groundwater discharge. In addition, Ecology should require the Academy to design, install, and operate a treatment system to reduce the concentrations of PFAS in water discharges. A larger effort is needed to truly address the long history of contamination at the Academy. An Agreed Order, similar to the one that Ecology has entered into with the Port of Seattle, should be reached with the Academy. Based on our



understanding of the documented history of releases of contaminants from the Academy, and Ecology's apparent lack of substantive response to this problem thus far, the Tribe is requesting Ecology to also establish with Snoqualmie Tribe a structure and process to ensure accountability and transparency in communication and consultation responsibilities required by Executive Orders 25-10 and 21-02.

The time for voluntary actions has passed, and a partnership with the Academy that allows for greater oversight and clear milestones for achieving cleanup at the site is necessary to protect the health of both the community members residing in and the species supported by the South Fork Snoqualmie watershed. By allowing this issue to persist for the duration that it has, the state has impinged upon the Snoqualmie Tribe's inherent rights and has abandoned the trust responsibility to provide clean water on ancestral lands in perpetuity. We ask that Ecology rectify this by working with the Academy and in consultation with the Snoqualmie Tribe to monitor and tangibly improve the outcomes of PFAS clean up throughout the site to an acceptable level that protects watershed and human health.

Sincerely,

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Michael Ross
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Michael Ross
Deputy Executive Director of Governmental Affairs
Snoqualmie Indian Tribe