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**Dept. of Ecology
Central Regional Office**

August 4, 2022

Sage Park, Attn: Goldendale Energy DEIS
Department of Ecology
1250 West Alder Street
Union Gap, WA 98903-0009

Dear Ms. Park,

Please enter my comments into the public record stating my objection to the proposed construction of the Goldendale pump storage facility along the Columbia River, in Klickitat County.

Key findings in the Draft Environmental Impact State show that no mitigation has been identified for the impact on Yakama Nation tribal members that have used the Columbia Hills since time immemorial for root gathering and ceremonies. The land itself and all that it supports in wildlife and plants faces obliteration and hardship if the two-billion dollar project by Rye Development company is allowed to go through.

There are additional threats that must be considered, such as harm caused to Columbia River water from silt runoff during construction, to the detriment of salmon and tribal fishers near John Day Dam below the construction site. The river already has long standing pollution from radioactive waste leakage from nearby Hanford Nuclear Reservation and it can stand no more. Then, there are the many dams on the Columbia that have obliterated villages and salmon species. Atrocity following atrocity, moral wrongs, the proposed project is but one example in decades of systemic racism.

Construction using heavy machinery will introduce invasive plant species which will prevent native plants from propagating, including roots harvested by tribal members.

Adverse impacts on land and water is tantamount to desecration of these sources and threatens the enjoyment of lawful treaty rights by tribal members who harvest fish and roots and follow their religious practices. The enjoyment of treaty rights means the unobstructed practice of culture; the Treaty of 1855 guarantees reserved rights to fish for salmon.

Additional reasons to deny development of the pump storage facility: lawsuits are sure to follow if is approved, costly to Klickitat County taxpayers and detrimental to various beneficial programs that may suffer; for the greater community, promises of jobs and energy most likely won't materialize as local benefits.

The issue of water rights has not been fully explored for possibilities. In telephone phone conversations between myself and Public Utility General Manager Jim Smith about the proposed pump storage project, alarming details arose. The project involves construction of two sixty acre ponds—basically, one pond on top of another carved into steep hillsides above the John Day Dam—for the holding of water. This detail in itself is disturbing for the egregious advancement of a costly and destructive project over advancement of environmental and cultural integrity.

I find it disturbing that apparently the idea for development of the project stemmed from a need to find a use for water rights owned by the PUD that supplied the nearby defunct aluminum plant, according to Smith. I think this detail should be explored for alternative use of the water right which is worth trying to negotiate.

I propose that the players involved negotiate retirement of the PUD's water right and that water be returned to the Columbia River in light of climate change and drought.

I propose that a moratorium cease advancement of the project.

I support the Yakama Nation in opposing the costly and destructive pump storage project. Such a project imperils the mental, spiritual, and physical health of tribal members. My son is a tribal member of the Confederated Tribes of Warm Springs, one of the four treaty tribes that rely on salmon and the health of the Columbia River. Through my personal activism, in which for several years I was the official photographer for the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Indian Nation Museum, I produced and presented in public places words and photographs of tribal members, an educational project now in preparation for a book about Indian fishing families of the mid-Columbia River. I believe that I understand what is at stake for the tribes and the Columbia River.

Sincerely,



Jacqueline Moreau