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November 6, 2015

William Lynch, Chair
Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council
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RECEIVED

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ENERGY FACILITY SITE
EVALUATION COUNCIL

RE: **Vancouver Energy SEPA Schedule**

Dear Chairman Lynch:

The Department of Natural Resources (DNR) joins the Columbia River Inter-Tribal Fish Commission, its member tribes, the Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation, and the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation in their request for release of the Vancouver Energy Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) to occur *after* the winter holidays. The current scheduled release date, November 24, 2015, would run the comment period over multiple state holidays and a time of the year when many staff have scheduled time away from the office. This would both actually shorten the comment period by multiple days, and effectively shorten it even further.

DNR supports the proposed release date of January 4, 2016, for the DEIS. This minor delay would be insignificant in the overall site evaluation process and would allow for more meaningful review of what is expected to be a large document covering complex environmental issues. Moreover, we believe this request is highly reasonable given the level of interest in, and substantial time already devoted to, this controversial project.

We are providing copies of this letter to all parties, consistent with Judge Noble's July 2015 letter regarding communications with EFSEC.

Sincerely,


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TAP:emj

cc: See Attached Service List

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