

**BEFORE THE STATE OF WASHINGTON  
ENERGY FACILITY SITE EVALUATION COUNCIL**

In the Matter of  
Application No. 2009-1

WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY LLC

WHISTLING RIDGE ENERGY  
PROJECT

**EXHIBIT No. 2** 38.00

CONFEDERATED TRIBES AND BANDS OF THE YAKAMA NATION PREFILED TESTIMONY

WITNESS #2: Jo Anna Meninick

Q Please state your name and address.

A My name is Jo Anna Meninick, and my address is P.O. Box 151, Toppenish, Washington 98948.

Q What is your present occupation, and what are your responsibilities?

A I am a cultural specialist for the Yakama Nation's Cultural Resources Program. As a cultural specialist, I work with staff archaeologists in reviewing proposed projects. I provide information regarding project impacts to culturally important places and resources. I provide the names of people, places, and things.

Q Please identify what has been marked as Exhibit 2.1.

A Exhibit 2.1 is my signed statement attesting to the accuracy of my testimony.

Q Did you participate in the Yakama Nation Cultural Resources Program's cultural study of the proposed project, and if so, what were your duties?

A Yes. We made a preliminary site visit to the proposed project. My role in the survey was to provide staff with information regarding my traditional knowledge, traditional resources, foods, medicines including wild fruits and vegetation, and food preserving plants within the project area.

Q Do you have specific expertise in this area of the Columbia River?

A I am what is referred to as one of the River People. My mother, Wámkníí (Wamkníí), and her father, Chief Shx́íníwah (Shx́ánawah), before her were born there. My mother's brother, Wahínishtíha son of Chief Shx́ánawah, reaffirmed information about Chief Shx́íníwah and ancestors that lived in those areas. Cultural Specialists with the Cultural Resources Program are hired for their traditional knowledge passed down generation to generation including knowledge of the Yakama dialects.

Q Can you summarize the importance of Chemawa Hill?

A Chemawa hill is a monumental site with important views in all directions, with the river to the west, Mt. Adams to the north, and Mt. Hood to the south. It is a counterpart with Enola Hill across the river in Oregon. Both hills are the witnesses to Nchi-Wana (the Columbia River), Chemawa Hill for Mt. Adams and Enola hill is witness for Mt. Hood.

Chemawa Hill, or Cheemá-wa, emanates from legendary landmarks approved by the Creator's Law, and placed for a reason. Like other landmarks, Cheemá-wa was placed for a reason, specifically for observation of natural and cultural resources. It is an ancestral place for observation, used to re-collect memories of ancestral use so that they can be passed from generation to generation into the future. Cheema-wa also has cultural significance in the fact that it contains high mountain resources, such as foods, medicines, and other ancestral use items.