



August 21, 2023

Alyssa Buck
Wanapum Tribe
P.O. Box 275
Beverly, WA 99321-0164

RE: Invitation to comment on the Port of Benton – Railroad Tie and Ballast Replacement Project

Dear Alyssa,

The Port of Benton is proposing to complete maintenance on the Port of Benton's railroad track from Columbia Center Boulevard to Horn Rapids Road (formerly known as the Department of Energy Southern Connection). This project is receiving funding through an appropriation from the 2021-23 Capital Budget and therefore, we are required to consult with you under Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding the potential to have cultural resource impacts on the Wanapum Tribe.

The project will work to bring the Port of Benton's Railroad track back to Class 1 conditions by installing approximately 4,000 ties and approximately 600 tons of new ballast. The track has had greatly delayed maintenance for the last 25 years as the previous operator did not adequately maintain the track. The proposed improvements will increase safety for both the trains as well as the travelling public that crosses the Port's track in multiple locations.

The project will replace ties and ballast in the existing track. No work will be done outside the existing railroad track and the work will only impact the existing railroad ballast down approximately 12 inches. There are no existing buildings or structures on the railroad track.

Consultation with the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), has already occurred and their concurrence of No Effect to cultural or historical resources was received. See attached letter.

If you have any questions about this project or need additional information, please contact me or our project engineer, Roger Wright at the Port of Benton, 509-375-3060, or at roger@rgwenterprises.com. The project funding allows for a minimum of 30 days response from each of the tribal organizations, however, we request that you please provide your response as soon as possible to keep our project moving.

Sincerely,

Christy L. Rasmussen
Commission President



August 21, 2023

Teara Farrow Ferman, Manager
Cultural Resources Protection Program
Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation
46411 Timine Way
Pendleton, OR 97801

RE: Invitation to comment on the Port of Benton – Railroad Tie and Ballast Replacement Project

Dear Teara,

The Port of Benton is proposing to complete maintenance on the Port of Benton's railroad track from Columbia Center Boulevard to Horn Rapids Road (formerly known as the Department of Energy Southern Connection). This project is receiving funding through an appropriation from the 2021-23 Capital Budget and therefore, we are required to consult with you under Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding the potential to have cultural resource impacts on the Umatilla Tribe.

The project will work to bring the Port of Benton's Railroad track back to Class 1 conditions by installing approximately 4,000 ties and approximately 600 tons of new ballast. The track has had greatly delayed maintenance for the last 25 years as the previous operator did not adequately maintain the track. The proposed improvements will increase safety for both the trains as well as the travelling public that crosses the Port's track in multiple locations.

The project will replace ties and ballast in the existing track. No work will be done outside the existing railroad track and the work will only impact the existing railroad ballast down approximately 12 inches. There are no existing buildings or structures on the railroad track.

Consultation with the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), has already occurred and their concurrence of No Effect to cultural or historical resources was received. See attached letter.

If you have any questions about this project or need additional information, please contact me or our project engineer, Roger Wright at the Port of Benton, 509-375-3060, or at roger@rgwenterprises.com. The project funding allows for a minimum of 30 days response from each of the tribal organizations, however, we request that you please provide your response as soon as possible to keep our project moving.

Sincerely,

Christy L. Rasmussen
Commission President

August 21, 2023

Rose Ferri
Confederated Tribes and Bands of the Yakama Nation
P.O. Box 151
Toppenish, WA 98948

RE: Invitation to comment on the Port of Benton – Railroad Tie and Ballast Replacement Project

Dear Rose,

The Port of Benton is proposing to complete maintenance on the Port of Benton's railroad track from Columbia Center Boulevard to Horn Rapids Road (formerly known as the Department of Energy Southern Connection). This project is receiving funding through an appropriation from the 2021-23 Capital Budget and therefore, we are required to consult with you under Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding the potential to have cultural resource impacts on the Yakama Nation.

The project will work to bring the Port of Benton's Railroad track back to Class 1 conditions by installing approximately 4,000 ties and approximately 600 tons of new ballast. The track has had greatly delayed maintenance for the last 25 years as the previous operator did not adequately maintain the track. The proposed improvements will increase safety for both the trains as well as the travelling public that crosses the Port's track in multiple locations.

The project will replace ties and ballast in the existing track. No work will be done outside the existing railroad track and the work will only impact the existing railroad ballast down approximately 12 inches. There are no existing buildings or structures on the railroad track.

Consultation with the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), has already occurred and their concurrence of No Effect to cultural or historical resources was received. See attached letter.

If you have any questions about this project or need additional information, please contact me or our project engineer, Roger Wright at the Port of Benton, 509-375-3060, or at roger@rgwenterprises.com. The project funding allows for a minimum of 30 days response from each of the tribal organizations, however, we request that you please provide your response as soon as possible to keep our project moving.

Sincerely,



Christy L. Rasmussen
Commission President

August 21, 2023

Michael Sobotta
Nez Perce Tribe
P.O. Box 365
Lapwai, ID 83540

RE: Invitation to comment on the Port of Benton – Railroad Tie and Ballast Replacement Project

Dear Michael,

The Port of Benton is proposing to complete maintenance on the Port of Benton's railroad track from Columbia Center Boulevard to Horn Rapids Road (formerly known as the Department of Energy Southern Connection). This project is receiving funding through an appropriation from the 2021-23 Capital Budget and therefore, we are required to consult with you under Governor's Executive Order 21-02 regarding the potential to have cultural resource impacts on the Nez Perce Tribe.

The project will work to bring the Port of Benton's Railroad track back to Class 1 conditions by installing approximately 4,000 ties and approximately 600 tons of new ballast. The track has had greatly delayed maintenance for the last 25 years as the previous operator did not adequately maintain the track. The proposed improvements will increase safety for both the trains as well as the travelling public that crosses the Port's track in multiple locations.

The project will replace ties and ballast in the existing track. No work will be done outside the existing railroad track and the work will only impact the existing railroad ballast down approximately 12 inches. There are no existing buildings or structures on the railroad track.

Consultation with the State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP), has already occurred and their concurrence of No Effect to cultural or historical resources was received. See attached letter.

If you have any questions about this project or need additional information, please contact me or our project engineer, Roger Wright at the Port of Benton, 509-375-3060, or at roger@rgwenterprises.com. The project funding allows for a minimum of 30 days response from each of the tribal organizations, however, we request that you please provide your response as soon as possible to keep our project moving.

Sincerely,



Christy L. Rasmussen
Commission President