

December 23, 1998

Lt. Col. William E. Bulen, Jr.  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Walla Walla District  
201 N. 3rd Avenue  
Walla Walla, WA 99362-1876

Re: ARPA Permit Request for Geoarchaeological Investigation at the  
Kennewick Man Discovery Site, Columbia Park, Washington

Dear Colonel Bulen:

In August 1997 we were part of a research team that submitted an ARPA permit application to perform geoarchaeological testing at the location where skeletal remains known as "Kennewick Man" were recovered. In December 1997 we were allowed to participate in a geoarchaeological study led by scientists from the Army Corps Waterways Experiment Station (WES). This study was a limited reconnaissance of the terrace edge. Although the studies provided valuable background information, none of our ARPA permit objectives was accomplished. In March 1998 our team submitted to your District a report based on the December 1997 fieldwork. Last month we received the WES team's final report. An analysis of that report is being mailed to you separately.

We agree completely with the WES team's conclusion that more work needs to be done at the Site to fully define the geological context of the Kennewick Man skeleton. We firmly believe that the research design specified in our August 1997 ARPA permit request is best suited for answering contextual questions. In an effort to reduce the administrative delays that to date have attended our permit, we are modifying the timing, but not content of our proposed research. Accordingly, we request a permit to do a *phased study* at the Site. The first phase of our study would involve hand excavation of a stratigraphic trench approximately 1 m wide and approximately 10 m long. At the Site, this trench will be combined with approximately five discontinuous, 1 m<sup>2</sup> test units that are adjacent to the bank protection along the reservoir's edge. These excavations would be supplemented by widely spaced hand-held auger probes across the terrace surface. If, after completing this phase, we find geological information that warrants further testing of the Site, we will advise of the specific tests that will be needed during the second phase of our study.

We believe that this phased approach to our original research design will allow us to collect chronological and three-dimensional stratigraphic

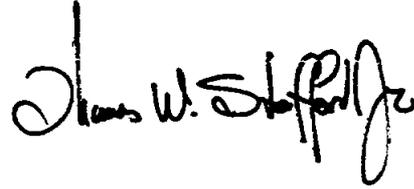
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information with minimal impact to the Site. Based on both our team's and the WES team's conclusions, we have no empirical evidence that the Site contains human burials or other cultural remains that could be harmed by on-site geological test excavations. Therefore, we feel there is every reason to commence with controlled geologic test excavations. Ideally, we would like to perform this work as soon after February 1, 1999 as possible. Your prompt and positive response will be greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,



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