



United States Department of the Interior

Jasen - copy for files

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20240

IN REPLY REFER TO:

H32(2200)

AUG 15 2000

Mr. Armand Minthorn
Umatilla Indian Reservation
Pendleton, Oregon 97801

Dear Mr. Minthorn:

Armand

Thank you for coming to visit with me on July 25 after the Oversight hearing. I appreciated your time and I think we both better understand the others concerns in implementing NAGPRA. It took some research but I think I have answers to your questions regarding the Kennewick man process.

- Q. The administrative record closes July 28, but the NPS won't have the DNA results by then. Will the Tribes have an opportunity to comment on the DNA results before your take action?
- A. By now you know that the NPS extended the comment period until August 14. The administrative record will not close until DOI makes a final determination regarding disposition of the remains. While no date has been set for this, we anticipate it will be shortly after August 14 in order to provide the Corps of Engineers with sufficient time to review DOI's determination and ensure they can comply with the court deadline of September 24 to respond to the plaintiffs study request. We do not have any the DNA results yet. We will share the results with the tribes and court as soon as we have them. However, there may be a short turn-around time for any comments the tribes wish to make about the results because of the court deadline. If the results are not available in time to meet the Court deadline we will make a recommendation without the DNA results.
- Q. Will Interior share with the Tribes their recommendation on cultural affiliation?
- A. Yes.
- Q. What will the process be from here forward?
- A. With whatever information Interior has by about mid-August, Interior will make a recommendation to the Corps of Engineers regarding cultural affiliation. That recommendation will be a formal Interior position. Based on this recommendation, the Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Department of Justice, will provide a response to the plaintiffs' request to study the remains. Then the case is in the hands of the Court.
- Q. What will the position of Interior be on repatriation?
- A. Until we have fully studied the evidence on cultural affiliation we will not have a position.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any additional questions at (202) 208-7625.

Sincerely,

Katherine H. Stevenson
Associate Director, Cultural Resource
Stewardship and Partnerships

DOI 09499