

Kirts, Linda R NWW

From: Charlton, Mark C NWW
 Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 1998 2:44 PM
 To: Curtis, Donald R LTC NWW; Nutt, Lynda G NWW; Kirts, Linda R NWW
 Subject: FW: Site Protection - Kennewick Man
 Replied: NP

From: **Bryson, Brian HQ01**
 Sent: Wednesday, March 25, 1998 2:08 PM
 To: Fuhrman, Russell HQ01
 Cc: Griffin, Robert H BG NWD; Mogren, Eric T COL NWD; Caver, Fred HQ01; Luisa, Pete HQ01
 Subject: Site Protection - Kennewick Man

Sir,

Today at 1600 hrs I called Doug Riggs, a staffer for Doc Hastings because he had called Bill Schmitz in CW-AL to register Mr. Hastings displeasure at us and Walla Walla for our plan to start the site protection work. He was not particularly interested in facts of why we felt the site needed to be protected, or that the method of protection was intended to protect (not cover or damage) the area where more valuable information might be found.

His main point is that the Corps is planning to get the work done before Congress can act to stop us, when we already know that the Senate bill is passed, and the House plans to include similar language. He says the Corps is taking a big risk by proceeding at this time because both Mr. Hastings and Sen. Gorton are mad. His tone was threatening. He covered all the usual complaints that we hear from the press about how the Corps has handled Kennewick Man improperly, and the litany of complaints from Sen. Gorton about finding the funds to protect the site, but not having funds to the study to lower the levees in the Tri Cities. He acknowledged that Walla Walla has been keeping them informed, but he insists that the Chief or you ought to call both Hastings and Gorton at least 24 hours before the work starts.

At 1645 I had a call from Bill McSherry, from Sen. Gorton's office, who basically ran through the same concerns. He said that he was working to insure that this issue is raised in the Senate Hearing. He said that Sen. Gorton was not likely to be there, but they would try to have another Senator bring it up. His main point was, why are we in such a hurry to protect the site, when there is a possibility that within a week, we would have a law that told us not to do it?

I assured both staffers that I would inform you of the Congressman and Senator's position on this.

Brian

5-245