



**YERINGTON PAIUTE TRIBE**

171 Campbell Lane  
Yerington, Nevada 89447  
Ph. (775) 463-3301  
Fx. (775) 463-2416

January 9, 2012

**Tribal Chairman**  
Linda L. Howard

**Vice-Chairman**  
Kenneth Roberts

**Member**  
Loretta Johnson

**Member**  
Louina Emm

**Member**  
Claudia Saunders

**Member**  
Lisa Williams

**Member**  
Victor Sam, Sr.

**Tribal Manager**  
Deborah Dunn  
**Secretary of Record**  
Shelley Pugh

Roberta Blank  
US Environmental Protection Agency, Region IX  
75 Hawthorne St. (SFD-8-2)  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Ms. Blank:

On multiple occasions over the last few years, the Tribe has requested the large volume of groundwater data and well details be provided as a database by the Atlantic Richfield Company (ARC), entity wholly owned by BP, for the Anaconda Mine CERLA site. Recently, two Access databases, one for the groundwater monitoring system and a second for the monitored drinking water wells, were provided that included groundwater data and well details, but the information has proven to be somewhat disorganized and potentially incomplete. Both the Tribe and EPA have expressed grave concerns regarding the quality of the database in recent comments and responses to groundwater related work plans from ARC. The Tribe has even gone to the extreme length of providing a model database using one generated for the Lowry Landfill Superfund Site in Arapahoe County, CO.

During our last groundwater meeting on August 16 and 17<sup>th</sup> of 2011, Jerelean Johnson, the EPA project manager, suggested a committee be formed to develop improvements for the database. As our then Environmental Director and his consultants indicated at the meeting, the Tribe would be happy to participate and believes this is an important endeavor to ensure efficient review of site documents is completed. However, no further action has come from this suggestion that received such wide acceptance among the technical working group.

To facilitate the continued development of this important tool for understanding groundwater negatively affected by the Anaconda Mine Site, we would like to request the following:

1. The first meeting of the database working group to occur before February 29, 2012 on a date and time convenient to the participants. If needed, the Tribe may be able to host the meeting on the reservation.
2. That ARC provide a brief outline of their database describing the different tables, relationships, update schedules *et cetera*.
3. That ARC provides an updated database that includes changes requested by the Tribe and EPA in recent comments regarding groundwater data and work plans.

The protection of water resources is a priority for the Tribe. However, to be efficient with limited funds the Tribe uses for technical support it is important that tools such as the database meet minimal standards. This prevents the development of alternative and potentially conflicting databases being used by stakeholders, regulatory agencies and ARC.

These requests are provided for the site record with the intent to improve the interpretation of the existing data collected at the Yerington Mine Site and, if required, suggest alternatives for the proposed document, investigation and/or site actions. Although the Tribe is not providing approval of the databases, we feel it is important to participate in the process with the hope of developing a positive and constructive environment for stakeholders, regulatory agencies and responsible parties working with the Yerington Mine Site. If you have any questions or need to schedule meetings or conference calls, please feel free to contact the office of the Deborah Dunn at (775)463-3301 ext. 234 or [ddunn@ypt-nsn.gov](mailto:ddunn@ypt-nsn.gov).

Sincerely,  
YERINGTON PAIUTE TRIBE



Linda Howard,  
Tribal Chairman

cc: YPT Environmental Director  
Tom Olsen, BLM  
Jim Najima, NDEP  
Margaret Pauly, YCAG  
John Krause, BIA  
Jim Sanford, MVEC  
WRPT Environmental Director  
Kerensa King, USFW  
Taurus Massey, Singatse Peak Services