



PRESS RELEASE

CONFEDERATED TRIBES OF THE COLVILLE RESERVATION

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COLVILLE TRIBES AWARDED \$8.3 MILLION FROM TECK FOR LEGAL COSTS

(Nespelem, WA)- - The US District Court for the District of Eastern Washington has ruled that Teck Metals Ltd. must pay nearly \$8.3 million to the Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation for all past costs related to the Tribes' ongoing legal battle to force the Canadian smelter company to clean up mine waste pollutants it sent across the border for decades.

The August 12 ruling by the Honorable Lonny Suko is the most recent victory by the Tribes who, along with the State of Washington, successfully sued Teck to force the company to comply with the U.S. Superfund law.

The \$8.3 million will cover the environmental investigation and legal response costs (attorney's fees, expert witnesses, etc.) incurred since the legal fight began, and means Teck will also have to pay costs going forward. The total costs of the cleanup and the restoration of damaged natural resources have not been determined but it's hoped that this ruling will mean actual cleanup can proceed more quickly.

For nearly a century, Teck's smelter has released slag and liquid effluent, a toxic byproduct of metals refining, directly into the Columbia River, and has pumped toxins into the air that polluted Tribal and Washington state lands. More than 10 million tons of the granular slag created the "black sand" beaches of the Upper Columbia, a 150-mile reach of the river between the Canadian border and Grand Coulee Dam.

The river is the natural resource and cultural lifeblood of the Colville Tribes and must be protected and restored.

Regulatory and legal processes will continue to guide the cleanup, but there can be no more delay in action. Several efforts to reintroduce migrating fish in the Upper Columbia are moving forward. It is critical that the sediments in the Upper Columbia be cleaned up to assure returning fish have the chance to thrive in a healthy river environment. Only cleanup will create that opportunity.

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About the Colville Tribes:

The Confederated Tribes of the Colville Reservation works to maintain and protect viable populations of native and desired non-native species of fish and wildlife and their supporting habitats, while providing sufficient numbers to meet the cultural, subsistence, recreational and economic needs of the tribal membership.

Today, more than 9,365 descendants of 12 aboriginal tribes of Indians are enrolled in the Confederated Tribes of the Colville. The tribes, commonly known by English and French names, are the Colville, the Nespelem, the San Poil, the Lake, the Palus, the Wenatchi (Wenatchee), the Chelan, the Entiat, the Methow, the southern Okanogan, the Moses Columbia and the Nez Perce of Chief Joseph's Bands.