UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION 10
1200 Sixth Avenue, Suite 900
Seattle, Washington 98101-3140

NOV - 7 2012

OFFICE OF
COMPLIANCE AND ENFORCEMENT

Reply To: OCE-082

Bob Hayden
Upper Skagit Indian Tribe
5984 North Darrk Lane
Bow, Washington 98232

Re: Underground Injection Control Inspection of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe Water Reclamation Facility, 5984 North Darrk Lane, Bow, Washington, on October 10, 2012 (UIC ID # WA425T5-17-13494)

Dear Mr. Hayden:

On October 10, 2012, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region 10, inspected the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe Water Reclamation Facility at 5984 North Darrk Lane, Bow, Washington. The purpose of the inspection was to determine compliance with the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), Class V Underground Injection Control (UIC) program.

The UIC program requires that fluids that are injected meet primary drinking water standards. The Upper Skagit Indian Tribe Water Reclamation Facility has used two injection wells for disposal of treated wastewater effluent since October 24, 2011. During this inspection, the EPA inspector observed the injection wells, received information from the system operator about how the reclamation facility operation is monitored to ensure that it is working properly, and reviewed effluent quality data. The effluent quality is tested every week in an on-site laboratory for total coliforms, biological oxygen demand, nitrate, total suspended solids, and coarse suspended solids. According to the operator, the weekly sampling has not identified any effluent quality issues. The effluent quality is also analyzed each quarter by a third party laboratory. The laboratory analyses are conducted for the primary drinking water standards, including total and fecal coliforms and other microorganisms, inorganic chemicals, organic chemicals, radionuclides, and disinfection byproducts. The EPA inspector reviewed the laboratory data from the sampling events that occurred on January 25, 2012, April 30, 2012, and July 30, 2012, since the injection activities began. The laboratory analyses did not identify any exceedances of SDWA maximum contaminant levels and in particular, total and fecal coliforms were not detected in the samples and the nitrate concentrations ranged from <1 mg/L to 2.01 mg/L.

Based on the portions of the facility inspected and the information obtained, no violations of the UIC program were identified by the EPA. Thank you for your cooperation in this UIC inspection of the Upper Skagit Indian Tribe Water Reclamation Facility. If you have any questions about these inspection findings or other UIC matters, please contact Jennifer Parker of my staff at (206) 553-1900.

Sincerely,

Peter Contreras, Manager
Ground Water Unit

cc: Thomas Eaton, Director
Washington Operations Office