



REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
US ARMY CHEMICAL MATERIALS AGENCY
UMATILLA CHEMICAL DEPOT
78798 ORDNANCE ROAD
BUILDING 1
HERMISTON, OREGON 97838-9108

18 February 2009

Umatilla Chemical Depot

Mr. John Chess, Chair
Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council
725 Summer Street NE, Suite C
Salem, Oregon 97301-1271

Dear Mr. Chess:

Thank you for your interest and concern in the Oregon Trail located at the Umatilla Chemical Depot (UMCD). The Army appreciates the Oregon Historic Trails Advisory Council (OHTAC) making a firsthand observation of the trail and your input.

These wagon ruts are reminders of the 19th Century westward migration, and are all too often, all that is left to document the presence of these brave pioneers who faced the unknown. It is important to the history of Oregon and the United States that the evidence of this vanguard be documented.

As the UMCD is scheduled to be closed under the Defense Base Realignment and Closure Act of 1990, the Army takes seriously its obligation and responsibility for insuring all federal and states statutes are followed; which includes the National Historic Preservation Act, 16 U.S.C. § 470, Section 106 (NHPA), its implementing regulations, 36 CFR Part 800, and the appropriate National Register Bulletins.

The Section 106 process will include a cultural resource evaluation by a professional firm, which will take place when the UMCD is fully decommissioned. In addition to prehistoric sites, the historical context of the Oregon Trail will also be evaluated. Protection of all historical properties found to be potentially eligible, or eligible to the National Register of Historic Places will be addressed in a future programmatic agreement. The Oregon State Historic Preservation Officer and other interested parties, including the Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation (CTUIR), Local Redevelopment Authority (LRA) and OHTCA will be invited to coordinate and consult during this process.

The Army thanks you for your interest and concern in the historic properties of UMCD and wants to assure you that all federal and state guidelines will be adhered too. Your continued input will be appreciated; if you have any questions please contact Mr. Don Gillis at UMCD at (541) 564-5420 or donald.gillis@conus.army.mil or Mr. David Pugh at (251) 694-3761 or david.w.pugh@usace.army.mil

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Robert T. Stein".

ROBERT T. STEIN
LTC, CM
Commanding

CC: Commissioner Bill Hansell, LRA Chair
Rod Skeen, CTUIR and LRA Member