



WESTERN SHOSHONE NATIONAL COUNCIL

**POST OFFICE BOX 210
INDIAN SPRINGS , NEVADA 89018-0210
TELEPHONE / FACSIMILE: (702) 879-5203**

June 2, 2003

*Riley Bechtel
Chairman and CEO, Bechtel Corporation*

Mr. Bechtel,

I am the Chief of the Western Shoshone National Council, a traditional government representing Western Shoshone communities and individuals on ancestral lands located in what is currently referred to as the State of Nevada and parts of Idaho, Utah and California (map enclosed). As indigenous people, our economy and culture are tied to these lands which we consider sacred and our Mother Earth. We write to express our concern and opposition to your company's current and planned activities on our lands without Western Shoshone permission and to request a meeting with you and your Board of Directors. The Bechtel Corporation, directly, or through its subsidiaries and affiliates, has engaged in numerous destructive activities on our lands, lands which we still use and occupy and which are recognized by title that predates the United States and subsequently delineated in the 1863 Treaty of Ruby Valley.

Based on information we have received, Bechtel manages the Nevada Test Site and the new Counterterrorism facility which conduct military testing and weapons construction, including nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Your company also received the construction contract for the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste depository which is targeted to be the site for nationwide nuclear waste, much of which was created in nuclear power plants also constructed by your company. We are also aware that Bechtel constructed several of the gold mines located on our lands which pump valuable water and employ open pit cyanide leach processes to extract gold. From these activities, Bechtel has received or stands to receive monies connected to Western Shoshone lands totaling several billion dollars.

Given Bechtel's monetary interest in our lands, we question whether your company, directly, or through its affiliates or subsidiaries, may in any manner be encouraging passage of the Western Shoshone Distribution Bill - an alleged payoff of Western Shoshone title. We oppose this legislation. As you may be aware, we have been involved in a decades long dispute with the United States over title to these same lands. Recently, the United States was found to be in violation of international law with respect to the right to property, due process and equality under the law. See Dann v. U.S. Final Decision, Inter-American Commission of Human Rights (December 2002).

Again, we request a meeting with you to discuss these matters and any other ongoing or planned activities on Western Shoshone lands. We look forward to your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,

Raymond Yowell

*Chief, Western Shoshone National Council
Western Shoshone National Council
P.O. Box 210
Indian Springs, NV 89018
NEWE SOGOBIA
Ph./Fac +1.775.744.4381
Press Calls: 775-468-0230*