



### LIEAP - WHAT IS IT?

Low-Income Energy Assistance Program (LIEAP) funds are federal funds which provide assistance to those persons under 125% of the federal poverty level with one time assistance with their winter heat bills, etc.

A representative for LIEAP will be coming to the Grand Ronde area on January 22, 1992 to assist Polk County residents with applications for energy assistance. All elders and anyone with a handicap may call directly to the Polk county office at 623-8429 without making an appointment. This service is also available to non-tribal members.

To make an appointment to meet with a representative from LIEAP on January 22, 1992 here at the Depot in Grand Ronde, please contact Mychal Childers in the Social Services Department at 1-800-422-0232 or 879-5211.

### Forestry Department needs YOU!

The Forestry Department is compiling a list of people with Forestry and logging skills. This list of qualified people will be made available to any interested parties. We are looking for the following skills: faller & buckler, chokersetter, landing chaser, rigging slinger, hooktender, yarder engineer, loader operator, skidder operator, grader operator, tree shear operator, delimeter operator, log truck drivers (long logger, short logger and self-loader), low boy driver, mechanic, logging contractors, and log truck owner/operators.

At this time we are not hiring and do not know of anyone who is. However, we foresee a need for this list and would like to have it on file for possible referrals. For further information contact Connie at 879-5522.

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It is the goal of *Smoke Signals* to inform and represent the tribe on community, economic, health, education, family, arts and national Native American political issues. We feel we can best do this with tribal member input. Please feel free to comment on any issue published in the newsletter or any issue that has not been addressed in *Smoke Signals*. If you would like to see event announcements such as; births, weddings, grand openings, etc, published send us a copy. Any item to be published in *Smoke Signals* must be received by the end of the second week of each month. *Smoke Signals* reserves the right to not publish any item submitted to us. All material is subject to editorial changes.

## U.S. Tries to Market Indian Reservations as Storage Facility for Country's Nuclear Waste

*So far, few tribes show interest in storing spent radioactive fuel*

David H. LeRoy, the Bush administration's chief nuclear waste negotiator, tried yesterday to sell Native American leaders on a controversial deal to set aside tribal lands for federal storage of spent radioactive fuel from the nation's nuclear power plants.

There was no rush to sign up, however, at a Burlingame convention of the National Congress of American Indians, the largest Indian organization in North America. More than 1,500 delegates are attending the week long gathering.

Recalling traditional Indian respect and reverence for the land, LeRoy promised that any tribes who commit to building nuclear waste storage facilities will "dictate the terms," as well as retain control of health, safety and environmental protection.

At the same time, he held out to financially strapped tribes the prospect of more federal money for public works improvements, health care, education and other economic benefits for those willing to help the government solve the critical problem of disposing of 20,000 metric tons of spent nuclear fission rods from 110 power plants.

At least one Indian official saw a contradiction in LeRoy's pronouncement about the Indians' "timeless wisdom" in the use of ancestral land and the notion of turning a large chunk of reservation over to nuclear waste storage.

"That is the granddaddy of all oxymorons," shouted an exasperated Mark Mercier of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde, Ore.

Others rejected the proposal as political suicide. "Look at the Three Mile Island deal," said Kesley Edmo, council chairman of Oklahoma's Shoshone Bannock tribe. "We're not going to have anyone ship nuclear waste onto our reservation," he told LeRoy.

Federal law requires that the nuclear fuel, now stored in pools at the plants, be permanently buried in a deep repository. Yucca Mountain in Nevada is the only permanent site now under consideration. But the site, already entangled in lawsuits and protests, cannot be ready before the year 2010, according to the department of Energy.

Meanwhile, the tribes and state governments have been asked whether they are interested in negotiating for 450-acre storage sites that would be used for no

more than 40 years.

LeRoy mailed letters outlining the nuclear waste proposal to about 650 tribal leaders and state governors in October. The deadline for filing an application for a \$100,000 study

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Mark Mercier, Chairman of the Confederated Tribes of Grand Ronde.

grant is December 31. But LeRoy conceded that only 10 tribes, none in California, have expressed any interest.

So far, only the commercially savvy Mescalero Apache tribe of New Mexico, which has developed a ski center and golf resort, among other money making projects, has taken grant money and is now hiring experts to advise the tribe on whether to set up a nuclear waste facility at the vast 720 square mile reservation.

Wendell Chino, Mescalero tribal council president, acknowledged, however, that there is reason to mistrust the federal government in view of the historic mistreatment of Indians and breaking of treaties.

-Courtesy of Chronicle Peninsula Bureau

### Experts: Reservation Lands are a Gold Mine of Potential

They say mineral deposits beneath some American Indian lands are a gold mine of potential, but most tribes are cautious about development.

(AP/Spokane Wash.) Vast mineral riches beneath the nation's Indian reservations could provide jobs and wealth, but most tribes are only slowly and cautiously developing them.

Cultural reverence for the land and historic distrust of whites seeking minerals have kept many poverty-stricken tribes from developing the potential wealth they need to start social and economic programs, industry experts say.

"It's an irrevocable commitment," Donovan Shangreaux, director of the Oglala Sioux Tribe's minerals study program, said.

In 1988, the last year figures were available, Indian lands produced more than \$161 million from leases, mostly oil, gas and coal.

At a recent trade show at the Northwest Mining Association convention here, the Bureau of Indian Affairs sponsored booths where 11 tribes from across the country exhibited their mineral potentials.

"Some tribes have made a conscious decision not to mine because of conflicts with other values," said Richard Wilson, chief of a BIA division established in the 1970s to help tribes identify and develop their natural resources.

"There isn't any tribe out there who wants their land

torn up and abandoned," Wilson said.

Most tribes have some lands that are inviolate to any kind of development, while others open their reservations to explorations wherever minerals are found, Wilson said.

Don Aubertin, a branch chief in Wilson's office and member of Washington state's 7,500-member Colville tribe, said reservation governments were like those everywhere and had their dissenters.

It took several years for members of his own tribe to become comfortable with his work and to share information with mining companies, he said.

-Courtesy of Statesman Journal

## U.S.D.A.

Commodities distribution dates for January are the 14th, 15th, and until noon on the 16th. You can pick them up at 1697 25th Street (Behind K-mart), in Salem.