

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 1797

AN ACT

To provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes.

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To provide for equitable compensation to the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the Spokane Reservation for the use of tribal land for the production of hydropower by the Grand Coulee Dam, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Spokane Tribe of Indi-
3 ans of the Spokane Reservation Grand Coulee Dam Equi-
4 table Compensation Settlement Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

6 Congress finds that—

7 (1) from 1927 to 1931, at the direction of Con-
8 gress, the Corps of Engineers investigated the Co-
9 lumbia River and its tributaries to determine sites at
10 which power could be produced at low cost;

11 (2) under section 10(e) of the Federal Power
12 Act (16 U.S.C. 803(e)), when licenses are issued in-
13 volving tribal land within an Indian reservation, a
14 reasonable annual charge shall be fixed for the use
15 of the land, subject to the approval of the Indian
16 tribe having jurisdiction over the land;

17 (3) in August 1933, the Columbia Basin Com-
18 mission, an agency of the State of Washington, re-
19 ceived a preliminary permit from the Federal Power
20 Commission for water power development at the
21 Grand Coulee site;

22 (4) had the Columbia Basin Commission or a
23 private entity developed the site, the Spokane Tribe
24 would have been entitled to a reasonable annual
25 charge for the use of its land;

1 (5) in the mid-1930s, the Federal Government,
2 which is not subject to licensing under the Federal
3 Power Act (16 U.S.C. 792 et seq.)—

4 (A) federalized the Grand Coulee Dam
5 project; and

6 (B) began construction of the Grand Cou-
7 lee Dam;

8 (6) when the Grand Coulee Dam project was
9 federalized, the Federal Government recognized
10 that—

11 (A) development of the project affected the
12 interests of the Spokane Tribe and the Confed-
13 erated Tribes of the Colville Reservation; and

14 (B) it would be appropriate for the Spo-
15 kane and Colville Tribes to receive a share of
16 revenue from the disposition of power produced
17 at Grand Coulee Dam;

18 (7) in the Act of June 29, 1940 (16 U.S.C.
19 835d et seq.), Congress—

20 (A) granted to the United States—

21 (i) in aid of the construction, oper-
22 ation, and maintenance of the Columbia
23 Basin Project, all the right, title, and in-
24 terest of the Spokane Tribe and Colville
25 Tribes in and to the tribal and allotted

1 land within the Spokane and Colville Res-
2 ervations, as designated by the Secretary
3 of the Interior from time to time; and

4 (ii) other interests in such land as re-
5 quired and as designated by the Secretary
6 for certain construction activities under-
7 taken in connection with the project; and

8 (B) provided that compensation for the
9 land and other interests was to be determined
10 by the Secretary in such amounts as the Sec-
11 retary determined to be just and equitable;

12 (8) pursuant to that Act, the Secretary paid—

13 (A) to the Spokane Tribe, \$4,700; and

14 (B) to the Confederated Tribes of the
15 Colville Reservation, \$63,000;

16 (9) in 1994, following litigation under the Act
17 of August 13, 1946 (commonly known as the “In-
18 dian Claims Commission Act” (60 Stat. 1049, chap-
19 ter 959; former 25 U.S.C. 70 et seq.)), Congress
20 ratified the Colville Settlement Agreement, which re-
21 quired—

22 (A) for past use of the Colville Tribes’
23 land, a payment of \$53,000,000; and

24 (B) for continued use of the Colville
25 Tribes’ land, annual payments of \$15,250,000,

1 adjusted annually based on revenues from the
2 sale of electric power from the Grand Coulee
3 Dam project and transmission of that power by
4 the Bonneville Power Administration;

5 (10) the Spokane Tribe, having suffered harm
6 similar to that suffered by the Colville Tribes, did
7 not file a claim within the Indian Claims Commis-
8 sion Act's 5-year statute of limitations;

9 (11) neither the Colville Tribes nor the Spokane
10 Tribe filed claims for compensation for use of their
11 land with the Commission before August 13, 1951,
12 but both Tribes filed unrelated land claims prior to
13 August 13, 1951;

14 (12) in 1976, over objections by the United
15 States, the Colville Tribes were successful in amend-
16 ing their 1951 Claims Commission land claims to
17 add their Grand Coulee claim;

18 (13) the Spokane Tribe had no such claim to
19 amend, having settled its Claims Commission land
20 claims with the United States in 1967;

21 (14) the Spokane Tribe has suffered significant
22 harm from the construction and operation of Grand
23 Coulee Dam;

24 (15) Spokane tribal acreage taken by the
25 United States for the construction of Grand Coulee

1 Dam equaled approximately 39 percent of Colville
2 tribal acreage taken for construction of the dam;

3 (16) the payments and land transfers made
4 pursuant to this Act constitute fair and equitable
5 compensation for the past and continued use of Spo-
6 kane tribal land for the production of hydropower at
7 Grand Coulee Dam; and

8 (17) by vote of the Spokane tribal membership,
9 the Spokane Tribe has resolved that the payments
10 and land transfers made pursuant to this Act con-
11 stitute fair and equitable compensation for the past
12 and continued use of Spokane Tribal land for the
13 production of hydropower at Grand Coulee Dam.

14 **SEC. 3. PURPOSE.**

15 The purpose of this Act is to provide fair and equi-
16 table compensation to the Spokane Tribe for the use of
17 its land for the generation of hydropower by the Grand
18 Coulee Dam.

19 **SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.**

20 In this Act:

21 (1) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term “Adminis-
22 trator” means the Administrator of the Bonneville
23 Power Administration or the head of any successor
24 agency, corporation, or entity that markets power
25 produced at Grand Coulee Dam.

1 (2) COLVILLE SETTLEMENT AGREEMENT.—The
2 term “Colville Settlement Agreement” means the
3 Settlement Agreement entered into between the
4 United States and the Colville Tribes, signed by the
5 United States on April 21, 1994, and by the Colville
6 Tribes on April 16, 1994, to settle the claims of the
7 Colville Tribes in Docket 181–D of the Indian
8 Claims Commission, which docket was transferred to
9 the United States Court of Federal Claims.

10 (3) COLVILLE TRIBES.—The term “Colville
11 Tribes” means the Confederated Tribes of the
12 Colville Reservation.

13 (4) COMPUTED ANNUAL PAYMENT.—The term
14 “Computed Annual Payment” means the payment
15 calculated under paragraph 2.b. of the Colville Set-
16 tlement Agreement, without regard to any increase
17 or decrease in the payment under section 2.d. of the
18 agreement.

19 (5) CONFEDERATED TRIBES ACT.—The term
20 “Confederated Tribes Act” means the Confederated
21 Tribes of the Colville Reservation Grand Coulee
22 Dam Settlement Act (108 Stat. 4577).

23 (6) FUND.—The term “Fund” means the Spo-
24 kane Tribe of Indians Settlement Fund established
25 by section 5.

1 (7) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
2 the Secretary of the Interior.

3 (8) SPOKANE BUSINESS COUNCIL.—The term
4 “Spokane Business Council” means the governing
5 body of the Spokane Tribe under the constitution of
6 the Spokane Tribe.

7 (9) SPOKANE TRIBE.—The term “Spokane
8 Tribe” means the Spokane Tribe of Indians of the
9 Spokane Reservation, Washington.

10 **SEC. 5. SETTLEMENT FUND.**

11 (a) ESTABLISHMENT OF FUND.—There is estab-
12 lished in the Treasury of the United States an interest-
13 bearing trust fund to be known as the “Spokane Tribe
14 of Indians Settlement Fund”, consisting of—

15 (1) amounts deposited in the Fund under sub-
16 section (b); and

17 (2) any interest earned on investment of
18 amounts in the Fund.

19 (b) DEPOSITS.—From amounts made available under
20 section 11—

21 (1) for fiscal year 2006, the Secretary shall de-
22 posit in the Fund \$17,800,000; and

23 (2) for each of the 4 fiscal years thereafter, the
24 Secretary shall deposit in the Fund \$12,800,000.

1 (c) MAINTENANCE AND INVESTMENT OF FUND.—
2 The Fund shall be maintained and invested by the Sec-
3 retary in accordance with the Act of June 24, 1938 (25
4 U.S.C. 162a).

5 (d) PAYMENT OF FUNDS TO SPOKANE BUSINESS
6 COUNCIL.—

7 (1) REQUEST.—At any time after funds are de-
8 posited in the Fund, the Spokane Business Council
9 may submit to the Secretary written notice of the
10 adoption by the Spokane Business Council of a reso-
11 lution requesting that the Secretary pay all or a por-
12 tion of the amounts in the Fund to the Spokane
13 Business Council.

14 (2) PAYMENT.—Not later than 60 days after
15 receipt of a notice under paragraph (1), the Sec-
16 retary shall pay the amount requested to the Spo-
17 kane Business Council.

18 (e) USE OF FUNDS.—

19 (1) CULTURAL RESOURCE REPOSITORY AND IN-
20 TERPRETIVE CENTER.—

21 (A) IN GENERAL.—Of the initial deposit
22 under subsection (b)(1), \$5,000,000 shall be
23 used by the Spokane Business Council for the
24 planning, design, construction, equipping, and
25 continuing operation and maintenance of a Cul-

1 tural Resource Repository and Interpretive Cen-
2 ter to—

3 (i) house, preserve, and protect the
4 burial remains, funerary objects, and other
5 cultural resources affected by the operation
6 of the Grand Coulee Dam; and

7 (ii) provide an interpretive and edu-
8 cational facility regarding the culture and
9 history of the Spokane Tribe.

10 (B) EFFECT.—The funding under sub-
11 paragraph (A) does not alter or affect any au-
12 thority, obligation, or responsibility of the
13 United States under—

14 (i) the Native American Graves Pro-
15 tection and Repatriation Act (25 U.S.C.
16 3001 et seq.);

17 (ii) the Archaeological Resources Pro-
18 tection Act (16 U.S.C. 470aa et seq.);

19 (iii) the National Historic Preserva-
20 tion Act (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.); or

21 (iv) the National Environmental Pol-
22 icy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).

23 (2) OTHER USES.—Of all other amounts depos-
24 ited in the Fund (including interest generated on
25 those amounts)—

1 (A) 25 percent shall be—

2 (i) reserved by the Spokane Business
3 Council; and

4 (ii) used for discretionary purposes of
5 general benefit to all members of the Spo-
6 kane Tribe; and

7 (B) 75 percent shall be used by the Spo-
8 kane Business Council to carry out—

9 (i) resource development programs;

10 (ii) credit programs;

11 (iii) scholarship programs; or

12 (iv) reserve, investment, and economic
13 development programs.

14 **SEC. 6. PAYMENTS BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.**

15 (a) INITIAL PAYMENT.—On March 1, 2007, the Ad-
16 ministrator shall pay the Spokane Tribe—

17 (1) the amount that is equal to 29 percent of
18 the Computed Annual Payment for fiscal year 2005,
19 adjusted to reflect the change in the Consumer Price
20 Index for all urban consumers published by the De-
21 partment of Labor, from the date on which the pay-
22 ment for fiscal year 2005 was made to the Colville
23 Tribes to the date on which payment is made to the
24 Spokane Tribe under this subparagraph; and

1 (2) the amount that is equal to 29 percent of
2 the Computed Annual Payment for fiscal year 2006.

3 (b) SUBSEQUENT PAYMENTS.—On or before March
4 1, 2008, and March 1 of each year thereafter through
5 2033, the Administrator shall pay the Spokane Tribe the
6 amount that is equal to 29 percent of the Computed An-
7 nual Payment for the previous fiscal year.

8 (c) PAYMENT RECOVERY.—Pursuant to the payment
9 schedule in subsection (b), the Administrator shall make
10 commensurate cost reductions in expenditures on an an-
11 nual basis to recover each payment to the Tribe. The Ad-
12 ministrator shall include this specific cost reduction plan
13 in the annual budget submitted to Congress.

14 (d) SUNSET.—This section shall have no force or ef-
15 fect on and after the date that is 25 years after the date
16 of the enactment of this Act.

17 **SEC. 7. TREATMENT AFTER FUNDS ARE PAID.**

18 (a) USE OF PAYMENTS.—Payments made to the Spo-
19 kane Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5
20 or 6 may be used or invested by the Business Council in
21 the same manner and for the same purposes as other Spo-
22 kane Tribe governmental funds.

23 (b) NO TRUST RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SEC-
24 RETARY.—Neither the Secretary nor the Administrator
25 shall have any trust responsibility for the investment, su-

1 pervision, administration, or expenditure of any funds
2 after the date on which the funds are paid to the Spokane
3 Business Council or Spokane Tribe under section 5 or 6.

4 (c) TREATMENT OF FUNDS FOR CERTAIN PUR-
5 POSES.—The payments of all funds to the Spokane Busi-
6 ness Council and Spokane Tribe under sections 5 and 6,
7 and the interest and income generated by the funds, shall
8 be treated in the same manner as payments under section
9 6 of the Saginaw Chippewa Indian Tribe of Michigan Dis-
10 tribution of Judgment Funds Act (100 Stat. 677).

11 (d) TRIBAL AUDIT.—After the date on which funds
12 are paid to the Spokane Business Council or Spokane
13 Tribe under section 5 or 6, the funds shall—

14 (1) constitute Spokane Tribe governmental
15 funds; and

16 (2) be subject to an annual tribal government
17 audit.

18 **SEC. 8. REPAYMENT CREDIT.**

19 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall deduct
20 from the interest payable to the Secretary of the Treasury
21 from net proceeds (as defined in section 13 of the Federal
22 Columbia River Transmission System Act (16 U.S.C.
23 838k))—

24 (1) in fiscal year 2007, \$2,600,000; and

1 (2) in each subsequent fiscal year in which the
2 Administrator makes a payment under section 6,
3 \$1,300,000.

4 (b) CREDITING.—

5 (1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
6 graphs (2) and (3), each deduction made under this
7 section shall be—

8 (A) a credit to the interest payments oth-
9 erwise payable by the Administrator to the Sec-
10 retary of the Treasury during the fiscal year in
11 which the deduction is made; and

12 (B) allocated pro rata to all interest pay-
13 ments on debt associated with the generation
14 function of the Federal Columbia River Power
15 System that are due during the fiscal year.

16 (2) DEDUCTION GREATER THAN AMOUNT OF
17 INTEREST.—If, in any fiscal year, the deduction is
18 greater than the amount of interest due on debt as-
19 sociated with the generation function for the fiscal
20 year, the amount of the deduction that exceeds the
21 interest due on debt associated with the generation
22 function shall be allocated pro rata to all other inter-
23 est payments due during the fiscal year.

24 (3) CREDIT.—To the extent that a deduction
25 exceeds the total amount of interest described in

1 paragraphs (1) and (2), the deduction shall be ap-
2 plied as a credit against any other payments that
3 the Administrator makes to the Secretary of the
4 Treasury.

5 **SEC. 9. TRANSFER OF ADMINISTRATIVE JURISDICTION**
6 **AND RESTORATION OF OWNERSHIP OF LAND.**

7 (a) **TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.**—The Secretary
8 shall transfer administrative jurisdiction from the Bureau
9 of Reclamation to the Bureau of Indian Affairs over—

10 (1) all land acquired by the United States
11 under the Act of June 29, 1940 (16 U.S.C. 835d),
12 that is located within the exterior boundaries of the
13 Spokane Indian Reservation established pursuant to
14 the Executive Order of January 18, 1881; and

15 (2) all land on the south bank of the Spokane
16 River that—

17 (A) extends westerly from Little Falls
18 Dam to the confluence of the Spokane River
19 and Columbia River; and

20 (B) is located at or below contour elevation
21 1290 feet above sea level.

22 (b) **RESTORATION OF OWNERSHIP IN TRUST.**—All
23 land transferred under this section—

24 (1) shall be held in trust for the benefit and use
25 of the Spokane Tribe; and

1 (2) shall become part of the Spokane Indian
2 Reservation.

3 (c) RESERVATION OF RIGHTS.—

4 (1) IN GENERAL.—The United States reserves
5 a perpetual right, power, privilege, and easement
6 over the land transferred under this section to carry
7 out the Columbia Basin Project under the Columbia
8 Basin Project Act (16 U.S.C. 835 et seq.).

9 (2) RIGHTS INCLUDED.—The rights reserved
10 under paragraph (1) further include the right to op-
11 erate, maintain, repair, and replace boat ramps,
12 docks, and other recreational facilities owned or per-
13 mitted by the United States and existing on the date
14 of enactment of this Act.

15 (3) RETENTION OF NATIONAL PARK SYSTEM
16 STATUS.—

17 (A) IN GENERAL.—Land transferred under
18 this section that, before the date of enactment
19 of this Act, was included in the Lake Roosevelt
20 National Recreation Area shall remain part of
21 the Recreation Area.

22 (B) ADMINISTRATION.—Nothing in this
23 section affect the authority or responsibility of
24 the National Park Service to administer the
25 Lake Roosevelt National Recreation Area under

1 the Act of August 25, 1916 (39 Stat. 535,
2 chapter 408; 16 U.S.C. 1 et seq.).

3 (4) MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING.—The
4 cognizant agencies of the Department of the Interior
5 shall enter into a memorandum of understanding
6 with the Spokane Tribe to provide for coordination
7 in applying this subsection.

8 **SEC. 10. SATISFACTION OF CLAIMS.**

9 Payment by the Secretary under section 5 and the
10 Administrator under section 6 and restoration of owner-
11 ship of land in trust under section 9 constitute full satis-
12 faction of the claim of the Spokane Tribe to a fair share
13 of the annual hydropower revenues generated by the
14 Grand Coulee Dam project for the past and continued use
15 of land of the Spokane Tribe for the production of hydro-
16 power at Grand Coulee Dam.

17 **SEC. 11. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

18 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
19 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

20 **SEC. 12. PRECEDENT.**

21 Nothing in this Act establishes any precedent or is
22 binding on the Southwestern Power Administration, West-

1 ern Area Power Administration, or Southeastern Power
2 Administration.

Passed the House of Representatives July 25, 2005.

Attest:

Clerk.