



US Army Corps  
of Engineers®  
Portland District

# Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter

November  
2006

*A newsletter keeping you informed about upcoming meetings and providing updates as the Corps continues Celilo Village redevelopment.*

Celilo Falls long served as a trade center, sacred fishing ground and gathering place for the Northwest Indian tribes. When The Dalles Dam was constructed, the falls were flooded. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers provided a new location near the original falls, where about 50 people live in Celilo Village. Inadequate maintenance, as well as sanitary and water systems, caused public health and safety concerns to village residents.

To resolve these problems, the Tribes requested the Portland District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, to rebuild the village under the Columbia River Treaty Fishing Access Sites Project. Congress authorized the reconstruction of the village in March 2004, and the Corps expects construction to be completed by 2009.

## Construction begins

After years of planning, the excavators, dump trucks, and workers in hard hats and orange vests arrived at Celilo Village to begin constructing new sewage lagoons. Colville Tribal Services Corporation was awarded the contract for the first phase of redevelopment, which will construct new sewage lagoons, a water system and install temporary housing.

The Corps met with CTSC to outline its expectations for project success which included goals for safety, timeliness, sensitivity to cultural resources and communication. "A status report will be given at every Wy-Am Board meeting," said Corps project manager George Miller. He asked that people bring requests for information to Wy-Am Board meetings.

Miller asked residents to contact the Corps' onsite representative in the event of an emergency; if he or she is unavailable, to contact the contractor's onsite staff. A Corps representative will be onsite 90 percent of the time, Miller said. Art Harding, project manager for CTSC, introduced his key staff at the October board meeting: Denny Senters, project superintendent; Dave Whitelaw, alternate superintendent; and Lonnie Simpson, general foreman. Any of these staff members are available during an emergency.

In response to a question by board member and Celilo Village resident Bobby Begay about resident employment, Miller explained that the contract encourages hiring Native Americans, but that technical job requirements are a priority; the Corps can't require the contractor to hire specific people. Harding added that CTSC will try to hire the remaining construction staff through the employment officer and will give preference to village residents who have the needed skills. Miller will ask the Tribal Employment Rights Offices to post job notices at the village.

During this first phase of construction, up to 6000 cubic yards of rock may be removed from the new sewage lagoon area by blasting. The blasting plan must be reviewed by CTSC, ODOT, the Corps, and the railroad to ensure the safety of people and structures.



**CTSC crews excavate sandy material down to the underlying rock to form the new sewage lagoons beginning construction in early October.**



**Geoarchaeologist Michele Punke identifies a natural sediment deposit as part of the Corps ongoing work to protect the cultural resources.**

## New faces at Celilo



**At Left: Art Harding, left, project manager for CTSC and Denny Senters project superintendent.**



**At Right: Reed McDowell, left, Corps' administrative contracting officer and Dave Whitelaw, alternate superintendent for CTSC**

## Occupancy permits

The BIA's solicitor will have a draft lease agreement ready in mid-November, BIA realty specialist Lyle Fox told the Wy-Am Board. Fox said the BIA will provide a report at the November board meeting.

## Upcoming events

- November 23-26, 2006—Celilo Wy-am-pum Homecoming and Healing Encampment will be held at Celilo Park and village Longhouse. The event is planned to "recall the sights and sounds of the old village and falls." All are welcome. For more information contact: Lana Jack 541-475-2309, Se-ah-dom Edmo 503-256-2257 or [celilo2006@hotmail.com](mailto:celilo2006@hotmail.com).
- March 10, 2007—Celilo Falls 50 year flooding commemoration event is in the early planning stages by the Tribes and the board.

## Next Wy-Am Board meeting

**Thursday, November 30, 2006, 10 a.m.  
Celilo Village Longhouse, Elders Dining Hall**

- Phase I construction updates
- Phase II design updates and progress
  - House designs, community building
- PL 638 Contract for village operations and maintenance
- New residential units occupancy permits update
- 50 Year Celilo Falls flooding commemoration updates

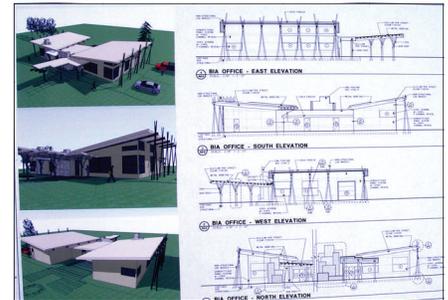
*The Wy-Am Board invites Celilo Village residents to attend meetings, participate in the process and provide comments.*

## Wyam Board Members

*Celilo Village:* Delilah Heemsah & Bobby Begay  
*CTUIR:* Antone Minthorn & Leo Stuart  
*CTWS:* Ron Suppah & Reuben Henry  
*YIN:* Leo Aleck

## The Community building

Architect Chuck Archer presented the new classroom and BIA building design. He says his design was inspired by historic photographs. For example, the entry porch roof is cantilevered like fishing platforms; the low sloped roof and the slaked concrete block emulate the tallis slopes behind the village.



The building will house a classroom with an eight-station computer lab, the BIA section three offices and a maintenance garage. Restrooms with outside access and showers separate the two sections. Drawings are displayed at the longhouse and residents' feedback is encouraged.

## Flora Thompson's house

Flora Thompson, wife of the late Chief Tommy Thompson, died in 1978 in a house fire. The burned remnants of her home were moved east of the village near the area being excavated for the new sewage lagoons.

With construction underway, the house remnants have been respectfully moved. A blessing was performed prior to moving the remnants.

The Celilo Village Redevelopment Newsletter is published by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Portland District, to keep residents and other interested members of the public informed of the Celilo Village redevelopment. For more information about this project, please contact George Miller at (503) 808-4704 or email [george.j.miller@usace.army.mil](mailto:george.j.miller@usace.army.mil). Portland District Commander: Col. Thomas O'Donovan  
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