



# NEWS RELEASE

Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation \* PO Box 5 Coulee Dam, WA 99116 \* (509)634-3200 \* Fax: (509)634-3258

**Contact: Troy Johnson**  
**Chief Executive Officer**  
**Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation**  
**(509) 634-3215**

## *Tribal Enterprise Receives Certification*

(Coulee Dam, Wash. August 17, 2009) – Colville Electrical Contractors (CEC), a wholly-owned subsidiary of Colville Tribal Enterprise Corporation (CTEC) recently obtained Disadvantaged Business Enterprise (DBE) and Minority Business Enterprise (MBE) certification from the Washington State Office of Minority and Women’s Business Enterprises (OMWBE).

Kary Nichols, director of Business Development, said “the Office of Minority & Women’s Business Enterprise indicated that the Colville Tribe is the first tribe in Washington State to obtain this certification for its construction company. There are many Native American individually owned businesses that are certified but the Colville Tribe remains in the forefront” A second application is pending for the Colville Tribal Services Corporation.

In order to obtain certification, the CTEC business development department submitted a voluminous application for CEC that had to meet strict eligibility requirements such as proof of Tribal ownership, size standards, management control, technical capability, past performance and financial strength. In addition to requesting documentary evidence, OMWBE management analyst performed an on-site visit and conducted interviews with key personnel at CTEC and its construction division.

The DBE/MBE status enables CEC to compete more effectively for electrical construction contracts with state agencies and for similar projects administered by the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) involving federal funds because a percentage of these federally funded contracts are set aside for these minority firms similar to the SBA 8(a) and HUBZone programs.

“What this does is it gives us another avenue for bidding work,” said Ken Hopkins, director of Colville Tribal Construction.

**(MORE)**

WSDOT highway projects, in particular, are seeing an influx of federal dollars through the American Reinvestment and Recovery Act (ARRA) authorized by the Obama administration.

CEC was formed earlier this year and is headquartered in Nespelem, Wash. The business employs approximately 22 people and provides low to medium voltage electrical construction, communication and underground distribution services.

###