

AEA Team Member		Other Party	
<b>Name:</b>	<i>Justin Hays, Cultural Resources Study Lead</i>	<b>Name:</b>	
<b>Organization:</b>	<i>Northern Land Use Research, Inc.</i>	<b>Organization:</b>	<i>AEA</i>
<b>Study Area:</b>	<i>AEA Office</i>	<b>Phone Number:</b>	<i>800-315-6338 code 3957#</i>
<b>Date:</b>	<i>September 7, 2012</i>	<b>Time:</b>	<i>9:03am to 11:37am</i>
Meeting held by: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AEA Team <input type="checkbox"/> Other Party			

**Others at meeting:**

Present:

Taylor Brelsford, URS

Bill Simeone, URS

Fran Seager-Boss, MatSu Borough

Kirby Gilbert, MWH

Betsy McGregor, AEA

Richard VanderHoek, OHA

John Jangala, BLM

By Telephone:

Chuck Mobley, CM & A

Scott Miller, NOAA

Angela Wade, Chickaloon

Katherine Martin, Ahtna

Dara Glass, CIRI

Frank Winchell, FERC

**Subject: Cultural Resources Study Plan Workshop**

**Discussion:**

Introductions around the conference room table and then teleconference participants. The URS/NLUR study team introduced themselves and led the discussion of their study plan and study efforts to date. General comments about the proposed study plan (PSP) were made with regards to up-coming milestones. Katherine asked if Ahtna would still be able to provide comments about our plan. Kirby informed her that they and all stakeholders can provide comments to the proposed study plan (PSP) filed with FERC and distributed to interested parties on July 16, 2012. The next step in the formal process is get all formal comments on the PSP by October 15th and then file an updated study plan, or Revised Study Plan (RSP) with FERC on November 14th after the comments have been addressed.

Angela asked if we had looked for culturally modified trees (CMT) this year. Justin described that the study group had looked and recorded two in the study area. None of the CMTs were the braided willow variety. It was agreed we need to incorporate the methods for recording CMTs in the RSP. John inquired how we planned to determine the meaning of some tree modification beyond bark stripping. We agreed it was a good question without a straightforward answer so some more follow up is needed.

Taylor gave the Project background to the meeting attendees. He defined what traditional cultural properties are, and other types of cultural resources such as prehistoric lithic scatter and historic mining claims. He informed the meeting attendees that we have a plan for inadvertent discoveries in the field regarding resources and human remains.

The direct impacts APE was described by AEA as the impoundment area and adjoining transportation and transmission facilities which are defined by three distinct corridors on the overall Project study area maps. The current plan is that the normal maximum impoundment area is planned at elevation 2050 feet ASL. The draft APE maps used the 2,200 foot elevation study boundary and thus this needs to be changed for the next series of maps. At this point in the Project planning process Kirby said they did not know of locations of future campgrounds, boat launches, etc. but they would likely be added after the recreation studies are complete and a recreation plan is developed, however the area we are tentatively planning as indirect should encompass likely locations of such future development. The transmission and road corridors themselves are buffered as an initial proxy indirect effects APE. They could be thought of in terms of a buffer around a narrow corridor that will contract as studies progress and things are better defined. We presented our 2-mile buffer map as a starting point of discussion. We all agreed that recreation trails should be drawn even though the data is incomplete and the indirect affect areas can extend along those trails possibly. It was also discussed that to refine the coarse 2-mile buffer, we should use sub-watershed drainage basin boundaries adjoining the Project features, as those would be likely locations where people in the future might move into (once the Project is built), centering on drainage courses and not necessarily over the top of ridge lines. Betsy mentioned we should also trim the buffer at the terminal ends of the corridors where they meet the railroad. The Denali Hwy Susitna Bridge was another area that will likely see increased use as an indirect result of the proposed project. John thought we should add trails that are near by the project area that may extend or reroute as an indirect result of the project. Richard asked how the permafrost would be affected due to the increase in temperature from adding a 39-mile lake. Betsy said mass wasting studies have been on going and are looking at those types of effects.

Land status was another topic discussed in the meeting. We were directed to make new maps with the most recent land status information and consider using with both topographic and aerial photograph backgrounds. Kirby showed examples of map panels being produced for the Revised Study Plan. Frank asked when we could have these new APE maps made, Taylor said by the end of next week. There was a question about if there are any 14h1 ANILCA selections that BLM is transferring to Ahtna within the study area. For those areas there was another question about whether BIA done any surveys on any of those or other conveyed lands? Katherine thought that Ahtna may have heard that there were some BIA surveys performed this summer in the region. Dara at CIRI also wondered about this and follow up with BLM and BIA is needed.

There was general discussion that the locational model needed to be described in more detail in the RSP. Frank said there was not enough information about how it will be used, reiterated, etc. Justin indicated we would improve and enlarge that section in the RSP. Frank asked when we will be producing the model as a geodatabase. Justin said it was already completed but that it still requires input from this year's data. Frank asked when that would be done? Frank then asked Richard if they would concur with our RSP or at least the APE definition prior to the FERC filing. Rich said that his office will be working with everyone as much as possible. Frank said that the APE can be modified after the 11/14 filing date but we just needed to go forward with the best APE we have from the information we presently have.

Ethnogeography was described by Taylor to all participants. The language areas were introduced: Ahtna, Tanana, and Dena'ina. Frank advised us to look where things are that might be affected in the cultural landscape. We agreed to make a new language area map that showed more of the arbitrary language family boundaries. We noted how the ethnogeography study will help inform not only the archaeological survey strategy but also the other disciplines such as wildlife, fish, stream, etc.

The topic of having area interns was introduced by Taylor. Justin said that the idea today was to come up with some ideas for internships. Both field and laboratory settings were suggested by Fran. John said in the lower 48 states he had hired area guides to be present in places where they thought they may encounter human remains during construction. Dara suggested our starting point should be to contact the Alaska Heritage Center in Anchorage.

Fran asked Betsy if she could see the study area this year before a snowpack develops. She asked if Justin would be willing to go in the field to show Fran the APE by air. Justin said yes and Betsy said she would see when the next opening on the helicopter schedule would be and get back with us.

**Action Items:**

1. Incorporate CMT recording methods in the RSP
2. Draw maps with the new 2050 ft. impoundment area elevation
3. Incorporate updates to the indirect effects to our buffer map
4. Use newer land status map with mining claims and ANCSA designations
5. Identify if there is any BIA surveys information on conveyed land
6. Combine maps to show intensively tested areas next to unsystematic surveys
7. Augment methods section in RSP to reflect locational modeling
8. Maps of survey area by type (pedestrian and aerial)
9. Create new language area maps with larger scale
10. Contact the Alaska Heritage Center for possible internship applicants
11. Schedule next meeting for 9/24 1-3pm
12. All new maps are due for circulation by 9/21
13. Schedule aerial survey of APE in September