



SUSITNA-WATANA HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

Cultural and Paleontological Resources Technical Working Group

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The 2012 investigations included a three-person archaeological crew with helicopter support working within the direct APE for 17 days. Results include:

- Inventory of 25 previously known sites
- Inventory of 3 previously unknown sites (of 28 total recorded sites, 19-federal, 3-state, 6-CIRI)
- Determination that location accuracy of previously known sites ranges from 0 up to 155 m (510') error
- Revisions to the site location model
- Section 106 survey of geotechnical borehole locations at dam site (in addition to the 17-day field survey)
- Compilation of paleontology background document

Input from the 2012 Cultural/Paleontological Technical Work Group meetings helped determine:

- Government and Native parties with interests in the studies;
- Concerns of property owners regarding trail use and land trespass;
- Native interest in recording culturally modified trees;
- Need to gather paleoenvironmental field data;

The 2013-2014 Study Plan for Cultural and Paleontological Resources is Approved by FERC and based upon:

- Input from Cultural/Paleontological Technical Work Group meetings during 2012
- Formal comments on the draft study plans in the form of the Proposed Study Plan (PSP) and Revised Study Plan (RSP)
- Results of 2012 archaeological reconnaissance in the study area
- Written regulatory guidance implementing federal, state, and local historic preservation laws and ordinances



Formal comments on the Proposed Study Plan (PSP) were received from:

- Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC)
- Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- Alaska Office of History and Archaeology/State Historic Preservation Officer (AOHA/SHPO)
- Matanuska-Susitna Borough
- Cook Inlet Regional Inc.
- Ahtna Inc.
- Chickaloon-Moose Creek Native Association, Inc.
- and other parties

Formal comments on the Revised Study Plan (RSP) were received from:

■ BLM

- Requested AEA evaluate National Register eligibility of sites adjacent to existing campsites along the Susitna River from the Denali Highway to the impoundment area
- Requested AEA evaluate National Register eligibility of sites adjacent to or directly impacted by off-highway vehicles (OHV) trails that currently access the impoundment area

■ CIRI

- Requested AEA to more explicitly address potential Dena'ina cultural resources in the study area
- Requested AEA to interview Dena'ina elders knowledgeable about cultural resources in the study area
- Requested AEA hold an elders conference for Dena'ina elders

FERC reviewed comments received on the RSP and requested it be modified to:

- Add interviews of knowledgeable Dena'ina elders as recommended by CIRI, and consult with CIRI to develop a study component for Dena'ina that parallels the study component identified for Ahtna
- Expand the inventory and evaluation process to include a sample of sites in the indirect APE, in a manner and schedule to be determined based on future study results

Cultural and Paleontological Resources Tasks in 2013

- **Task 1 – Project Management**
- **Task 2 – Archaeological Investigation**
- **Task 3 – Paleontological Investigation**
- **Task 4 – Ethnogeography Investigation**
 - Ahtna Component
 - Dena'ina Component
- **Task 5 – Paleoenvironmental Investigation**
- **Task 6 – 2013 Facilities Survey**
 - Camps
 - Geotechnical Drilling Locations