

**Susitna-Watana Hydroelectric Project
(FERC No. 14241)**

**Cultural Resources Study
Study Plan Section 13.5**

**Part D: Supplemental Information to
June 2014 Initial Study Report**

Prepared for

Alaska Energy Authority



SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO

Clean, reliable energy for the next 100 years.

Prepared by

URS Corporation

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November 2015

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1. INTRODUCTION

Section 1 (Part A) of the June 2014 ISR for this Cultural Resources Study (Study Plan 13.5) details the development of this study from the Revised Study Plan (RSP) in 2012, through the end of the 2013 study season. Section 7 of the ISR (Part C), filed in June 2014, sets forth AEA's plan and schedule, at that time, for completing this study and meeting the objectives of the RSP.

As detailed in Section 2.2 of the ISR Part D Overview, various circumstances have required AEA to extend the original timeframe for completing the Commission-approved Study Plan. However, AEA has made meaningful progress with this Study 13.5 since the filing of the ISR in June 2014. As detailed below, AEA's recent activities for Study 13.5 have consisted of the following:

- The study team completed the Holocene Landscape and Paleoenvironment Study.
- During a cultural resource site inventory on Cook Inlet Region Working Group (CIRWG) lands, the study team inventoried approximately 30 archaeological sites.
- On October 22, 2014, AEA held an ISR meeting for the Cultural Resources Study.
- The study team completed a 2014 year-end report for the Bureau of Land Management and the Alaska Office of History and Archaeology.
- The study team completed its assembly of Ahtna ethnographic and linguistic information to help inventory and evaluate historic properties.

The primary purpose of this Part D Supplemental Information to the ISR is to report on the implementation of the Study Plan from the filing of the ISR in June 2014, through the filing of this ISR Part D. In light of this additional implementation, this Part D also identifies AEA's plans for completing Study 13.5 in a manner that meets the objectives of the Commission-approved Study Plan.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1. Purpose of Study

The purpose of the Cultural Resources Study is to systematically inventory cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effects (APE), evaluate for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility the inventoried cultural resources within the APE that may be affected by the Project, and assess Project-related effects on National Register-eligible historic properties (NRHP) within the APE (36 CFR § 800.5). Information from this study will be used to develop a Historic Properties Management Plan for the appropriate management of historic properties affected by the Project.

2.2. Study Components

The Cultural Resources Study has three components:

- Inventory and Evaluation: Systematic inventory of archaeological and built cultural resources within the APE and NRHP evaluation of those that may be affected by the Project.
- Ethnogeography: Assembly of ethnographic and linguistic information to help inventory and evaluate historic properties—particularly Traditional Cultural Properties—that may be affected by the Project.
- Paleoenvironmental: A lake-coring effort to obtain environmental information for evaluating the prehistoric cultural resources in their temporal and ecological context.

3. STATUS, HIGHLIGHTED RESULTS, AND ACHIEVEMENTS

The following tasks were completed in 2013 and reported in Part A of the ISR for Study 13.5:

- Ethnogeographic information including a large Ahtna language place name database and atlas has been updated and integrated into site location models and geographic information systems databases.
- The archaeological investigation has recorded or re-recorded 167 Alaska Heritage Resource Survey (AHRS) sites in the direct APE, of which 85 are previously unknown cultural resources.
- The study team developed and tested a locational model to aid archaeological inventory of the study area.

The study team has completed the following activities for Study 13.5 since the June 2014 filing of the ISR:

- Fieldwork in 2014 allowed for the inventory of 30 sites on CIRWG lands that had not been previously accessible.
- The study team completed a paleoenvironment study, designed to determine the paleoclimate of the area and allow for context to other findings of the studies.

4. SUMMARY OF STUDY 13.5 DOCUMENTS

Since filing of the RSP in 2012, AEA and FERC have prepared several documents pertaining to this study. To aid review by FERC staff and licensing participants, each of these documents is listed below. Each of these documents is accessible on AEA's Project licensing website (<http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/type/documents/>) by clicking on the entry in the "Link" column in the table. In addition, these documents are available on FERC's eLibrary system (<http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/elibrary.asp>), in Docket No. P-14241.

Title	Date	Description	Link
13.5. Cultural Resources Study (Revised)	12/14/2012	This document presents the plan for this study, including goals,	RSP for Study 13.5

Title	Date	Description	Link
Study Plan)		objectives, the study area, and proposed study methods for cultural resources.	
FERC Study Plan Determination for Study 13.5	2/1/2013	This document presents FERC approval of Study 13.5, which approved AEA's Revised Study Plan with recommended adjustments.	FERC SPD for Study 13.5
Cultural Resources Study	4/25/2013	Report of 2012 field season filed by AEA.	Apr. 2013 Report for Study 13.5
Draft Initial Study Report for Study 13.5	2/3/2014	This draft of the ISR summarized the study methods and variances during the 2013 study season, and presented preliminary data collected for Study 13.5. This draft ISR was later republished as Part A of the final ISR.	Draft ISR for Study 13.5
Initial Study Report for Study 13.5	6/3/2014	This document is the Initial Study Report (Parts A, B and C) for Study 13.5. Part A republishes the Draft ISR. Part B identifies supplemental information and errata in Part A. Part C presents study modifications and plans for completing the study.	ISR Part A for Study 13.5 ISR Part B for Study 13.5 ISR Part C for Study 13.5
Initial Study Report Meetings, October 21, 2014 (Parts A and B)	11/15/2014	Transcripts and AEA's agenda and PowerPoint presentations for the ISR meeting concerning the Project cultural resources study filed by AEA.	Transcripts from ISR Meeting Materials from ISR Meeting

5. NEW STUDY DOCUMENTATION SUPPLEMENTING THE ISR

Because the work and data analysis for this study are ongoing as of the filing of this ISR Part D, AEA has not prepared an implementation report for this Study 13.5 at this time. Thus, no additional reports or documents are available to supplement the ISR for this Study 13.5.

6. VARIANCES

6.1. 2013 Study Season

The following variances are reported in the June 2014 ISR:

- The Study Plan (RSP Section 13.5.4.7) stated that all Traditional Cultural Properties information would be incorporated into a geodatabase. As of the June 2014 ISR, however, there was not sufficient data to support such a file.

- The Dena'ina ethnogeography component of the Study Plan (FERC February 11 SPD) was not initiated in 2013 due to ongoing discussions with CIRWG members.
- The study team received no responses to its recruitment and advertising efforts for the archaeological internship described in the Study Plan (RSP Section 13.5.4.11), so this program was not initiated in 2013.

6.2. 2014 Study Season

AEA encountered no variances when implementing this study in 2014.

7. STUDY PLAN MODIFICATIONS

7.1. Modifications Identified in ISR

Section 7 of the ISR (Part C) details modifications for this study following the 2013 study season. These modifications are generally summarized as follows:

- As explained in Section 1.3 of the ISR Part D Overview, AEA has added the Denali East Option road and transmission corridor to the study area. The addition of the Denali East Option expands the geographic scope of the archaeological investigation under the FERC-approved Study Plan.
- Adding the Denali East Option to the direct APE could affect the sequence of Phase I inventory and Phase II NRHP evaluation within some parts of the study area. The FERC-approved Study Plan indicated that Phase I inventory within the direct APE would be conducted prior to Phase II NRHP evaluation (RSP Section 13.5.4.5). The proposed Denali East Option creates the need for additional archaeological inventory to address the new lands being considered.

7.2. Modifications Identified since the June 2014 ISR

The following modification, added after the June 2014 ISR and prior to the 2014 field season, was implemented during the 2014 field season:

- As explained in Section 1.3 of the ISR Part D Overview, AEA removed the Chulitna Corridor from the survey area.

8. STEPS TO COMPLETE THE STUDY

In light of the variances and modifications described above, the steps necessary for AEA complete this study are summarized below. As necessary and appropriate, these steps have been updated from those appearing in Section 13.5 of the ISR (Part C).

- Inventory and Evaluation: Systematic inventory and evaluation of archaeological and built cultural resources within the APE that may be affected by the Project (RSP Sections 13.5.4.2, 13.5.4.3, 13.5.4.5 to 13.5.4.7).
- Ethnogeography: Assembly of ethnographic and linguistic information to help inventory and evaluate historic properties—particularly Traditional Cultural Properties—that may be affected by the Project (RSP Section 13.4.5.8). So far this has been accomplished for the Ahtna people, but the Dena’ina ethnogeography component of the Study Plan has not yet been initiated.