



SUSITNA-WATANA HYDRO

Meeting Notes Cultural Resources Technical Workgroup Meeting June 12, 2013

LOCATION: AEA Offices – Board Room
813 Northern Lights Blvd
Anchorage, AK

TIME: 1:00 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

SUBJECT: Quarterly Status of 2013 Studies

GoTo MEETING: <https://www4.gotomeeting.com/register/225935679>
1-800-315-6338 Code 3957#

Goal: Brief Licensing Participants on Progress and Plans for Implementation of Cultural and Paleontological Resources Studies

ATTENDEES: Richard VanderHoek ADNR/OHA, Justin Crowther AEA, Wayne Dyok AEA, Betsy McGregor AEA, Deborah Vo AEA, Sean Mack BIA, Charles Mobley Charles M. Mobley & Associates, Angie Wade Chickaloon Village, Dara Glass CIRI, Ellen Bechtel EPA, Tracie Krauthoefer HDR, Kirby Gilbert MWH, Heather Williams MWH, Justin Hays NLURA, Taylor Brelsford URS, Bill Simeone URS

ON PHONE: Shina duVall ADNR/SHPO, John Jangala BLM, Becky Long Coalition for Susitna Dam Alternatives, Frank Winchell FERC, Chuck Sensiba Van Ness Feldman, Jerzy Shedlock self

This was the second 2013 quarterly cultural resources Technical Working Group (TWG) meeting. The quarterly TWG meetings are intended to provide status on study plan progress, communication and discussion regarding any study plan variances that may be required given actual field conditions, and planned next steps.

The agenda, documents, and supporting presentations can be found on the meetings page at <http://www.susitna-watanahydro.org/>. These meeting notes are intended to supply information and significant consultation not included in the provided materials.

Following introductions and a brief overview regarding overall project status, presentations were made on the following studies:

- Archaeological Investigations;
- Ethnogeographic Studies;
- Paleoenvironmental Investigation;
- 2013 Study Facilities Survey; and
- Paleontological Inventory.

Project Status Overview (Kirby Gilbert MWH, Wayne Dyok AEA)

58 studies have been approved by FERC and are underway over the next two years. The next formal reporting will be February 3, 2014 with the submittal of the Initial Study Report (ISR).

Ongoing resolution of land access issues, late ice break-up and complex logistics are current challenges for all studies.

Archaeological Investigations (Justin Hays NLURA)

Archeological study team determined in 2012 that they could effectively find and inventory about 2 sites per day. Site locations listed in the state database have been found to be as much as 150 m off due to map scales available at the time, datum shifts that have occurred, etc. The 2013 field staff have been hired and are undergoing training. Focus will be the reservoir area first, then the Denali corridor, then Chulitna and Gold Creek. There was still significant snow on the ground during the mid-May recon, but team found caribou and caribou routes that will provide useful information. Safety protocols were discussed. Methodology behind model being developed to help predict site density across the Project area was discussed. Sean Mack requested that the model be ran without including the known sites as an input to be used as a potential indicator of model accuracy. A discussion of the notification tree in the Unanticipated Discoveries Plan led to the need for a follow-up meeting to evaluate potential modifications to that document for specific landowners. The current plan will be implemented on the federal and state lands surveyed.

Ethnogeographic Studies (Bill Simeone URS)

The Ahtna ethnogeography investigation is underway, using a shared leadership approach. Tape translation is a lengthy effort. Some study components have been rescheduled to 2014, but all components will be conducted. CIRI re-iterated that Chickaloon has Ahtna heritage even though they are affiliated with CIRI / Dena'ina. Study information is being provided to the recreation team.

Paleoenvironmental Investigation (Justin Hays NLURA)

Paleoenvironmental program is being conducted mostly by UAF researchers, in 2014. Lakes are targeted since the sediments tend to be less disturbed than terrestrial areas, but some terrestrial areas will be surveyed for comparison with historical analyses. Bathymetric surveys of selected lakes was rescheduled for 2014 as well. Discussion of likelihood of Pleistocene megafauna finds indicated that there have been recent finds and that similar conditions are likely to be encountered in the study area, especially the indirect APE.

2013 Study Facilities Survey (Chuck Mobley Charles M. Mobley & Associates)

Study Facilities Surveys are on an as-needed basis to satisfy Section 106, not a FERC license requirement, per se. To date no survey needs have been identified for 2013. Any sites that are surveyed would be documented in the Initial Study Report. There had been discussion at an earlier meeting of trenching and seismic stations that would require Section 106 surveys. AEA will provide status on those activities.

Paleontological Inventory (Justin Hays NLURA)

Paleontological study is planned for 2014.

Action Item**Responsibility**

AEA to provide Dara Glass CIRI with unredacted 2012 cultural resource report.	Betsy McGregor AEA
Justin Hays NLURA to provide Tracie Krauthoefer HDR and Brian Lawhead ABR with caribou mapping NLURA observed during spring recon.	Justin Hays NLURA
AEA to consider requiring all study teams to wear safety vests and easily visible team ID (color-coordinated t-shirts/hats) while in the field.	Wayne Dyok AEA
The team will replace use of the term “re-locate” with “ground-truth” or “confirm location” or “inventory” for clarity.	Everyone
A separate meeting will be held with all appropriate agencies and stakeholders, including Ahtna, to evaluate the Unanticipated Discoveries Plan, and modify it if needed to meet the needs of private landowners within the study area.	Betsy McGregor AEA
AEA will continue to outreach for current employment and internship opportunities with environmental contractors.	Betsy McGregor AEA
AEA will provide status to study team on whether trenching and seismic stations are going forward in 2013, and if they will need Section 106 surveys.	Betsy McGregor AEA