

# Initial Study Report Meeting

## *Study 13.5 Cultural Resources*

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# Study 13.5 Status

## ISR Documents:

- Initial Study Report: Parts A, B, and C (June 3, 2014)
- Initial Study Report: Part D (November 2015)

## Status:

- Completed the paleoenvironmental study
- Inventoried approximately 30 archaeological sites on Cook Inlet Regional Working Group (CIRWG) lands
- Submitted year end reports for the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and Alaska Office of History and Archaeology (OHA).
- Assembled Ahtna ethnogeographic and linguistic information to help inventory and evaluate historic properties, completed Ahtna ethnographic report

## *Study 13.5 Objectives*

- Consult with the SHPO, BLM, and Alaska Native entities during implementation of the cultural resources survey.
- Inventory cultural resources within the APE.
- Evaluate National Register eligibility of cultural resources within the APE that may be affected by the Project.
- Determine the potential Project-related effects on National Register-eligible historic properties within the APE.
- Develop information needed to prepare a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) for the Project.

## ***Study 13.5 Components***

- **Previous Surveys** (ISR Part A, Section 4.1; pg 4).
- **Locational Model of Survey Strategy** (ISR Part A, Section 4.2; pg 6).
- **Survey Strategy and Phasing of Field Investigations in the Direct APE** (ISR Part A, Section 4.3; pg 6).
- **Survey Strategy and Phasing of Field Investigation in the Indirect APE** (ISR Part A, Section 4.4; pg 8).
- **Mapping-Related Activities** (ISR Part A, Section 4.5; pg 8).
- **Ethnogeography-Related Activities** (ISR Part A, Section 4.6; pg 9).
- **Synthesis and Analysis Activities** (ISR Part A, Section 4.7; pg 10).
- **Unanticipated Discoveries Protocol** (ISR Part A, Section 4.8; pg 10).
- **Archaeological Internship and Additional Workforce** (ISR Part A, Section 4.9; pg 11).

## *Study 13.5 Variances*

- The Study Plan (RSP Section 13.5.4.7) stated that all Traditional Cultural Properties information would be incorporated into a geodatabase. To date, however, there has not been sufficient data to support such a file.
- The Dena'ina ethnogeography component of the Study Plan (FERC February 2013 SPD) has not yet been initiated; it will be completed in a future year of study.

# *Study 13.5 Summary of Results*

*(ISR Part A, Section 5 and ISR Part D, Section 3)*

## **Ethnogeography Study Results**

- Data collection for Ahtna component of the ethnogeography study has been completed.
- The Ahtna language place name database and atlas has been updated and integrated into site location models and geographic information systems databases.
- A final report on Ahtna ethnogeography study has been prepared.

# ***Study 13.5 Summary of Results in ISR***

## ***(ISR Part A, Section 5 and ISR Part D, Section 3)***

### **Archaeology Study Results**

- 2013 Archaeological investigation recorded or re-recorded 167 Alaska Heritage Resource Inventory (AHRS) sites in the direct APE, 85 of which are previously unknown cultural resources.
- 2014 fieldwork allowed for the inventory of 30 sites in CIRWG lands that had not been previously accessible.
- The study team completed the paleoenvironmental study, designed to determine the paleoclimate of the area and allow for context to other findings of the studies.
- The number of newly recorded sites is being compiled.

# *AEA's Proposed Modifications to Study 13.5*

## *(ISR Part D, Section 7)*

- The Chulitna Corridor was eliminated from the study area (ISR Part D Overview, Section 1.3) and the Denali East Corridor Option was added to the study area as an additional, alternative north-south corridor alignment for transmission line and road access from the dam site to the Denali Highway (ISR Part C, Section 7.1.2)
- Adding the Denali East Option could affect the sequence of Phase I inventory and Phase II NRHP evaluation within some parts of the study area. Some sites may be inventoried and evaluated at the same time, rather than seasonal phasing outlined in the Study Plan.



## *Steps to Complete Study 13.5 (ISR Part D – Section 8)*

To complete the study, AEA will implement the methods in the Study Plan, as follows:

- **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). The Dena’ina ethnogeography component of the Study Plan has not yet been initiated.

## *Licensing Participants' Proposed Modifications to Study 13.5?*

- Agencies
- CIRWG members and Ahtna
- Public