

blackBEAR Hydro Partners, LLC

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30 April 2013

Kimberly D. Bose, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, D.C. 20426

**RE: ANNUAL REPORT OF ACTIVITIES UNDER CULTURAL RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT PLANS DURING 2012
Stillwater Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2712 (Article 412)
Milford Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2534 (Article 415)
Veazie Hydroelectric Project, FERC No. 2403 (Article 416)**

Dear Secretary Bose:

Section II.D. of the Programmatic Agreement (PA) for each of the above-referenced projects and applicable license articles requires Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC (BBHP) (Stillwater and Milford Projects), and Penobscot River Restoration Trust (Trust) (Veazie Project) to file an annual report of activities conducted under the applicable Cultural Resource Management Plans with the Commission, Maine State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Penobscot Indian Nation (PIN) and U.S. Department of Interior Bureau of Indian Affairs (DOI).

Pursuant to Section II.D. for each project's PA, please find attached the Annual Reports for activities during 2012 associated with BBHP's Stillwater and Milford Hydroelectric Projects as well as the Trust's Veazie Hydroelectric Project. By copy of this letter we are also providing copies of each report to the SHPO, PIN, and DOI.

Please contact me at (207) 827-5364 with any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "S D Hall", written over a horizontal line.

Scott D. Hall
Vice President – Environmental & Business Services

Attachments

xc: A. Spiess, SHPO
C. Sockelexis, PIN
J. Kardatzke, DOI – BIA
R. Will, TRC
G. Aponte Clark, Trust

2012 Annual Report on Cultural Resources Management in Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC's Stillwater Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2712)

The cultural resources management plan (CRMP) for this project was accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on November 29, 1999. Extensive and intensive field survey has determined that there are no Historic Properties known in this project. No new properties have been uncovered since the date of the last annual report filing and this filing. If new properties should be discovered during the term of the project's license, Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC will take the appropriate measures as defined in the CRMP.

2012 Annual Report on Cultural Resources Management in Black Bear Hydro Partners, LLC's Milford Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2534)

The cultural resources management plan (CRMP) for this project was accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on November 29, 1999. Additional studies were scheduled for four Historic Properties located within the Milford Hydroelectric Project. They include the Beaver archaeological site (74.85), the Gut Island archaeological site (74.91), the Pea Cove Boom, and St. Anne's Church and Mission.

The Beaver site is a large campsite that spans as much as 8,000 years of human history. Phase I and Phase II archaeological studies and partial Phase III excavation of this site were completed by the University of Maine (UM). Personnel from Archaeological Research Consultants, Inc. (ARC Inc.) excavated 65 m² of the site during summer 2001. Analysis of the extensive collection of artifacts is underway and is being completed by Ms. Karen Mack and others from TRC Environmental Solutions. The large collection from this site documents that a wide variety of activities took place on this site. A brief amount of work was completed in 2009; Work in 2008 continued documentation and analysis of this collection and its significance to understanding Maine Precontact Period culture history. Work was on-going in 2012, especially in the interpretation of stratigraphy and identifying ways to combine past stages of work undertaken by the University of Maine with work completed by ARC. A final draft report is now in final editing and will be submitted to Dr. Arthur Spiess at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission in May 2013.

Permission to conduct additional field study of The Gut Island site was granted by the Penobscot Nation Tribal Council in 2003 and an additional 39 testholes were excavated at the island's north end to investigate the site's integrity. Most testholes contained artifacts to a maximum depth of 80 cm below surface. While most testholes showed disturbed stratigraphic profiles, a group of six showed that intact deposits remain on a portion of the north end of Gut Islands. Additional testing at the south end of the island has been planned for the southern end of Gut Island to confirm whether the site stratigraphy is badly disturbed and, if not, to develop a field plan for data recovery. Ms. Bonnie Newsom, who was the

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) for the Penobscot Nation, has resigned her position. The new THPO for the Penobscot Indian Nation is Mr. Chris Sockelexis. Consultation on this project will occur with him in 2013.

Mapping of the Pea Cove Boom is complete and a report has been completed on the boom complex. Additional mapping of boom structures that are submerged under the river, which constitutes preservation through documentation effort, was completed in 2011. A final report was submitted to the Maine Historic Preservation Officer in April 2012.

As indicated in previous reports, the mitigation plan for the St. Anne's Church and mission has been completed.

2012 Annual Report on Cultural Resources Management in Penobscot River Restoration Trust's Veazie Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 2403)

The cultural resources management plan (CRMP) for this project was accepted by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on November 29, 1999. Two Historic Properties are located within the Veazie Hydroelectric project. They include the Eddington Bend archaeological site (74.8) and the Meadow Brook archaeological site (74.61). The Eddington Bend site is a large campsite that spans approximately 5,000 years of prehistory. Phase I and Phase II archaeological studies and Phase III excavation of this site were conducted by the University of Maine (UM). Mitigation for this site involves cataloging, analyzing, and reporting on the data recovered during Phase III excavations, and annual monitoring of the site to determine whether the resource is experiencing erosion, vandalism, or other types of damage.

Responsibility for the cultural resources management of Site 74.8 has changed hands. The new owners are the Penobscot River Restoration Trust. A meeting was held on March 7, 2012 with George Aponte Clarke of the Trust, Scott Hall of Black Bear Hydro, and Richard Will of TRC Environmental, to discuss next steps for completing reporting on the Eddington Bend site. Recommendations for completing analysis of this site have been prepared in a report to the Trust for comment and review before forwarding it to Dr. Arthur Spiess of the Maine Historic Preservation Commission. It is anticipated that work on this project will continue in 2013.

The Meadow Brook site was previously determined to span approximately 5,000 years of human prehistory and it has received Phase I and Phase II analysis and reporting by UM. ARC, INC. personnel in June-July 2001 completed an additional 35 m² of excavation at the site. Stone tools, ceramics, calcined bone, historic artifacts, and lithic debitage were recovered. The majority of the cultural material appears to date to the Late Archaic Period (3,000 – 6,000 years before present). Cataloging and analysis of the extensive artifact collection is complete. Three cultural zones have been identified. Sites levels 1-4 relate to the Ceramic period and show that a wide range of human activity was occurring on site

during that period. Most of the chipped stone tools are associated with that period. The Late Archaic period is documented in site levels 5-7 by the presence of diagnostic chipped stone tools but it is not as well represented as the Ceramic period with respect to total number of artifacts recovered. The Early/Middle Archaic period is documented in site levels 8-14. Chipped stone tools are absent from the zone as they have been from other Precontact period sites in the area. Instead, some poorly-fashioned ground stone tools are present and more than 100 rounded pebbles and cobbles were recovered in discreet clusters. The unmodified stones were introduced onto the site by people rather than by natural agents. Similar collections have been noted at other sites within the Penobscot River drainage and in other drainages, such as the Saco. The materials recovered from the zone conform well to the concept of a Gulf of Maine Archaic Technological tradition. Results of this work expand and provide greater depth to understanding the long culture history of Native American people who lived in the region. More work needs to be completed on stratigraphic analysis and in obtaining two radiocarbon dates from charcoal samples collected in lower portions of the site. The dates will help to correlate stratigraphic deposits and to provide dates for some of the artifact associations believed to be Middle Archaic period or older in age. Final editing of the report is in progress and a draft report will be submitted to Dr. Arthur Spiess at the Maine Historic Preservation Commission for review and comment in May 2013.