

Mountain Valley Pipeline Project

Docket No. CP16-10-000

Attachment DR5 Cultural 1a



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EEO/AA Employer

March 13, 2017

Ms. Megan Landfried Neylon
Senior Environmental Coordinator
Mountain Valley Pipeline, LLC.
625 Liberty Avenue, Suite 1700
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania 15222

RE: Mountain Valley Pipeline Project
Phase II Archaeological Investigations – Monroe and Summers Counties, WV
FR# 15-67-MULTI-34

Dear Ms. Landfried Neylon:

We have reviewed the technical report documenting Phase II archaeological investigations conducted on sites in Monroe and Summers Counties, WV. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, U.S. 36 CFR § 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

The Phase II report documents National Register evaluations that were conducted on sites 46SU717, 46SU78, 46SU724, 46ME285, 46ME307, 46ME281, 46ME283 and 46ME284. In general, field work consisted of the excavation of close interval shovel probes and 1x1 meter test units. Controlled surface collection was conducted at 46ME281 in lieu of some shovel probe excavation, while sites 46SU78 and 46ME281 also underwent mechanical plowzone stripping to determine the presence of features. Upon its review, we find the report provides a thorough discussion of the results of the Phase II field work.

At the end of the Phase II investigations, sites 46SU717, 46SU78, 46ME283 and 46ME284 are described as prehistoric lithic scatters where various lithic reduction activities occurred. Site 46SU717 also produced fragments of a horse bridle, but no other historic era artifacts. Formal tools, including diagnostic projectile points/knives, were recovered from all but 46ME284; however, all artifacts were recovered from plowzone deposits. Although data were recovered that broadly support our understanding of lithic technology, no cultural features or stratified deposits were identified and no evidence was recovered that would add to our understanding of subsistence patterns or the cultural chronology of the area. As a result, we concur that 46SU717, 46SU78, 46ME283 and 46ME284 are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that no further work is necessary.

Sites 46SU724 and 46ME281 contain multiple components dating to the historic and prehistoric periods. The historic components are comprised of negligible, light artifact scatters that lack association with structural remains and other cultural features and most likely represent refuse disposal or casual discard. The prehistoric components consist of large, multicomponent lithic scatters that produced multiple tools, including projectile points/knives diagnostic of the Early Archaic through Woodland periods. Site 46SU724 also produced two grit tempered ceramic sherds. However, all artifacts were recovered from the mixed Ap soil horizon or the interface of the plowzone with the stratum below. In addition, no prehistoric cultural features or evidence for artifact

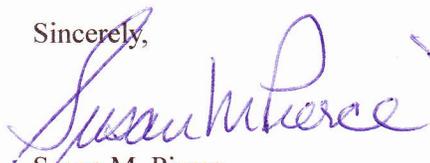
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patterning were identified. Nor were botanical or faunal remains recovered. While the lithic assemblage indicates that middle and late stage reduction occurred at these site locations, technological changes that may have occurred through time cannot be investigated because of the intermixed nature of the deposits. As a result, we concur that sites 46SU724 and 46ME281 are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

Site 46ME285 is described as a late 19th century refuse deposit with a negligible, low-density lithic scatter. While 46ME307 is interpreted as an historic era homestead dating to the late 19th to early 20th centuries that also produced a negligible, low density lithic scatter. Architectural debris recovered from 46ME285 during the Phase I survey suggested the possibility that structural feature may be present. However, further investigation of this site failed to identify cultural features or structural remains. Phase I investigations at site 46ME307 identified a dry-laid, cut stone foundation in association with the historic era artifact scatter. Although the builder's trench was identified and explored during the Phase II and additional artifacts were recovered, no other cultural features or structural remains were identified. Nor were botanical or faunal remains or evidence for stratified deposits or horizontal patterning recovered. As a result, we concur that sites 46ME285 and 46ME307 are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. *If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Lora A. Lamarre-DeMott, Senior Archaeologist, at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,



Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/LLD