



The Culture Center
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EEO/AA Employer

August 15, 2016

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 – Webster County, WV
FR# 15-67-MULTI-23

Dear Ms. Landfried Neylon:

We have reviewed the technical report documenting Phase II archaeological investigations conducted four sites in Webster County, WV: 46WB407, 46WB414, 46WB416 and 46WB433. 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.

Site 46WB407 was initially interpreted as an historic era domestic site possibly dating from 1830 into the twentieth century. Phase II investigations determined the site consists primarily of secondary deposits related to a former residence and community store that was located approximately 30 meters east of the site and outside the Area of Potential Effect (APE). Despite the presence of early ceramics, the residence was occupied from the late nineteenth century until it burned in 1955/56. An isolated prehistoric artifact was also recovered. No intact cultural features were identified, nor were stratified deposits encountered. Site 46WB414 is a diffuse, low density lithic scatter with occupations dating to the Early Archaic, Late Archaic and Woodland Periods. The site also produced a negligible scatter of historic era artifacts. Two basin-shaped hearths were identified, one of which provided two Early Woodland Period dates. In general, the artifacts, which include nutting stone fragments, utilized flakes and a hammerstone, are consistent with late stage lithic reduction or tool maintenance activities and are possible associated with hunting. However, it is our understanding that the assemblage is intermixed and lacks integrity. Site 46WB416 is an artifact scatter with intermixed components dating to the prehistoric and historic periods. The historic component may be associated with a nearby farmstead, while the prehistoric component includes occupations dating to the Late Archaic, Late Woodland and Late Prehistoric Periods. Phase II investigations did not result in the identification of cultural features or stratified deposits. Site 46WB433 is a diffuse low density lithic scatter intermixed with a sparse scatter of historic era artifacts. The site lacks cultural features and stratified deposits. As a result, we concur with your determination that sites 46WB407, 46WB414, 46WB416 and 46WB433 are not eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places and that no further work is necessary for these sites.

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