Action: Phase I Archaeological Survey – Franklin

Prerequisite Actions: none

Action Description:

Conduct a Phase I archaeological survey of the lake's shoreline, including assessing impacts of shoreline erosion and assessing potential for sites in flood pool and plans for future surveys during drawdowns.

Applicable Hydro Projects/Developments:

Franklin (Lake Emory)

I. Objective

Identify archaeological and historic sites located within the project's area of potential effect (APE). Identify impacts to these sites resulting from erosion. Develop recommendations for additional studies.

II. Basis

FERC requires applicants to address historic properties in Exhibit E of the license application (18CFR4.51.f.4). Requirements for consideration of cultural resources are further spelled out in the implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (36 CFR Part 800).

In response to the Initial Stage Consultation Package for the Franklin project, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) recommended that NP&L survey the shoreline of Lake Emory to identify any archaeological or historic sites. Further, the NCSHPO recommended that NP&L assess the affects of erosion on archaeological or historic sites, assess the probability for additional sites located in the floodpool of the project and, based upon these results, recommend additional studies.

III. Geographic and Temporal Scope

As requested by the NCSHPOs, surveys will be conducted in the APE for the Franklin project. The APE for each development is defined as the geographic area that is affected by the project and its operations. The APE includes lands permanently inundated by the project, areas subject to erosion due to reservoir drawdowns, lands containing recreational areas required by the project license and lands within the project boundary.

The Franklin project is operated as a run-of-river project with no annual drawdown. Duke Power owns little land above the full-pond contour of the reservoir. This greatly limits the amount of land area that can be surveyed during normal operations.

IV. Approach and Analysis

Legacy Research Associates, Inc. developed the survey methodology detailed below.

The field investigations and technical reports for the Franklin relicensing project will meet the qualifications specified in the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archeology and Historic Preservation (Federal Register 48). All cultural materials collected and curated, along with all records of this project, shall be cared for in accordance with the requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 79. The Project Manager/Project Director performing the cultural resource investigations will meet or exceed the qualifications described in the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards (48 FR 44738-9).

GOALS

The primary goal of the archaeological survey will be to discover, inventory, and evaluate the significance of archaeological sites located along the shoreline of Lake Emory.

The inventory of archaeological sites will be structured to provide an assessment of current site conditions, a determination of ongoing factors affecting site condition, and an evaluation of the preservation potential of particular sites.

Specific goals of the project that have been stipulated in the scope of work include the following:

(1) Assess the effects of erosion resulting from wave action and annual drawdowns on any sites identified during the survey.

(2) Provide a preliminary assessment for the potential of sites located within the floodpool and recommendations for surveys in the floodpools during planned drawdowns.

The archaeological survey Lake Emory presents an opportunity to find information that may be able to address research questions that have regional and local importance, such as cultural/historical sequences and models of site location, site selection, and settlement pattern in southwestern North Carolina.

METHODS

The goals of the Phase 1 archaeological survey will be addressed through archival research, archaeological fieldwork, and laboratory analysis. All work will be conducted in a manner that meets the standards specified by the North Carolina Department of Cultural Resources. The methodologies employed in different stages of this research are detailed below.

BACKGROUND RESEARCH

The background research for the archaeological survey will be initiated by conducting a thorough review of state and local survey data. These include the site inventory and National Register files at the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology in Asheville and Raleigh, and, if relevant, records at the North Carolina State Library and local county records. Research will also be conducted at federal, local and county agencies. The purpose of the background research is twofold: the first is to compile sufficient and appropriate information to understand the historic context of any properties identified during the survey, and the second is to compile and assess existing cultural resource data pertinent to the survey area.

Other sources of information that will provide valuable assistance while attempting to discover historic period archaeological resources include the following:

- unpublished survey notebooks, maps, and property valuations generated by the 1830’s Cherokee removal

- early to middle 20th century topographic and property maps

Archival materials that relate to Anglo-American occupations in the study area are prodigious and a complete review of these materials will not be attempted. Similarly, no attempt will be made to secure oral histories or interviews of local individuals who are knowledgeable about the history of the project area prior to reservoir impoundment. Such research would certainly yield vast amounts of information concerning pre-reservoir communities and households, but would require an effort beyond the scope of the current project.

ARCHAELOGICAL SURVEY METHODS

Lake Emory is a run-of-the-river reservoir with no drawdown of the water level. The survey area will be restricted to those lands owned by Duke Power. Lake Emory is considered to have a high probability for archaeological sites. Several significant archaeological sites are already known to exist along Lake Emory.

The archaeological survey methodology is outlined below. The purpose of the survey methodology will be to determine the presence or absence of prehistoric and historic archaeological resources within the archaeological survey area. The surveys are intended to provide an inventory of all archaeological resources within the selected survey areas and an evaluation of those sites that do not contain intact deposits. If sites that appear to contain potentially significant information are located, a more intensive testing program will be recommended to determine eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places.

Previous archaeological research in the vicinity of Lake Emory has resulted in the identification of three significant archaeological sites within or near the study area for this project. These include Nikwasi Mound, Watagua Mound and the Fox Site:

- Nikwasi Mound (31Ma1) is located at the project terminus just above Mile 117. The mound was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1980. The village of Nikwasi was a major settlement among the Cherokee Middle Towns. The Cherokee town of Nikwasi is believed to have covered one hundred acres in the floodplain of the Little Tennessee River. The mound, which has not been excavated, was located in the center of the village.
- Watagua Mound (31Ma4) is located on the west bank of Lake Emory approximately midway between Mile 114 and Mile 113. The mound was excavated by the Smithsonian Institution in 1937.
- The Fox Site (31Ma185) is located on the west bank of Lake Emory at Mile 116. Archaeological investigations at this site have found that numerous archaeological features (burials, postmolds, hearths, cooking pits, structure entrance trenches and floors), as well as crushed pottery and soapstone vessels.

Due to the number of significant archaeological sites in the proximity of Lake Emory, intensive survey work is appropriate for this project. However, because there is no drawdown and there is little property owned by Duke Power that is not inundated, the survey methodology detailed below may be limited to a few areas. For those portions of the shoreline without any associated uplands owned by Duke Power, the survey will be restricted to a visual inspection of the shoreline to locate surface collections and identify areas with erosion.

The survey strategy for Lake Emory, where there are lands that are not inundated by the project, consists of close-interval surface reconnaissance and shovel testing in areas not covered by silt or disturbed by modern development. Cut banks, exposed ground surfaces, and other eroded features will be examined. Shovel tests will be excavated at 20-meter (65-foot) intervals in high probability areas. Shovel tests will measure approximately 40 cm in diameter and will be excavated to sterile subsoil. All excavated material will be sifted through ¼-inch hardware mesh. The soil color and texture, as well as notes on the stratigraphic relationship of the artifacts, if recovered, will be recorded for all shovel tests. When archaeological materials are encountered, additional shovel tests will be excavated to ascertain site integrity and artifact density, and to gather preliminary information on cultural affiliation and age of site. See site assessment methodology below.

SITE ASSESSMENT METHODOLOGY

When sites are discovered, the survey interval will be reduced to three meters in order to establish site limits, increase artifact samples and establish artifact density, and to assess the contextual integrity of discovered sites. The preliminary assessment of archaeological sites will consist of the delineation of site boundaries that will be marked with pin flags before artifacts are recovered. The maximum length and width of each site will be measured and recorded. Site dimensions and elevations will be recorded on standardized field forms along with sketch maps of site settings and notations regarding landform setting, site aspect, temporal affiliations and density of observed materials, site condition, and nature of site deposits. Representative soil profiles exposed in the shovel tests at each site will be recorded by measured field sketches with notations of soil color, texture, and content.

Subsequently, artifacts will be collected from the surface to establish site function and chronology. Surface collection strategies will be context specific and will vary between prehistoric and historic components. For prehistoric contexts, an effort will be made to recover all temporally or functionally diagnostic artifacts (e.g. projectile points and other lithic tools; ceramic sherds) visible on site surfaces, as well as a sample of lithic debitage representative of the full range of raw materials and debris types. Locations exhibiting unusually high frequencies of lithic debitage will be sampled by complete collection of two-meter square units in order to provide a measure of artifact density. Fire-cracked rock will be noted in terms of presence and relative density, but will not be recovered. For historic aboriginal contexts, all diagnostic materials (e.g. aboriginal ceramics, commercially manufactured items) will be recovered. For historic Anglo-American contexts, which will be characterized by extremely high densities of diagnostic materials, a sample of artifacts representative of the full temporal and functional range will be collected.

Site surfaces will also be examined for evidence of exposed middens, pit features, architectural elements, and any other human-made facilities. Potential midden deposits, pit features, and postmolds observed on sites in the project area will be tested with a small diameter (1 inch) soil tube sampler in order to confirm the identification of the contexts and to determine the depth and stratigraphic profiles of such deposits. These discrete contexts will be measured and their positions recorded on the site sketch maps. In most instances, a photographic record will also be made to document discrete contexts.

Historic Anglo-American sites will be frequently indicated by the presence of architectural ruins or associated structural elements (i.e. chimney piles, structural foundations, bridge emplacements, roads, etc.). These ruins and facilities will be documented by photography, mapping, and measurement.

During the survey, exposed river banks and other profiles will be inspected in order to document alluvial stratigraphy and buried archaeological contexts (e.g. occupational surfaces, middens, pit features) exposed by stream meander or bank collapse. Stratigraphic profiles will be troweled, drawn to scale, and photo-documented in order to demonstrate the presence of buried deposits within the project area.

DATA ANALYSIS

All recovered artifacts will be cleaned and conserved in a manner appropriate to assure their stability. All diagnostic artifacts will be fully provenienced and labeled. The cultural and temporal affiliation, material of manufacture, style, function, and form of recovered artifacts will be identified to the fullest extent possible.

All archaeological sites located during the survey will be given a permanent state site number obtained from North Carolina State Archaeology Office and archaeological site forms will be prepared and submitted to Duke Energy. All archeological data and field notes will be submitted to the Museum of the Cherokee. A copy of all field notes will also be submitted to the North Carolina Office of State Archaeology Research Center (OSARC), the state repository for archaeological materials.

REPORT PREPARATION

All information submitted in the technical report will be factual and sufficiently complete to enable Duke Power and the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office to perform the necessary reviews. Duke Power will provide a copy of both the draft and final reports to the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians.

The report will detail findings and recommendations for additional studies. All reports and documents shall be provided in both hard copy and electronic formats.

V. Schedules and Required Conditions

Since the project is a run-of-river project, there are no annual peak drawdowns. Therefore, the survey can be conducted at any time of the year. In order to proceed in a timely and efficient manner, the surveys will be conducted in conjunction with the surveys of Bear Creek Reservoir and Wolf Creek Reservoir. These surveys will begin during the first week of February.

VI. Results

The results of the study will determine what types of additional surveys need to take place and directly affect any cultural resources management plans developed for the project.

VII. Participants

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Other Participants	Eastern Band of Cherokee	Brian Burgess	828.488.5637	B_bur_gess@yahoo.com
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VIII.Expected Benefits

The Phase I archaeological survey will result in the identification of all archaeological sites adjacent to the shoreline. This knowledge is critical to compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

IX. List of Attachments

X. List of References