

Action: Phase I Archaeological Survey – Nantahala **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:

Nantahala

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 and recreational use of the shoreline. 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 Nantahala project, the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NCSHPO) identified two previously recorded archaeological sites within the immediate area. The NCSHPO recommended that Duke Power survey the shoreline of the project to identify additional archaeological or historic sites. Further, the NCSHPO recommended that Duke Power 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.

The United States Forest Service (USFS) manages the Nantahala Forest adjacent to Nantahala Lake. The USFS has recommended that Duke Power also evaluate the impacts to archaeological and historic sites from recreational use of shoreline areas.

III. Geographic and Temporal Scope

The surveys will be conducted in the project's APE. The APE for Nantahala 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 project boundary extends 10 vertical feet above the full pond elevation of Nantahala Lake.

IV. Approach and Analysis

The survey methodology will be developed by an experienced archaeological consultant retained by Duke Power in consultation with the NCSHPO, the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians (EBCI),

the USFS and other interested parties. The primary goal of the survey will be to locate all archaeological sites that are located along the shoreline of Nantahala Lake. Sites that are located during the survey will be evaluated to provide a preliminary determination of their significance; additional investigations may be recommended for sites that appear to be significant or that extend beyond Duke Power's properties. Secondary goals of the study will be to evaluate the impacts of erosion resulting from reservoir drawdowns and impacts resulting from recreational use of the shoreline by boaters, anglers and others on sites.

Prior to initiating archaeological surveys, the consultant will review the results of studies that have already been conducted including USFS archaeological investigations of the Nantahala Lake shoreline.

All archaeological data that is collected during the archaeological surveys will be provided to the Museum of the Cherokee. The results of the survey will be documented in a report that will be provided to the NCSHPO, the EBCI and the USFS. Due to the sensitivity of such information, site location data will not be available to the public; however, basic background information and historic context information may be provided.

Phase I archaeological surveys will be conducted for the shoreline areas of Nantahala Lake only. Three additional impoundments, Dick's Creek, Diamond Valley and White Oak Creek are included in the Nantahala project; however, the NCSHPO has stated that these impoundments are unlikely to contain archaeological sites. Archaeological surveys will not be conducted for areas associated with the tunnels and penstocks as no ground-disturbing activities are planned for these areas. No archaeological investigations are planned for the by-passed reaches of the Nantahala. By-pass flows in the river appear to be confined to the river channel where the potential for archaeological sites is low.

V. Schedules and Required Conditions

The surveys will be timed to coincide with the maximum drawdown of the reservoir. Generally speaking, this is during the month of December. Conducting the surveys during the maximum drawdown provides the greatest opportunity to survey the maximum amount of land. The current schedule is for the fieldwork to take place in December, 2001.

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

	Organization	Name	Phone #	E-Mail
NP&L Lead	Resource Management	Jennifer Huff	704.373.4392	jrhuff@duke-energy.com
Agency Contacts	NCSHPO	Renee Gledhill-Early	919.733.4763	rgledhill-earley@ncsl.dcr.state.nc.us
	USFS	Rodney Snedecker	828.257.4255	Rsnedecker@fs.fed.us

NP&L Supporting Consultant	TBD			
Other Participants	Eastern Band of Cherokee	Brian Burgess	828.488.5637	B_bur_gess@ yahoo.com

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. This information may also lead to a greater understanding of the cultural and historical settlement patterns of southwestern North Carolina.

IX. List of Attachments

X. List of References