



Meeting Notes

Project: Loup River Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 1256	
Subject: Study 11 – Section 106 Compliance	
Meeting Date: May 5, 2009 10:00 PM – 3:00 PM	Meeting Location: Loup Power District Offices – Columbus, NE
Notes by: HDR	

Attendees:

Jessie Nunn, NSHS
Jill Dolberg, HSHS
Neal Suess, LPD

Ron Ziola, LPD
Mike Madson, HDR
George Waldow, HDR

Lisa Richardson, HDR

A meeting was held between Loup Power District and the Nebraska State Historical Society (Nebraska SHPO) to discuss Study 11.0 – Section 106 Compliance from the District's Proposed Study Plan associated with relicensing the Loup River Hydroelectric Project. Discussion is summarized by agenda topic below.

Meeting Agenda:

1. Relicensing Process
2. Project Background
3. Study Plan
 - Study Goals & Objectives
 - Study Tasks
 - Phase Ia Report
 - Phase I Archaeological Inventory
 - Historic District Documentation Package
4. Consultation Products
5. Pawnee Dredge Replacement
6. Tour of Hydroelectric System

Discussion:

1. Relicensing Process

HDR provided a brief overview of the relicensing process (see attached graphic). Key points in the process related to Section 106 compliance:

- Discuss study plan and determine if it meets the needs of SHPO for Section 106 compliance (5/5/09).
- Opportunity for SHPO to file formal comments on proposed study plan (6/26/09)
- District revise as needed and submit with Revised Study Plan (7/27/09).
- Conduct study and prepare reports (Fall 2009 to Summer 2010).
- Incorporate information from studies into the License Application (application submitted 4/16/2012)

It was noted that FERC has sent letters to tribes regarding consultation for Project relicensing; however, FERC also expects applicants to coordinate separately with the tribes. There are six tribes with potential

interest in this project: Omaha Tribe of Nebraska, Pawnee Tribe, Ponca Tribe of Nebraska, Ponca Tribe of Oklahoma, Santee Sioux Tribe, and Winnebago Tribe. FERC has received correspondence from the Ponca Tribe of Nebraska and the Winnebago Tribe indicating they have no comment or will not participate in the relicensing. The District has sent letters to the six tribes and has not received any responses regarding interest in the relicensing; however, they will keep trying to contact the tribes.

2. Project Background

The District provided a brief overview of the Project, including descriptions of the following: project headworks (diversion weir, sluice gates, intake structure), settling basin & Pawnee Dredge, Monroe Powerhouse, Lake Babcock & Lake North, Columbus Powerhouse, and the tailrace. The District noted that they are not proposing any operational changes or construction as part of the relicensing.

HDR provided a summary of the historic context of the Project: It was constructed in the early 1930s as a PWA project and is considered to be a district eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Additionally, there are 13 archaeological sites in the vicinity of the project that have been recorded since the 1930s. Pre-contact and historic-period sites were encountered during the project construction; some were excavated by archaeologists from the University of Nebraska. The sites are related to the historic-period settlement of the vicinity by the Pawnee, who lived in and around Genoa in the latter half of the 19th century. One of the sites is listed on the NRHP, and another appears to be eligible.

3. Study Plan

Study Goals & Objectives

The group reviewed the Goals and Objectives as described in Study 11. The SHPO agreed that the goals and objectives are appropriate and no revisions are needed.

Study Tasks

HDR identified the major tasks identified in Study 11:

Phase IA Archaeological Overview

Conduct archaeological overview to document the known resources in the vicinity of the Project and provide recommendations for additional archaeological fieldwork within the Project Boundary. HDR indicated that there appear to be few areas that are undisturbed and thus fit for archaeological survey.

Phase I Archaeological Inventory

Conduct archaeological field studies for the areas within the APE identified in the Phase IA investigation and document the results.

Ethnographic Documentation

In coordination with Native American tribes, document any known places of traditional religious or cultural importance within the APE.

Historic District Documentation Package

Prepare an inventory and evaluate the potential historic district in accordance with federal and state guidelines and prepare a documentation package. It is anticipated that the package would include 35mm photos documenting the representative features as well as some of the original engineering drawings. The District noted that they have prepared a book, *Power and Progress*, documenting the history of the Project and they also have videotaped interviews with local residents recounting their memories of construction of the Project.

SHPO asked if the District had considered getting the project listed on the NRHP and noted the potential benefits as:

- Publicity
- Education tool
- Federal tax breaks (does not apply to the District)
- National recognition

The District indicated that they have not considered listing the project in the NRHP.

It was noted that the studies would be completed between August 2009 and August 2011. SHPO agreed that the study tasks are appropriate. SHPO will provide the District with an example documentation package from the NPPD project listing and will also look for an example documenting a linear district.

4. Consultation Products

Two consultation products will be prepared as part of Project relicensing:

- Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP)
- Programmatic Agreement (PA)

The HPMP will outline the activities that would require future consultation with SHPO and will be prepared and submitted with the license application. FERC uses a standard PA that will also be prepared and submitted with the license application.

5. Pawnee Dredge Replacement

The District indicated that they are planning to replace the Pawnee dredge with the intent of having a new dredge operational by spring or fall 2011. The District indicated that the existing dredge requires constant maintenance, that the exterior housing is essentially the only original equipment on the dredge, and the dredge has probably already exceeded its useful life. In addition, a new dredge is needed to be able to continue to pump sand onto the North Sand Management Area, as the height of this area increases every year.

The District provided a brief description of the current dredge and dredging operation:

- Dredge is a “dustpan” dredge which uses jets of water to loosen sediment rather than a cutter head
- Dredging occurs in the spring (March – June) and fall (August-October)
- During the dredging season, the dredge operates 24 hours a day/7 days a week
- Dredge currently discharged 80% water and 20% solids
- Dredge discharges sand onto the North Sand Management Area where the sand disperses according to gradation.
- Dredge discharges sand onto the South Sand Management Area where the sand and water return to the Loup River.

The District noted that it is considering both dustpan and cutter head dredges as replacement for the Pawnee; currently a dustpan dredge appears to be preferred. The District plans to scrap the Pawnee once a new dredge is operational. SHPO indicated it would be their preference to replace the Pawnee with a dustpan type dredge to be consistent with the original equipment; however, they noted it is not their intention to force a specific type.

The SHPO asked if the District has considered putting the Pawnee on display in permanent dry dock. The District noted that they are not interested in putting it in dry dock on their property because it would be a safety and maintenance problem. There would likely be significant vandalism and the dredge itself would pose a potential safety hazard to the general public. The District noted that they would be willing to

donate the dredge to anyone who wanted to display it, but the District is not planning to do anything. SHPO noted that they understand the need to replace the dredge and the reasons for not planning to dry dock and display it.

HDR noted that the intent is to document the dredge as the first piece of the documentation package for the historic district prior to it being taken out of service.

Action Items:

Who	Task	Date Assigned
SHPO	Provide example documentation package for historic districts (NPPD and a linear district).	5/5/09
LPD	Document Pawnee dredge as part of the historic district documentation package prior to taking it out of service.	5/5/09