

## EFFORT MOUNTAIN PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGY MANAGEMENT SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

PPL Electric Utilities has proposed the development of a 5.7 mile long new power line corridor in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. Maps of the proposed line route or corridor were submitted for review to the Pennsylvania Bureau for Historic Preservation (PABHP). Mr. Steven McDougal, Review Archaeologist for the PABHP subsequently determined that three areas (A, B and C) would require Phase I testing. Area A lies is that part of the corridor which lies south of Jonas Road and which then trends southeast across a small unnamed tributary to a higher divide. The area is wooded and the parcel is part of the Minsi Trails Trexler Boy Scout Camp. Area B is that portion of the corridor which trends southward along the western valley slopes of Middle Creek lying just west of New York Blvd. Road along much of its length. The area is partially wooded along the summit of the hill and contains high grasses and scrubs along the lower valley slopes. Area C lies along Pheasant Run Road and includes a portion of the extreme eastern part of the corridor near the cemetery and where the line crosses a small unnamed tributary of Pohopoco Creek. The objective of the Phase I study was to determine if there will be any impact to potentially significant prehistoric cultural resources within the proposed construction corridor for the transmission line. Given the fact that the line will not cross any streams which have the potential to contain deeply buried prehistoric cultural resources, deep testing was no warranted or recommended by the PABHP.

Geologically, the area is situated in the Glaciated Appalachian Plateaus province. The soils along the proposed transmission line corridor are primarily formed in late Wisconsin glacial till of Olean Subage (22,000 to 18,000 yrs. B.P.). The soils formed in this till are typically poorly to very poorly drained. Texturally, the soils are extremely rocky with large cobbles and boulders scattered on the ground surface and within the soil profile. A typical profile encountered in all three areas consisted of a 2 cm to 3 cm thick organic O horizon which was then underlain by a 5 cm to 10 cm thick dark brown cobbly pebbly sandy loam to silt loam A horizon. The A horizon was in turn underlain by a brown to gray brown (often mottled) cobbly pebbly loam sand to sandy loam C horizon. Occasionally a thin, grayish eluviated horizon (E horizon) was noted at the base of the A horizon. The bedrock units which are capped by the Olean till are ascribable to Walcksville Member and Beaver Dam Run Member in Area C and the Long Run Member in Areas A and B. All three members are primarily comprised of thick sandstone beds, not surprisingly the large rock clasts in the Olean Till and the associated soils developed on the till are chiefly comprised of these sandstones. The soils encountered on the two small stream crossings in Area C and Area A both contained a very thin (less than 1 meter) package of coarse grained alluvium of recent age. The coarse nature of these immature Entisol order soils documents the effects of historic deforestation and flood scouring along these small first order streams.

Testing along the proposed power line corridor in Areas A, B and C were accomplished by standard shovel test probes. As noted earlier, none of the landforms along the proposed power line corridor have the potential to contain thick Holocene age



soils. All of the investigated soils to date either have formed in late Wisconsin age glacial till or occur along the narrow, recently constructed valley bottom zone of the two first order tributaries. All shovel test probes were excavated at least 20 cm into the subsoil (C horizon) or to a nominal depth of 40 cm below ground surface. The soil fill material from each probe was screened thru ¼ inch mesh hardware cloth. All probes were mapped in the field using standard soil nomenclature as defined in Soil Taxonomy (1970).

Prior to and concurrent with Phase I archaeological field investigations, extensive Phase I background research was undertaken and completed for the study area. The types of Phase I research that were conducted included informant interviews; archival searches, literature reviews and a P.A.S.S. site file examination. A search was also made for information available on previously known and/or recorded archaeological sites located within or adjacent to the project area. Examined sources included unpublished research papers and regional survey reports, published articles and tomes, previous cultural resource management reports completed on other project situated in or bordering the general project area. Finally, topographic maps, soil reports, geologic reports and attendant site forms maintained at the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg were reviewed.

To date, a continuous line of shovel test probes excavated at 15 meter intervals were emplaced along the proposed power line corridor in Areas A and C. The results of this exhaustive shovel testing program were negative for the identification of any potentially significant prehistoric cultural resources. The only artifacts found to date were several fragments of a white ware cup found in a shovel test excavated on the small unnamed tributary of Pohopoco Creek. The absence of any prehistoric cultural resources was not unexpected given the extremely poor soil drainage conditions present within the study area and the absence of any moderate to large drainage line. While numerous springs and seeps occur within the study area these are generally on slopes or in areas of extremely poor soil drainage conditions. Additional testing needs to be completed in Area B; however, the soils in this area are mapped as hydric soils and are ascribable to the soil series as those encountered and tested in Areas A and C.

Given all levels of inquiry and while there is additional testing to be completed (especially in Area B), based upon the study to date the project area corridor offers little potential to contain potentially significant prehistoric cultural resources. Any sites which might occur within the study area are likely very, small, geographically restricted hunting or foraging camps that can easily be avoided during construction of the proposed power line corridor.

Sincerely,

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