

Cultural Resource Investigations Claytor Hydroelectric Project FERC Project No. 739



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Why is this Work Required?

Project operations have the potential to affect historic properties located in and around Claytor Lake through erosion, development, and other activities.

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) must consider the project's affect on historic properties when issuing a new license for the project.

Study Objectives

- Determine the Area of Potential Effects (APE);
- Identify previously recorded cultural resources in the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (VDHR) site files within the APE and develop a database of these resources;
- Identify locations that have the potential to contain archaeological resources;
- Locate archaeological sites that in areas exhibiting effects from project operations and in areas where ground-disturbing enhancements are proposed;

Study Objectives (Cont.)

- Assess the National Register eligibility of the project facilities and other historic resources within the APE, including those that may contribute to a historic district;
- Evaluate the potential for effects on historic and archaeological resources from project operations or project-related enhancements; and
- Develop a Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP) specifying how properties within the APE would be managed over the term of the new license.

Collection of Information

- Review previously recorded information available at VDHR, Virginia State Library, Radford University, Radford Historical Society, and other facilities;
- Consult with VA SHPO on defining areas likely to contain archaeological sites.
- Conduct a Phase I intensive survey of areas within the APE that have a high probability of containing archaeological sites.

Phase I Survey Methods

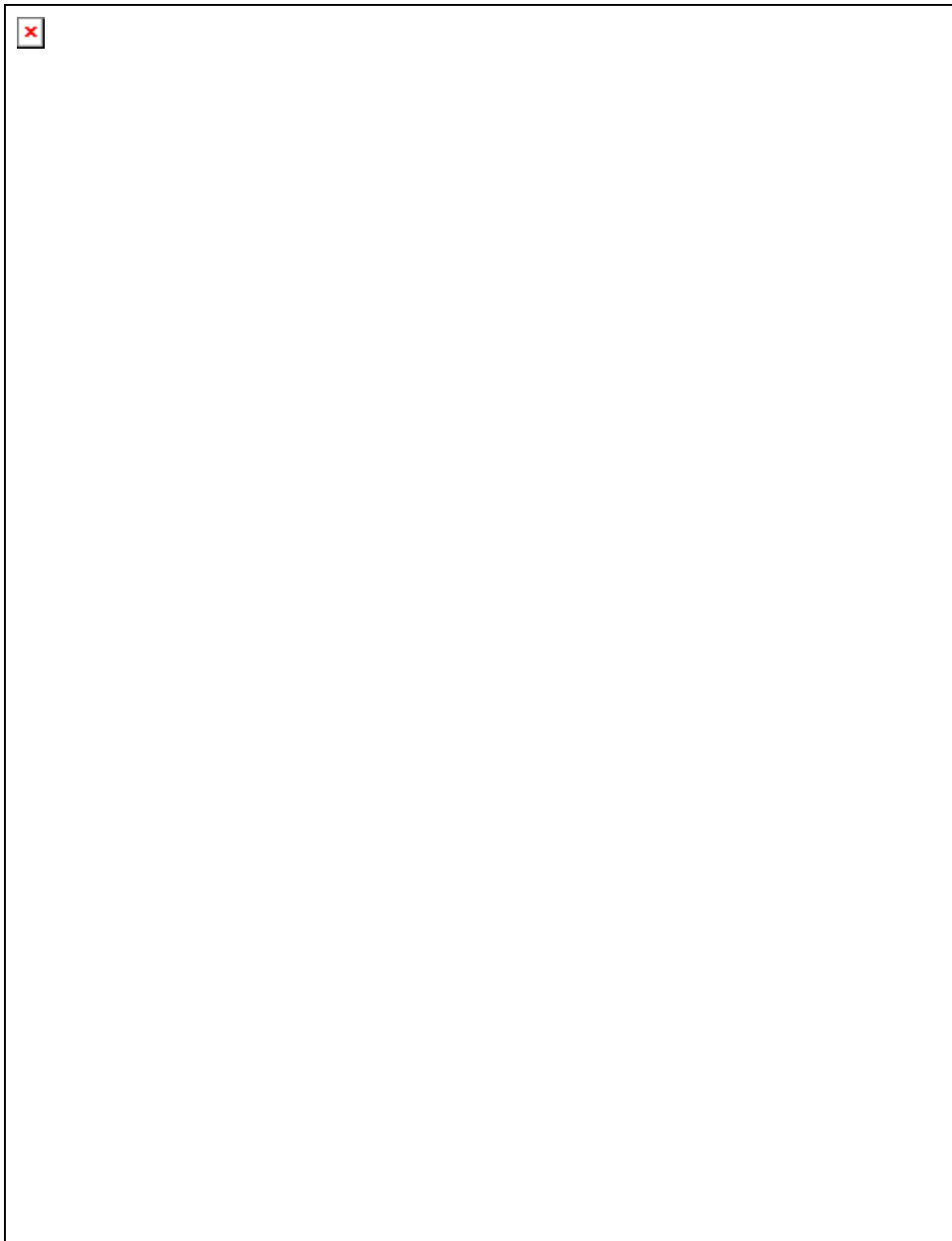
- Pedestrian survey was used to locate quarries, cemeteries, chimneys, wells, and other above ground features, as well as artifacts lying on the ground surface.
- Shovel testing at 15-m (50-ft.) intervals across areas likely to contain archaeological sites. This was defined as areas having a slope of less than 12 percent (based on consultation with the SHPO and Tribes).

Above-Ground Survey and National Register Eligibility Assessment

- Conduct an architectural evaluation of the Claytor Dam complex, including the dam and powerhouse
- Interior and exterior photographs
- Historic research: Pulaski Public Library, Virginia Tech Special Collections, Pulaski County Circuit Court Clerk's Office, Radford University, others

Areas Investigated

- Study area consisted of 101 miles of shoreline and eight islands along Claytor Lake and Peak Creek.
- 20.4 miles of shoreline and eight islands considered to have a high potential for containing archaeological sites were intensively surveyed by excavating shovel tests at 15-meter intervals (50 ft.).
- 6 miles of shoreline were surveyed using pedestrian survey.
- 74.6 miles of shoreline were visually inspected from a boat.



Areas Investigated

yellow were shovel tested at 15-m intervals.

red were subject to pedestrian survey.

Results of Phase I Cultural Resource Investigations

- 17 archaeological sites and 2 isolated finds were investigated.
- 9 sites and 2 isolated finds recommended ineligible for the National Register. One site (a rockshelter) recommended for additional study.
- 7 sites recommended potentially eligible for the National Register.
- Claytor Hydroelectric Dam and Powerhouse recommended eligible for the National Register.



Types of Sites Investigated

Prehistoric Components

Early Archaic (n=2)

Late Archaic (n=2)

Early Woodland (n=1)

Woodland (n=7)

Non-diagnostic (n=8)

Historic Components

Mid 18th – 19th century (n=1)

19th – 20th century (n=4)



Next Steps

- Submit draft report to SHPO and consulting parties for review (late November or early December 2007).
Submit final report once review is completed.
- Prepare Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP).
- FERC prepares Programmatic Agreement (PA).
- Implement terms and conditions of the HPMP and PA, including resolving adverse effects.

Questions?

