



**File Code:** 2360; 2720  
**Date:** August 24, 2015



Ben L. Hark  
Environmental Section Head, Engineering Division  
West Virginia Department of Transportation  
1900 Kanawha Boulevard East  
Building 5, Room A450  
Charleston, West Virginia 25305

Re: Phase 1B Archaeology Abbreviated Technical Report Addendum – Corridor H Project  
Kerens to Parsons (Section 1B)  
State Project # X342-H-40.21  
Federal Project # NHPP-0484(319)

Dear Mr. Hark:

The Forest Service has reviewed the above referenced report. As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800 *Protection of Historic Properties*, we submit our comments for the areas located on National Forest System land.

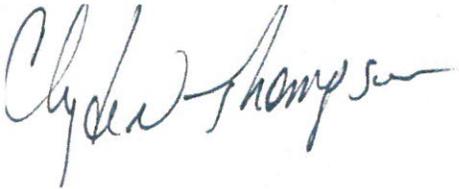
The report indicates that no previously identified archaeological resources are located within the Testing Area and none were identified during the supplemental Phase 1B fieldwork. During our review, we found that no previously identified cultural resources within the Testing Area have been recorded in the Monongahela National Forest Master Site File. As such, the Forest Service concurs that the use of the Testing Area, if required during construction, will have no effect to archaeological resources.

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the effects to our cultural assets. As a reminder, the Forest Service is required by the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, as set forth in 36 CFR 296 *Protection of Archaeological Resources: Uniform Regulations*, to control and regulate activities related to cultural resources and/or historic properties on National Forest System lands through issuance of a Permit for Archaeological Investigations. Any qualified professional may apply for a permit by submitting an *Application for Permit for Archaeological Investigations* form (FS-2700-30, OMB No. 0596-0082).



If you are interested, the permit procedures for cultural resources can be referenced in the Forest Service Manual (FSM 2367.1 and FSM 2724.4), as well as the Forest Service Handbook (FSH 2309.12 and FSH 2709.11). Should you have further questions, please contact Gavin Hale, Heritage Program Manager, at (304) 636-1800, ext. 245, or by email at [ghale@fs.fed.us](mailto:ghale@fs.fed.us).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Clyde Thompson". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

CLYDE THOMPSON  
Forest Supervisor

cc: J. Gavin Hale, John D. Barger



File Code: 2360

Date: June 27, 2014

Ben L. Hark  
Environmental Section Head  
Engineering Division  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Building 5, Room A450  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Mr. Hark,

Pursuant to the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties, we submit our comments for the report titled: *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 1B) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia: Phase IB Archaeology Abbreviated Technical Report* (Gundy, Barbara J., May 2014). We will limit our comments to those areas that are on National Forest land.

The *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 1B) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia: Phase IB Archaeology* (Gundy, Barbara J., May 2014) focused on the Area of Potential Effect (APE), which encompassed an area of 133 ha (328.6 acres). Much of the APE is currently situated on the Monongahela National Forest. The Phase IB archaeological investigation focused on a more defined area of potential disturbance (APE), which was smaller than the initial study area defined in the report *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 1B) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia: Phase IA Archaeology* (Gundy, Barbara J., April 2014). Due to the reduction in size for the new APE, the 53 test areas (33 of which are located wholly or partially on the Monongahela National Forest) were reduced to 13 test areas (10 are located wholly or partially on the Monongahela National Forest) as well as four Forest Roads. Areas that were previously surveyed, exhibited steep slope, excessively wet, or exhibited soil disturbance were not tested due to their lack of potential to yield cultural material. This left the test area within the APE at a mere 3.4 ha (8.3 acres).

The results of the Phase IB archaeological survey were negative for cultural resources in the APE. All test units were negative for cultural resources, and the surveyed Forest roads were also negative for cultural resources. The methodology and findings of *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 1B) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia: Phase IB Archaeology* (Gundy, Barbara J., May 2014) was well executed, and we concur with the report's findings (for the portions pertaining to the Monongahela National Forest).



As such, we find that, at this time, the proposed project will have no adverse effects to archaeological or historic resources. The project may proceed as planned without further testing. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. Should you have further questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Euler, (Acting) Forest Archaeologist, at (304) 636-1800, ext. 245.

Sincerely,

*/s/ DeVela J. Clark*  
DEVELA J. CLARK  
Acting Forest Supervisor



File Code: 2360

Date: June 4, 2014

Ben L. Hark  
Environmental Section Head, Engineering Division  
West Virginia Department of Transportation  
1900 Kanawha Blvd. East  
Building 5, Room A450  
Charleston, WV 25305

Dear Mr. Hark,

Pursuant to the terms of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: Protection of Historic Properties, we submit our comments for the reports titled: *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 18) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia: Phase IA Archaeology* (Gundy, Barbara J., April 2014) and *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 18) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia, Randolph County 219/3 (Cherry Fork Road) to US 219 Connector 4.8 Miles: Determination of Eligibility For Architectural Resources Addendum Report*, (Skelly and Loy, Inc., May 2014). We will limit our comments to those areas that are on National Forest land.

The *Determination of Eligibility for Architectural Resources Addendum Report* addresses multiple historic architectural properties for their inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. We will refrain from comment as all of these properties are privately owned; thus, we have no jurisdiction in these matters.

The *Corridor H Project Kerens to Parsons (Section 18) Randolph and Tucker Counties, West Virginia: Phase IA Archaeology* (Gundy, Barbara J., April 2014) encompassed a study area of 1,952.76 acres, much of which was situated on the Monongahela National Forest. The Phase IA archaeological investigation consisted of “environmental and cultural background research, pedestrian reconnaissance, and expedient auger borings” (Gundy 2014). While conducting pedestrian surveys, the Phase IA archaeological investigation noted areas “with less than 20 percent slope, no obvious disturbance, and relatively intact, well-drained soil horizons with the potential to contain as yet unidentified archaeological resources” (Gundy 2014). These test areas were noted, mapped, and assigned letter designations. These are areas that will require further archaeological testing through subsurface sampling (e.g. shovel test units). Fifty-three test areas were noted, 33 of which are located wholly or partially on the Monongahela National Forest. Listed below in a table are the test areas of concern to us.



Potential Test Areas	On Forest Land
C	Partially
L	Partially
M	Partially
N	Completely
S	Completely
T	Completely
U	Completely
V	Completely
W	Completely
X	Partially
Y	Completely

Potential Test Areas	On Forest Land
Z	Partially
AB	Partially
AC	Completely
AD	Completely
AE	Completely
AF	Completely
AH	Completely
AI	Completely
AJ	Completely
AK	Completely
AL	Completely

Potential Test Areas	On Forest Land
AN	Completely
AO.1	Completely
AO.2	Completely
AP	Completely
AR	Completely
AS	Completely
AT	Completely
AV	Completely
AW	Partially
BA	Completely
BB	Completely

We agree with the findings in the report that if the project will disturb these test area locations, a Phase IB archaeological investigation must be conducted. The methodology and findings of the report were well executed, and we concur with the report's findings (for the portions pertaining to the Monongahela National Forest). As such, we find that (at this time) that the proposed project may have adverse effects to archaeological or historic resources. We recommend that the project either remove these areas from project implementation, or proceed to test these areas to verify the absence or existence of archaeological resources. The project may proceed as planned in all other areas (those that do not require further testing).

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. Should you have further questions, please contact Mr. Christopher Euler, (Acting) Forest Archaeologist, at (304) 636-1800, ext. 245.

Sincerely,

*/s/ DeVela J. Clark*  
 DEVELA J. CLARK  
 Acting Forest Supervisor