
10.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Cultural resources are the material remains of human activity and can include sites, buildings, districts, and landscapes. Cultural resources are finite and non-renewable; once destroyed they and the information they provide are lost. Federal laws and regulations provide the standards for cultural resources identification, evaluation, and mitigation of impacts. If a cultural resource meets the criteria for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (“NRHP”), it is considered significant and termed a “historic property.” EPND is considering possible impacts to cultural resources throughout the course of the Project. EPND prefers to avoid historic properties.

EPND has initiated consultations with federal, state, and local government agencies regarding the Project. During the course of agency consultation, EPND has discussed possible impacts to cultural resources and the process of identifying, evaluating, and avoiding such impacts (see the Pipeline Routing Permit, Section 7852.3000, for a list of government agencies). EPND contacted the Minnesota State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”) prior to initiating field surveys and will continue to consult with this office regarding the Project.

10.1 PREVIOUSLY RECORDED CULTURAL RESOURCES

Preliminary consultation and searches of agency databases confirmed there are no National Landmarks, NRHP-listed properties, historic districts, or cultural landscapes within the Project area. The Minnesota Historical Society maintains a list of over 30 historic sites around the state. EPND checked this list, as well as the list of additional historic sites listed on the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota’s website. No historic site listed by either institution is located in the Project area.

EPND reviewed existing file data maintained by the Minnesota SHPO to determine if any portion of the preferred route or associated facilities were surveyed previously for cultural resources. Pipeline construction will require a 120-foot-wide right-of-way in uplands and a 95-foot-wide right-of-way in wetlands. The construction and permanent rights-of-way are located entirely within the Project’s environmental survey area (“survey area”), which is between 250- and 450-feet wide. For the purposes of gathering information and reviewing previously recorded data, the Project area is defined as the environmental survey area, plus survey areas for known facilities off the survey area.

At least 25 previous archaeological and historic structure surveys completed over the past 20 years or more have captured information regarding adjacent areas of approximately one-third of the survey area. The remaining two-thirds of the survey area lack recorded archaeological and historic structure surveys for reference by EPND. The completed surveys incorporated various survey methods and the precise location of the surveyed areas is often difficult to discern based on the large-scale maps provided in the reported results.

Several large linear surveys were completed for pipeline projects that parallel the Project's survey area. These large surveys were completed by Enbridge; Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company, Limited Partnership; Lakehead Pipeline Company; and Minnesota Pipe Line Company. Table 10.1-1 lists the reports for these major survey efforts. Survey area widths for these major survey efforts varied widely. These surveys' footprints partially overlap the survey area in a number of locations but EPND determined that the overlap was not sufficient to discount a comprehensive survey effort specific to the Project.

Table 10.1-1 Cultural Resources Reports of Pipeline Right-of-Way Surveys Key to the Sandpiper Project		
Principal Investigator/ Affiliation	Report Title	Date
A. Bielakowski / 106 Group	Phase I and II Cultural Resources Survey for the Minnesota Pipe Line Company's MinnCan Pipeline	2007
A. Ketz / 106 Group	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Minnesota Pipe Line Company's MinnCan Pipeline Project Access Roads and Extra Temporary Work Spaces	2008
Florin / (IMAC)	Treatment Plan for Site 21CL22 at MP 284.9, Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership Pipeline: 1998 Expansion Project, Carlton County, Minnesota	1998
D. Weir/ Commonwealth Associates, Inc.	A Cultural Resources Inventory – St. Vincent to St. Clair Gas and Sault Lateral Pipelines (Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Michigan)	1981
C. Dobbs / IMA	1990 Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company Pipeline Expansion Project: Phase I Cultural Resource Inventory	1990
C. Dobbs / IMA	1990 Great Lakes Gas Transmission Company Pipeline Expansion Project: Phase II Cultural Resource Inventory	1991
C. Dobbs / IMA	Phase I Archaeological Investigations of Selected Areas of the Lakehead Pipe Line Company Corridor	1994
C. Dobbs / IMA	A Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership Pipeline Corridor	1996
C. Dobbs / IMA	Phase I Cultural Resource Survey of Additional Portions of the Pipeline Corridor, Extra Workspaces, Crossovers, Pipe Storage Yards, and Access Roads for Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership Pipeline	1997
C. Dobbs / IMA	Great Lakes Gas Transmission Limited Partnership Pipeline 1998 Expansion Project, Minnesota: Additional Phase II Evaluations	1997
Bielakowski/ 106 Group	Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Enbridge Pipeline Southern Lights 20-inch Crude Line (LSr) and Alberta Clipper Pipeline Projects, Kittson, Marshall, Pennington, Red Lake, Polk, and Clearwater Counties, Minnesota	2007

Records on file at the SHPO and the Office of the State Archaeologist (“OSA”) indicate that five previously recorded archaeological sites and one archaeological site lead are likely located within the survey area. An additional three sites and three site leads may intersect the survey area; the exact location of these sites is unclear from the available records, but they are likely in the immediate vicinity and warrant consideration during review of the Project area and execution of the inventory survey. Site leads, assigned a letter designation rather than a Smithsonian trinomial number, are the reported location of a possible archaeological site, but they have not been field verified by a professional archaeologist. Without additional information, and with inexact locations on record, these can only serve as site leads during a field survey, and not as recorded sites. Table 10.1-2 lists the previously recorded archaeological sites and site leads for the survey area in Minnesota. One previously recorded site, the Shell River Mounds (21HB0006), is eligible for listing on the NRHP. The remaining sites are not NRHP-eligible or have not been evaluated for eligibility. No inventoried standing structures located in or immediately adjacent to the survey area are on file at the state agencies. Information about previously recorded sites for facilities and off-right-of-way yard locations has not been compiled at this time.

County	Site Number / Site Name	Site Type	Cultural Affiliation	NRHP Eligibility	Date recorded	In Project survey area
Polk	21PL0031	Possible Village/ Farmstead	Precontact/ Historic Period	Not Evaluated	1996	Yes
Polk	21PLaf	No site form on file	Historic Period	Not Field Verified/ indeterminate	n/a	Unknown
Polk	21PLag	No site form on file	Historic Period	Not Field Verified/ Indeterminate	n/a	Unknown
Polk	21PLI / Boltman Site	Copper Find Spot	Pre-Contact	Not Field Verified/ Indeterminate	1964 (1930 source material)	Yes
Clearwater	21CE0065	Lithic Isolate	Pre-Contact	Not Eligible	2006	Unknown
Clearwater	21CE0066	Domestic	Historic Period	Not Evaluated	2006	Yes
Wadena/ Hubbard	21WDj / Shell River Mounds	Pre-Contact, earthworks	Pre-Contact	Not Field Verified/ Indeterminate	1899	Unknown

County	Site ID	Resource Type	Historic Period	Eligibility	Year	Known
Hubbard	21HB0006 / Shell River Mounds	Earthworks	Pre-Contact	Eligible	1996	Unknown
Hubbard	21HB0061	Domestic	Historic Period	Not Eligible	2006	Yes
Hubbard	21HB0071	Lithic Isolate	Pre-Contact	Not Eligible	2008	Yes
Cass	21CA0736 / Spire Valley Logging Camp	Logging Camp	Historic Industry	Not Evaluated	2011	Yes
Carlton	21CL0023	Lithic Scatter	Pre-Contact	Not Eligible	1996	Unknown

10.2 CULTURAL RESOURCES PHASE I RECONNAISSANCE SURVEY AND GIS PREDICTIVE MODEL

Given the general lack of previous survey coverage of the Project area and lower than expected identified archaeological site and historic structure density, EPND initiated Phase I archaeological and historic structure reconnaissance, or inventory, surveys along the entire survey area in 2013. Surveys are ongoing at the time of this filing and will continue into 2014.

EPND contracted with Commonwealth Cultural Resource Group (“CCRG”) to conduct field surveys in Minnesota. EPND directed CCRG to apply standard methodologies and utilize the guidelines provided by the SHPO and the OSA. The primary focus of the 2013 archaeological and historic structures surveys is the identification of resources and an initial assessment of their boundaries and research potential. EPND directed CCRG to classify resources according to the criteria utilized by federal agencies when evaluating eligibility for listing on the NRHP. Standard survey methods of note include pedestrian walkover along the entire survey area and subsurface shovel testing at specific locations determined by ground surface visibility and other factors.

In addition, EPND is using statistically-based GIS predictive (sensitivity) models during the Phase I reconnaissance survey. EPND contracted with Foth Companies (“Foth”) to develop predictive models using a minimum of 10 datasets. Foth compiled the datasets and projected the predictive models in three distinct zones of low, moderate, or high sensitivity. EPND determined survey targets for each of the three zones, namely 100 percent of the moderate and high sensitivity zones and at least 10 percent of the low sensitivity zones. Periodically, Foth reviews CCRG’s completed survey data and provides additional model runs to reflect the supplemented and most recent datasets. EPND plans to utilize this information during cultural resources investigations throughout the Phase I reconnaissance survey and into construction.

EPND estimates that between May 1 and August 11, 2013 CCRG completed archaeological and historic structure inventory of approximately 34 percent of the survey area, primarily in Polk, Red Lake, Clearwater, and Hubbard counties. During the inventory CCRG identified 23 archaeological sites, 17 of which reflect Pre-Contact Period (exclusively Native American) occupations and consist of various assemblages of stone tools and tool-making debris, faunal (animal) remains, and in at least two locations, pottery. Six locations reflect Historic Period occupations from the 19th and 20th centuries. To date, no historic structures have been recorded within the survey area.

EPND expects to complete 90 percent of the Phase I reconnaissance survey in 2013. The remaining 10 percent of the Project area will be surveyed in 2014, including the remainder of the survey area and other facilities and off-right-of-way yards. EPND will conduct other Phase I reconnaissance survey tasks, such as an analysis of the potential for deeply buried archaeological sites, and testing as indicated, as well as consideration of indirect adverse effects from any aboveground facilities.

EPND prefers to avoid inventoried archaeological sites and historic structures whenever possible. In the event that EPND is unable to avoid project impacts to an archaeological site or historic structure through possible route modifications and engineering controls, EPND will conduct Phase II site evaluations and seek resolution through mitigation for those sites that meet the criteria for listing on the NRHP.

10.3 GENERAL CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATION IMPACTS AND MITIGATION

EPND will complete Phase I reconnaissance surveys of the Project area and will continue to consult with government agencies, including the Minnesota SHPO, regarding identification and evaluation of historic properties. The preferred method of mitigating impacts to historic properties, or sites treated as historic properties, is avoidance, which may include routing the pipeline around historic properties, installing the pipeline beneath historic properties using conventional bore or HDD technology, and/or fencing all or portions of historic properties to ensure that they are avoided during construction. If avoidance is not possible, mitigation measures, such as data recovery in the case of archaeological sites, may be used.

EPND has developed a Draft Unanticipated Discoveries Plan (see Appendix D) for use during all Project construction activities. The Unanticipated Discoveries Plan prescribes actions to be taken in the event that a previously unrecorded archaeological site or human remains are discovered during construction activities. The Unanticipated Discoveries Plan directs the Construction Contractor and the Lead Environmental Inspector to stop activity and protect the find, then contact the appropriate expert or authority. In the event of such a discovery, construction activities in the immediate vicinity of the discovery will not resume until the find is fully investigated and cleared.