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9306608



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August 12, 1993

Cultural Resources Present

Mr. Frank Gustafson
Westinghouse Hanford Company
Restoration and Remediation
P.O. Box 1970/H6-04
Richland, WA 99352

CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW OF THE NORTH SLOPE WASTE SITES PROJECT.
HCRC #92-600-028.

Dear Frank:

In response to your request received June 15, 1992, staff of the Hanford Cultural Resources Laboratory (HCRL) conducted a cultural resources review of the subject project, located in the 600 Area of the Hanford Site. According to the information that you supplied, the project entails cleaning up thirty-nine hazardous waste sites, including such actions as backfilling cisterns and removing contaminated soils and concrete rubble from military installations and chemical dump sites.

Following the 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act, HCRL first performed a literature and records review to determine if previous archaeological surveys had been conducted in the vicinity of any potential waste sites. Next, staff took preliminary field trips to the sites to determine which locations were archaeological or historic sites and/or whether proposed clean-up activities could impact undisturbed soils adjacent to the hazardous locations. As a result of these two processes, twenty-nine of the thirty-nine locations were recorded as archaeological or historic sites; twenty-four are insignificant, five are significant.

The insignificant sites, which include all of the military sites and the Wasteway Cistern, Clay Pit Cistern, and Cow Camp Cistern, have been fully documented by HCRL staff. No special protection is recommended for these sites. The five significant sites, the Homestead Cistern, Stock Tank Cistern, Overlook Cistern, 12-3 Cistern, and Wagon Road Cistern, are considered to be significant for their ability to provide information about early Euro-American activities on the Hanford Site. On their own, these historic sites do not retain nationally significant information. If, however, these sites are viewed in terms of a greater thematic category, that of the Euro-American ranching movement in southeastern Washington, then these five sites represent a single component of the greater archaeological record which contains a "set" of property types including habitations, water improvements, and cow camps. Backfilling cisterns located within each site will have no effect on any characteristics that would eventually make them eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. More importantly, backfilling will preserve the cistern walls. However, damage to cultural features and artifacts could easily occur during the backfilling by heavy machinery. The use of machinery at these five sites will be directed by HCRL staff to ensure avoidance of cultural materials. If historic trash at these sites needs to be removed as part of the clean-up process, HCRL will conduct a controlled collection.



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The insignificant military sites and three cistern sites do not require any special protection or monitoring. The workers, however, must be directed to watch for cultural materials (e.g., bones, artifacts) during excavations. If any are encountered, work in the vicinity of the discovery must stop until an HCRL archaeologist has been notified, assessed the significance of the find, and, if necessary, arranged for mitigation of the impacts to the find. This cultural resources review pertains only to the thirty-nine waste sites outlined in the project description. Any new projects that will affect additional areas of the North Slope will require separate reviews.

No work can proceed on the five significant cistern sites until HCRL has received advisement from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and an agreement has been reached for avoidance of cultural materials.

A copy of this letter has been sent to Charles Pasternak, DOE, Richland Operations Office, as official documentation. If you have any questions, please call me at 372-2225. Please use the HCRC# above for any future correspondence concerning this project.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. K. Wright".

M. K. Wright
Scientist
Cultural Resources Project

cc: C. R. Pasternak, RL (2)
R. E. Jaquish
File/LB

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Subject: CULTURAL RESOURCES REVIEW OF THE NORTH SLOPE WASTE SITES PROJECT
HCRC #93-600-028

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