Phase I Archaeological Investigations for a Proposed 2.4 Mile (3.9 Kilometer) New Landfill Haul Road Extension at the Mitchell Plant in Marshall County, West Virginia

By

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i. Abstract

On September 6, 2011 Weller & Associates, Inc. conducted Phase I archaeological investigations for a proposed 2.4 mile (3.9 kilometer) New Landfill Haul Road Extension at the Mitchell Plant in Marshall County, West Virginia. The survey was conducted to satisfy requirements for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to identify any sites or properties relative to this undertaking and to evaluate them for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). American Electric Power Service Corporation contracted Weller to perform the survey in accordance with the associated lead federal agency, the US Army Corps of Engineers (Huntington). The work for this project included subsurface testing (shovel testing and visual inspection). Much of the area was identified as being contained in steeply sloped terrain. These investigations did not result in the identification of any sites or cultural deposits.

The project area is located in west central Marshall County and in an area that has been highly industrialized through the development and past expansions at the Mitchell Plant. Much of the proposed new haul road corridor winds through and along existing prepared drive corridors that connect different industrial activities. The easternmost approximate third of the corridor is located in a forested area and winds along the northern side slope of an upland ridge. This is an area that is primarily contained in steep slope and occasionally small bench landforms or toe ridges that were suitable for archaeological testing. The entirety of the wooded portion was traversed and inspected visually to verify the absence of cultural deposits or landforms that would be suitable for testing. Photographic documentation of the remaining and clearly disturbed corridor was accomplished.

The literature review did not identify any previously recorded sites within the proposed project corridor. The Gatt Cemetery and adjacent archaeological site are located on a ridge top and is between the proposed haul road and Gatt Road. This was documented during a recent cultural resource management survey that had not been filed by the time the current survey had been completed. This site has been taped off and is not part of the current project plans. Previous investigations for a McElroy Coal Company area (Meece 2008) and the Conner Run Flay Ash Retention Dam project (Blake 2004) reviewed side slope areas that include segments of the current project area. Neither of these surveys identified any sites within the current project area.

These Phase I investigations did not result in the identification of any archaeological or architectural sites. Subsurface testing was limited to two small, bench-like locations; otherwise, the project corridor was visually inspected. The project is not considered is not considered to affect any National Register of Historic Places properties. No further work is considered to be necessary for this project.
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Introduction

In August of 2011, Weller & Associates, Inc. (Weller) completed Phase I archaeological investigations for an approximately 2.4 mile (3.9 kilometer) New Haul Road Extension at the Mitchell Plant in Marshall County, West Virginia (Figures 1-3). The survey was conducted to satisfy requirements for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act to identify any sites or properties relative to this undertaking and to evaluate them for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). American Electric Power Service Corporation (AEP) contracted Weller to perform the survey. The US Army Corps of Engineers is the lead federal agency. The work for this project included visual inspection and subsurface testing.

A cultural resources management (CRM) survey was deemed necessary to identify any sites or properties and to evaluate them for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 [36 CFR 800]). This report summarizes the results of the fieldwork and literature review. The report format and design is similar to that established in Guidelines for Phase I, II, and III Archaeological Investigations and Technical Report Preparation (Trader and Wilson 2005).

The project plans are to widen and extend some existing access corridors and roads within the existing facility and to extend these through a comparably undisturbed forested area to an area that is slated to be an expansion onto the landfill. This segment is located along a steep hillside that is consistent with the Ohio Valley wall. The survey for this project was conducted on September 6, 2011. The literature review was conducted on August 23, 2011 (Appendix A). Justin Zink and Chad Porter completed the literature review. Ryan Weller, Khepri Polite, and Chad Porter, completed the field investigations. Ryan served as the Principal Investigator and the project manager.

Environmental Setting

Climate

Marshall County has cold, snowy, and cloudy winters and is fairly warm and humid in the summer. During the winter months of December, January, and February, the average low temperature is in the mid 30s (Fahrenheit). The temperature during the summer months averages the mid 70s°F. The annual precipitation of the county is approximately 43 in. In November, the average precipitation is 2.8 in., while in July the average precipitation is 4.5 in. (United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service [USDA, SCS] 1960).

Physiography, Relief and Drainage

Most of Marshall County is hilly and sloped. The county drains into the Ohio River through several tributaries such as Fish Creek, Grave Creek, and Wheeling Creek (USDA, SCS 1960). The project is drained by Fish Creek and ditches that now drain to the Ohio River.
Geology

The geological bedrock of Marshall County, including the project, consists of sedimentary rock. The sedimentary bedrocks in the majority of the county are part of the Pennsylvanian and Permian systems and consist of sandstone, coal, limestone, and shale (USDA, SCS 1960).

Soils

There are several soil series types recorded within the project. The soil series types include Culleoka-Dormont Complex (CmD, CmC; 15-25, 8-15 percent slope), Culleoka-Dormont-Peabody Complex (CpE; 25-35 percent slope), Culleoka-Dormont-Peabody Complex (CrF; 35-65 percent slope), Dormont-Culleoka Complex (DrE; 25-35 percent slope), Miscellaneous water (M-W), Udorthents (Uf), and Udorthents-Urban land complex (Uh). Many of the soils appear to be either steeply sloped or disturbed (United States Department of Agriculture, Soil Conservation Service [USDA, SCS] 2011).

Cultural History

The Paleoindian Period

The first inhabitants probably began to exploit this area between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago (Chapman et al. 1985). The primary artifact types that are indicative of this period are associated with Clovis, Cumberland, Beaver Lake, Quad, Plainview, Agate Basin, and Dalton styles. These are lanceolate-shaped points that can be fluted or unfluted. These are infrequently recovered from West Virginia, and a radiocarbon date from this period has yet to be secured. Comprehensive assemblages from this period are lacking as well because other tool form types cannot be distinguished from Early Archaic forms unless they are recovered from a well-defined stratigraphic sequence.

Paleoindian sites in West Virginia may be more focused along major river valleys. Investigations conducted along the South Fork of the Shenandoah River helped provide information regarding settlement. Hunting camps occurred in three types of settings, including valley terraces and around wetlands, in uplands, and at larger stream junctures (Davis 1978; Gardner 1977). Sites were infrequently encountered in the rougher and more mountainous regions.

These areas exhibited broad environmental diversity, which allowed for broad-spectrum resource exploitation. This type of environment and locale was preferred in Paleoindian hunting and foraging subsistence patterns (Binford 1980:5). During this period, human groups were nomadic. Increased mobility or nomadism optimized the procurement of large Pleistocene megafauna resources such as mastodon, bison, and stag moose. Such animals became extinct between 10,000 and 12,000 years ago.
The Archaic Period

This period is typically subdivided into the Early (10,000 to 8000 B.P.), Middle (8,000 to 5,000 B.P.), and Late Archaic (5,000 to 3,000 B.P.) periods. Overall, the Archaic period is longer than other periods and represents a slow change and adaptation of human populations to their environment. The Early Archaic period represents a period of environmental adaptations different from those of the earlier Paleoindian period (Muller 1986:56). Although people were still primarily nomadic, there was a reduction in the amount of land used during seasonal foraging activities. Artifacts and assemblages from this period are more diverse in style and function, which may be indicative of a greater diversity in overall resource usage. Early Archaic artifacts are recovered more frequently and with regularity over more geologically diverse environmental areas. During this period, there was an increase in populations who probably followed a foraging pattern that was more regionally focused than in the Paleoindian period.

During the Early Archaic period, the environment was changing and becoming increasingly arid. This period of dryness allowed for the exploitation of areas that were previously inaccessible or undesirable. Subsistence during the Early Archaic period focused primarily on herd animals. The Pleistocene megafauna, characteristic of the Paleoindian period, had become extinct by this time. It is believed that such animals as elk, barren-ground caribou, deer, and possibly bison or forest buffalo may have become a major focus of Early Archaic subsistence (Cleland 1965).

There is a marked change in the diversity of tool styles and possibly in tool use during the Early Archaic period. It was during this period that artifacts made of ground stone and slate first appeared in significant numbers. Tool assemblages often contain such artifacts as beveled and/or serrated notched knives, unifaces, gravers, end scrapers, side and corner-notched projectile points, and hafted bifaces with basal bifurcation. Beveled hafted bifaces (i.e., Thebes, Lost Lake, or St. Charles varieties) were specialized deer-processing knives produced from roughly 7500-4500 B.C. (Stother and Abel 1994). Local chert sources seem to have been used regularly, but there was still some reliance on exotic chert.

Early Archaic sites appear to be more diverse and complex than the preceding period. Sites of this period are generally recognized by diagnostic projectile point types, including a variety of notched and stemmed points. Early Archaic varieties often exhibit heavy grinding along the basal element and serration along the blade form. Basal bifurcation was a functional adaptation to facilitate hafting during this period (Broyles 1971; Justice 1987). Sites such as St. Albans, James Creek, and Dennison have been interpreted as being seasonal base camps (Gardner 1987:61; Wilkins 1977). At the St. Albans site (46KA27) a number of distinct strata were identified which have provided much of the radiocarbon data and relative chronology for the region (Broyles 1971). Early Archaic deposits were encountered in alluvial deposits that allowed for sequential ordering of artifact types such as projectile pointshafted knives.
During the Middle Archaic period (8,000-5,000 B.P.), the environment became similar to that of today. This is a period of increased adaptation, less nomadism, and increased regionalism. Relatively thin strata and deposits containing cultural material have been encountered. Shallow features and an increase in midden deposits and fire-cracked rock are noticeable differences from the preceding period. There may be a steady decrease in the amount of upland land use or settlement during this period (Gardner 1987:63). While diagnostic artifacts from this period are largely composed of projectile point types, there is a noticeable addition of ground stone tools to the artifact assemblage including axes, adzes, atlatl weights, nutting stones, mortars, and pestles. There appears to be an increase in the amount of food processing as indicated by the increased presence of nut remains from feature contexts. Bone tools can be recovered when preservation allows. The Middle Archaic in the Kanawha Valley is often represented by small corner notched points (Wilkins 1985). Side notching appears toward the end of the period in styles similar to Big Sandy II (Gardner 1987:63).

Projectile point types continue to be the dominant diagnostic artifact in the Late Archaic period (5,000-3,000 B.P.) in West Virginia and especially the Kanawha River Valley. Materials dating from this period have been recovered from a wide range of environments including riparian corridors and uplands. Settlement patterns may have followed a collector strategy where supplies and food materials are supplied by logistical task-oriented groups (Binford 1980). This would have used a centralized base camp that is ‘fed’ by its satellite extraction sites or camps. Sites such as the Buffalo site have yielded shallow basin-shaped features and pits that may have been used for cooking (Broyles 1976). Points that have been recovered from this period include Buffalo Stemmed, McWhinney Heavy Stemmed, Lamoka, Merom, and Trimble. These are stylistically similar to the Late Archaic Laurentian tradition (Justice 1987). Steatite bowl fragments have been infrequently recovered from sites from this period. Despite the seeming ubiquity of the material from this period across the state, there have been few sites excavated and the quality of the material is lacking. The Late Archaic period is poorly understood and less frequently encountered than in neighboring states (Anderson 1995).

The Woodland Period

The Woodland period is generally separated into the Early (Adena), Middle (Hopewell), and Late Woodland. The Early Woodland is marked by a noticeable change in settlement and land, which is more obvious due to the construction of earthworks and burial mounds. The Early Woodland dates from about 3,000-1,950 B.P. Like many temporal manifestations in West Virginia, this period is poorly understood and lacks good definition. There are large gaps in the data that can only be filled with continued excavations. At this time, the first extensive use of ceramics appear, which were derived from the sandstone and steatite forms from the previous period (Seeman 1986). The early ceramic forms tend to be thick with a plain or cordmarked exterior. They are shaped like a flowerpot with truncated bases. They have been associated with Fayette Thick and Marion Thick types (Griffin 1947; Helman 1951).
The Early Woodland Cogswell phase and Leslie phase of the Kanawha tradition are known from West Virginia (Ledbetter and O'Steen 1991). This includes stemmed projectile and hafted knife types such as Buck Creek Barbed and Adena-like varieties. Round structural patterns have been encountered as well as a variety of feature types, indicating functional diversity within individual sites. Several burial mounds have been excavated in the Kanawha Valley that are indicative of this period. Many of these date from the latter part of the period. There have been very few important non-burial or ritual sites that have been excavated (Verbka 1998).

The Middle Woodland period (circa 1,950-1,250 B.P.), like the preceding Early Woodland period, is often associated with burial mounds and earthwork construction. This is often considered as the Hopewellian period, a cultural manifestation that is variably represented throughout the Eastern United States. Ceramics that are recovered from sites dating from this period are stylistically similar to the Scioto series, Illinois Havana, and Mississippi Valley Marksville types (McMichael and Mairs 1969; Prufier 1968). However, the Middle Woodland period is poorly represented in archaeological assemblages from West Virginia when compared to other states such as Ohio and Illinois. Sites dating from this period are encountered infrequently, and Hopewellian influence appears to be limited to the western parts of West Virginia.

The Late Woodland period (circa 1,450-950 B.P.) in the Kanawha Valley is defined on the basis of the Buck Garden and Schoolyard phases (McMichael 1968; Maslowski 1985:26; Railey and Henderson 1986). Artifacts recovered from sites dating from this period include Chesser or Lowe point varieties (Justice 1987) and a variety of pottery types. Childers cordmarked and Childers plain types (O’Malley 1990) are stylistically similar to Newtown ceramic types from adjacent regions. Vessels are conical-shaped jars with gentle to somewhat abrupt shoulders.

Important sites from this region include Childers, Woods, and Parkline. It is during this period that maize is known to appear in small quantities, and there is a greater known diversity in food materials. Wymer (1986:24) indicates that floral remains are indicative of a diverse assortment of cultivated and native plants. The floral remains include varieties from the Eastern Agricultural Complex and squash. A wide variety of faunal remains were evidently exploited at this time, including deer, turkey, and box turtle. Settlement plans indicated circular and semi-circular patterns and maybe an enclosing ditch (Shott et al. 1993:2).

Excavations at the Parkline site (46PU99) encountered Late Woodland Childers phase remains (Niquette and Hughes 1991). Excavations documented short-termed occupations and not a nucleated village. There is a lack of middens, features, or evidence to support intensive or long-term occupation.

The Woods site, the type-site for the phase of that name, was excavated in Mason County, West Virginia. At this site there was a series of dispersed household patterns excavated that are not patterned and are probably indicative of repeated use of this
location. The site is positioned not too far to the north of the Childers site. Most of the
diagnostic lithics from this period are triangular points such as Levanna and Madison
varieties. Pottery at the Woods site was more diverse than Childers with incising,
notches, and paddle and dowel impressions (O’Malley 1990).

Diagnostic remains from the Parkline phase of the late Late Woodland period
include a variety of projectile points, including Jacks Reef, Raccoon Notched, Levanna,
and Madison types. Parkline ceramics are thicker than those of the previous period and
have coarser-grained temper. Rims are collared with decorations including punctations,
incising, and paddle-edge impressions (tool dentate) [Niquette and Hughes 1991:189].
However, the Parkline and Woods phase pottery types are not very distinguishable from
one another.

The Late Prehistoric Period

During this period cultural components have defined regional expressions. The
Fort Ancient tradition has been identified in western West Virginia and the Monongahela
in the northern panhandle region. The Fort Ancient tradition is considered to extend
through southern Ohio, southeastern Indiana, and northern Kentucky. It is believed to be
derived in situ from the previous Woodland period cultures. Fort Ancient society and
culture was largely dependent upon cultivated plants, including maize, squash, and beans.
It is considered to be a small scale, middle-range tribal or trans-egalitarian society with a
culture history distinct from that of its neighbors (Hayden 1995). The Fort Ancient
people inhabited relatively large villages that are frequently positioned on high terraces
along major drainages.

The Monongahela tradition includes sites that are scattered through the counties
in the northern panhandle. Its regional expression is considered to include southeastern
Ohio, southwestern Pennsylvania, and northern West Virginia. Within Marshall County
is the Saddle site, a Monongahela site situated on a saddle that projects into a stream
valley in the uplands (Church and McDaniel 1992). Pit houses and surface dwellings
were identified for this culture (Dunnell 1980; Nass and Hart 2000:134). Sites have been
encountered with palisades and without. Recovered from this site During excavations at
the Saddle site, burials and numerous features were documented (Church and McDaniel
1992). Artifacts that are produced during this period include cannel coal pendants and
limestone and shell tempered ceramic jars with plain and cordmarked exteriors. Their
economy is considered to be based on maize agriculture (Nass and Hart 2000:124).

A wide variety of artifacts are considered to be indicative of the Fort Ancient and
the Late Prehistoric period. These can include both shell- and grit-tempered pottery,
triangular points, stone pipes, beads, bone tools, and engraved marine shell (Graybill
1988; Pollack and Henderson 2000). Rarely, European artifacts have been encountered at
late Fort Ancient sites. Villages tend to be fortified and defensively positioned on the
landscape.
Sites of the Bluestone phase of the Fort Ancient tradition are positioned along the Bluestone Reservoir section of the New River. This phase dates into the early historic period based on the recovery of materials such as glass beads. Neighboring cultures may have influenced this group, but it is likely that it developed from existing cultures in the area (Graybill 1988:58).

The Woodside phase of the Fort Ancient tradition was originally identified in eastern Kentucky (Dunnell 1972), but sites associated with this phase have been identified in the Guyandotte River valley, including the Mann site (Brasher and Reed 1990). These sites tend to be large planned villages with palisaded walls. These may be sedentary or semi-permanent villages (Graybill 1988). The material remains and reliance upon cultivated plants remains the common theme for sites in this area.

During what is considered as the Protohistoric period, sites associated with the Clover complex were prevalent in western and southwestern West Virginia. Unique artifacts that occur at these sites include shell masks and ceramic figurines. Common artifacts include shell-tempered pottery, triangular points, ornaments, pipes, and trade items. These sites have been encountered within the fifty-year floodplain of larger drainages and on high terraces. They appear to be associated with Yuchi or eastern Siouan speaking groups (Verbka 1998:34).

marshall County History

Marshall County was formed on March 12, 1835 and named in honor of John Marshall, Chief Justice of the United States. Robert C. Woods of Ohio County and John W. McClean, Sr., of Marshall County were appointed the first commissioners to survey the new county. Elizabethtown was named the county seat. The first courthouse was a brick schoolhouse (Dilger and Marshall 2002; Lewis 1889: 664; Newton 1879).

La Salle, Celeron, and Gist were the first explorers through the region; claiming the lands for France and England. American occupation began with John Wetzel and family, likely the first pioneer to the area, who built a cabin on Big Wheeling Creek in 1769 in what became the Sand Hill District, Marshall County. Other early settlers included the Zane brothers, Nathanile Parr; Captain John Baker; the Tush family; Colonel Beeler; the Siverts; the Earlywynes; Joseph Tomlinson; Con O'Neil; Nathan Master; James and Jonathan Riggs; Cresap; John, James and David Bonar; Peter Yoho; Richard Campbell; Thomas Buchanon; Lazarus Rine; Henry Conkle; and Jonathan Purdy (Dilger and Marshall 2002; Lewis 1889: 664-665).

On January 13, 1789, Elizabethtown was established from land that was once owned by Joseph Tomlinson. The town was incorporated on February 17, 1830. In 1831, Simeon Purdy laid out the town of Moundsville. A legislative act passed on February 23, 1866 consolidated the two towns under the name of Moundsville (Lewis 1889: 670-671). When the two merged, Moundsville assumed the role of judicial seat for the county. Moundsville is so named because it is in the shadow of one of the nation's largest prehistoric earthworks at nearly 70 feet tall (Dilger and Marshall 2002; Newton 1879).
Research Design

The purpose of a Phase I survey is to locate and identify cultural resources that will be affected by the planned development. This includes archaeological deposits as well as architectural properties that are older than 50 years. Once these resources are identified and sampled, they are evaluated for their eligibility or potential eligibility to the NRHP. These investigations are directed to answer or address the following questions:

1) Did the literature review reveal anything that suggests the project area had been previously surveyed, and what is the relationship of previously recorded properties to the project area?
2) Are cultural resources likely to be encountered in the project area?
3) Will the planned undertaking affect any archaeological or architectural properties?
4) Will any NRHP eligible sites or properties be affected by the planned development?

Archaeological Field Methods

The survey conducted within the project area included shovel test units and visual inspection to identify and evaluate the subject area for cultural resources.

Shovel test unit excavation. Shovel test units were initially placed at 15-m intervals where intact soils and landforms with less than 20 percent slope were identified. These measure 50 cm on a side and are excavated to 5 cm below the topsoil/subsoil interface. Individual shovel test units are documented regarding their depth, content and color (Munsell). Wherever sites are identified, Munsell color readings are taken per shovel test unit. All of the undisturbed soil matrices from shovel test units are screened using .6 cm hardware mesh.

Shovel probe excavation. Shovel probes were excavated during these investigations to document the extent and nature of the disturbance associated with modern construction/filling activities. These probes were excavated similarly to shovel test units. They have smaller dimensions of 30 cm on a side, and were not screened. They were excavated at 15-m intervals and to a depth of 15-20 cm or deep enough to establish lack of soil integrity.

Visual inspection. Locations where cultural resources were not expected, such as disturbed areas and steep slope were walked over and visually inspected. This method was used to verify the absence or likelihood of any cultural resources being located in these areas. This method was also utilized to document the general terrain and the surrounding area.
The application of the resulting field survey methods was documented in field notes, field maps, and project plan maps.

**Curation**

There were no cultural materials identified during these investigations. Notes and maps affiliated with this project will be maintained at Weller & Associates, Inc. files.

**Literature Review**

The literature review study area is defined as a 2.0 km (1.24 mile) radius from the center of the silo portion of the project. In conducting the literature review, the following resources were consulted at the West Virginia Division of Culture and History:

1. United States Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5’ series topographic maps;
2. West Virginia Archaeological Inventory (WVAI) files;
3. West Virginia Historic Inventory (WVHI) files;
4. NRHP files and NRHP eligible files;
5. Cultural Resources Management (CRM)/contract archaeology files;
6. Marshall County atlases, histories, historic USGS 15’ series topographic map(s), and current USGS 7.5’ series topographic map(s).

The USGS 7.5’ series topographic maps did not indicate that any sites had been identified in the vicinity of the project corridor. During the field investigations, an area had been taped off that was indicative of a cultural deposit. This included the former location of the Gatts residence as well as the Gatts Cemetery. These are both located on the ridge top and immediately adjacent to Gatts Road. This site and cemetery will not be affected by the planned haul road construction as they are outside of the corridor. Plans are to avoid these sites (personal communication, Dan Schmelick (AEP contact), September 9, 2011). The report for the landfill expansion, for which these sites were identified, was in progress at the time of Weller’s investigation for the haul road.

There have been several CRM surveys conducted within the study radius and many of which are listed in the previous haul road reports (Weller 2011a and 2011b). The recent Weller surveys for the haul road did not identify any cultural materials that would be pertinent to the current haul road extension. The extension of the haul road to the west included two CRM reports that were not part of the original literature review (Clifford 1998; Perkins et al. 1995). Neither of these reports involved any aspects of the current project corridor. Surveys conducted for the McElroy Mine Company (Meece 2008) and the Conner Run Flay Ash Retention Dam (Blake 2004) involve aspects of the current project area. Neither of these identified any sites within the project corridor. There have been many other surveys conducted in the vicinity and primarily regarding the Mitchell Plant expansion and development (Blake 2004; Espenshade et al. 2000; Fletcher 2004; GAI 2005; Gundy et al. 2001; Meece 2008; Whyte 1992). The Whyte (1992) survey was conducted in an area to the southeast and along Fish Creek, but did not
identify any significant cultural materials. The Gundy et al. (2001) report documents significant prehistoric materials from the SR 2 roadside that is to the south of the project area and Fish Creek. This is terrain that is aberrant to the project area, which yielded nearly 11,500 prehistoric artifacts. In 2005, GAI Consultants completed a survey for the triangular area that is to the southeast of the Fish Creek Road/SR 2 intersection and extending to Fish Creek (05-922-MR-2). They identified cultural resources, but nothing was regarded as being significant.

The West Virginia Historic Inventory files were reviewed for the project in order to see if any previously recorded relative resources were located in the project or in the study area. There were no WVHI resources within or near the project, however there are six recorded in the nearby setting (MR-0075, MR-0043, MR-0037-0138, MR-0078, MR-0077, and MR-0076). There are none recorded adjacent to the project area.

There are sites that are likely eligible for the NRHP property located within the study radius. The Twin Mounds (46MR5) do not appear to be listed on the NR, however, similar site types are generally found to be significant (eligible) upon survey and documentation. The same can be stated for 46MR55 and 46MR6, if it they are still intact. Sites 46MR5 and 46MR6 are located to the south and west of the current area of investigation. Reconnaissance work conducted in the area where 46MR55 was recorded did not relocate this resource and it appears to have been destroyed or was improperly documented.

Historical maps were reviewed for this project. These are inspected to get a better understanding of previous landowners and if structures had been located on their land. The USGS 1905 Clarington, OH Quadrangle 15 Minute Series (Topographic) map did not indicate any structures or buildings located in the project or its proximity (Figure 4). The USGS 1960 (P.R. 1972 and 1976; P.I. 1984) Powhatan Point, OH-WV Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) map further reiterates that there are no buildings within the project (Figure 2).

**Evaluation of Research Questions 1 and 2**

There were two questions presented in the research design that will be addressed at this point. These are:

1) Did the literature review reveal anything that suggests the project area had been previously surveyed, and what is the relationship of previously recorded properties to the project area?
2) Are cultural resources likely to be encountered in the project area?

The literature review indicated that there are numerous previously recorded cultural resources in the study area, but mostly nearer the drainages. There are no sites within the immediate vicinity of the project corridor. A site was documented and taped off by a recent survey for an adjacent area. This site includes the Gatt Cemetery and is outside of the project corridor.
Fieldwork Results

The field investigations for this project were conducted on September 6, 2011. The survey was conducted during wet conditions, which were not a hindrance in allowing for the completion of the work since much of it involved pedestrian reconnaissance. These conditions were not a factor in the completion of the field investigations. The fieldwork involved minimal manual subsurface testing methods and visual inspection. The majority of the project corridor was found to be severely disturbed or steeply sloped. Photographic documentation was used to validate the conditions and the nature of the terrain in this area.

The field conditions for the proposed haul road corridor involved varying conditions (Figures 2-7). Severe disturbance is prevalent in the majority of the proposed corridor and especially in the western two-thirds. This aspect of the corridor is contained within areas that have been graded and include industrial landscape. The haul road placement is mostly consistent with existing drive and access roads in the western part (Figures 5 and 8-11).

Survey in the eastern one-third of the project corridor involved pedestrian reconnaissance of what is largely a forested side slope (Figures 5-7 and 12-15). The proposed haul road in this area will maintain a nearly level easement, but will skirt along the northern side of Gatt Ridge. Visual inspection of this part of the project corridor did not identify any rockshelters and few locations that were suitable for archaeological investigation. Much of the work and time was spent traversing the approximate centerline and establishing disturbances and/or steep slope. Aspects of the area involved severe disturbance associated with grading/leveling activity and possibly mining. Bulldozer piles of debris or undulating conditions that were indicative of unnatural terrain were identified.

The two testable landforms included a toe ridge and a small bench. There were five shovel test units excavated during the course of the field investigations (Figures 6 and 7). The testing generally identified shallow topsoil consisting of fragmented bedrock and soils formed from decomposing residuum. Most of the area within the woods was either disturbed or had a slope gradient that was greater than 20 percent. A typical test unit (Figure 16) excavated on a bench demonstrates the shallow nature of the soil. The topsoil is 25 cm below ground surface and is dark grayish brown (10YR 4/2). The interface with the subsoil is irregular, wavy, and occasionally broken; it is dark yellowish brown (10YR 4/6) silty loam. This is consistent with Culleoka-Dormont Complex soils. Decomposing sandstone fragments were identified in both levels as this soil appears to be affiliated with colluvium.

Visual inspection was accomplished throughout the project corridor. This verified locations where archaeological investigations were appropriate, disturbance, and steep slope. There were no rock shelters or mine adits identified in the project corridor. Inspection is necessary in the side sloped areas as small benches or suitable landforms may be masked by topographic maps and soil survey results, which depict steeply sloped
terrain. The resulting field investigations did not result in the identification of any cultural materials.

**Evaluations of Research Questions 3 & 4**

There were two questions presented in the research design that will be addressed at this point. These are:

3) Will the planned undertaking affect any archaeological or architectural properties?  
4) Will any NRHP eligible sites or properties be affected by the planned development?

The construction plans involve widening and realignment of existing roads and the development of a new corridor in a wooded area. The work focused on the wooded portion as it is not part of a highly industrialized location. The wooded aspect, the eastern part of the corridor, is largely contained in steep side slope with part of it being disturbed. There were no sites identified during these investigations. No NR sites will be impacted by any of the planned constructions within the project area.

**APE Definition and NRHP Determination**

The APE is a term that must be applied on an individual project basis. The nature of the project or undertaking is considered in determining the APE. This may include areas that are off the property or outside of the actual project’s boundaries to account for possible visual impacts. When construction is limited to underground activity, the APE may be contained within the footprint of the project area. The APE includes the footprint of the project and a limited area surrounding it. There were no archaeological or architectural sites identified within the project corridor.

The project is located within and east of areas considered as the Mitchell Plant and its associated landfill. This is not an aberrant construction type in this setting/area and it is not considered to have an adverse visual impact on any historic properties. These will not impose or adversely affect any historic properties. A statement of “no adverse affect to any historic properties would be appropriate.

**Recommendations**

In August of 2011, Weller & Associates, Inc. completed Phase I Archaeological Investigations for an approximately 2.4 mile (3.9 kilometer) New Haul Road Extension at the Mitchell Plant in Marshall County, West Virginia. The fieldwork involved subsurface testing and visual inspection, which did not identify any cultural materials. The project is not considered to affect any historic properties. No further work is deemed necessary.
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West Virginia Geological and Economic Survey  

Whyte, Jr., C. W.  

Wilkins, G. R.  


Wymer, D. A.  
Figures
Figure 1. Map of West Virginia political boundaries showing the approximate location of the project.
Figure 2. Portion of the USGS 1960 (P.R. 1972 and 1976; P.I. 1984) Powhatan Point, OH-WV Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series (Topographic) map indicating the location of the project and previously recorded resources within the vicinity.
Figure 4. Portion of the USGS 1905 Clarington, OH Quadrangle 15 Minute Series (Topographic) map indicating the approximate location of the project.
Figure 6. Fieldwork map of a west central portion of the project indicating the results of testing and photo orientations.
Figure 7. Fieldwork map of a west central portion of the project indicating the results of testing and photo orientations.
Figure 8. View of the existing haul road within the western portion of the project corridor.

Figure 9. Another view of the existing haul road within the western portion of the project corridor.
Figure 10. View of the existing haul road within the central portion of the project corridor.

Figure 11. Another view of the existing haul road within the central portion of the project corridor.
Figure 12. View of some of the disturbance within the central portion of the project corridor.

Figure 13. View of sloped conditions encountered within the central eastern portion of the project.
Figure 16. A typical shovel test unit excavated within the project area.
West Virginia State Historic Preservation Office

Cultural Resources Files and Library
User Registration and Research Record Form

INSTRUCTIONS: Part I must be completed before you will be permitted access to the SHPO Cultural Resource Files and Library. Part II is a record of the site files, cultural resource reports, USGS topographic maps and other materials you utilize during your visit. Part III will be completed and signed by a SHPO staff member only when you have completed your research and have returned the materials to which you have been given access.

I. IDENTIFICATION

DATE: 7-22-11

Name(s): ____________________________________________

Organization or Company: Loller & Associates

Address: 1395 U. 5th Ave.

Columbus, OH 43212 Phone (614) 485-7925

FP Number (if known) ___________________________________

II MATERIALS UTILIZED

ARCHAEOLOGY:
USGS QUAD MAP NAMES:

[Blank lines for entries]

ARCHAEOLOGY SITE FORM #:

[Blank lines for entries]
SURVEY AND NATIONAL REGISTER:
County Survey Files

National Register Files

Other Materials

III MATERIALS RETURNED IN GOOD ORDER

DATE: ____________  # Photocopies ____________  $  ____________

USER NAME: ____________________________________________

SHPO STAFF SIGNATURE: ________________________________
(Signature assures that materials have been returned to file)