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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma

Historic Preservation

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Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Department (CNHPD) Comments Pushmataha Hydroelectric Project, Project No. 14890

- The Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma Historic Preservation Department (CNHPD) received a copy of the transmittal letter from Indya Messier, Project Manager with SWCA Environmental Consultants, on February 1, 2024. Additional information pertaining to this undertaking was requested on March 1, 2024. CNHPD received notice that the project was proceeding and issued a stop work request to Stephen Bowler on May 30, 2024. CNHPD attempted to contact Randa Horton (SWCA), the tribal liaison listed in the pre-application document, on June 7, 2024 (the phone line was disconnected). All attempts to consult on this project, as required by the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) under Section 106 (36 CFR Part 800), have been unsuccessful to date.
- As a result of the complete lack of consultation, CNHPD has not received the materials from FERC/the project applicant that are necessary to review this project as required by the NHPA. Without knowing the precise project location, we have conducted a preliminary review of the Choctaw Register of Historic Places for sites located within a 5-mile radius of the project area. This search identified thirty-six (36) historic archaeological sites, including fourteen (14) Choctaw Cemeteries (Please see Table 1). The majority of these sites are currently unassessed for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Also, twelve (12) possible 1898 BLM GLO Structures are indicated on historic maps in or adjacent to the project area.
- Additionally, the pre-application document lists at least forty (40) previously recorded pre-contact period archaeological sites within the project area. The Davis, Grobin, Mound Group, an ancestral Caddo mound center listed on the NRHP, is currently located within the proposed transmission line. Construction of the transmission line through this area is likely to have adverse effects.
- In order to conduct a formal review, CNHPD requires a .kmz or .shp file of the Area of Potential Effect (APE), a topographic map of the same area, and a map of cultural resources within one mile of the project area. CNHPD also requires copies of any reports from previous archaeological resource investigations within the proposed project boundary.
- It is the responsibility of federal agencies to conduct appropriate archaeological resources investigations, including proper archaeological surveys, at the request of the consulting Tribes. For this undertaking to comply with the NHPA, FERC / the Project Applicant would need to conduct a Phase I cultural resources survey of the entire APE. Once completed, FERC would need to consult on it with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, other federally recognized Tribes

with a historic interest in the area, the Oklahoma State Historic Preservation Officer, and the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey. Thereafter, FERC would need to work out a formal plan with these parties to mitigate adverse effects to any properties that are eligible or potentially eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places that are located within the APE. For any Choctaw cemeteries that might be potentially impacted by this undertaking, FERC would need to work out a NAGPRA Plan of Action with the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma.



Ian Thompson PhD, RPA
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

Table 1: Historic Archaeological Sites within 5-miles of the Proposed Project Area

Site No.	Site Description	NRHP Status
23PU244	<i>Albion Cemetery</i> ; Possible Protohistoric-era Native or Historic-era nonnative cemetery. "Pimple" Mounds, each mound appears to be equivalent to family plot size. No legible headstones.	Unevaluated
34PU252	<i>Cemetery</i> , at least 2 graves, likely Choctaw; Multicomponent site: Habitation site with "Pimple" Mounds and Historic-era farmstead and cemetery. Lithic scatter consists of fire cracked rock, projectile points, biface, unifaces and debitage. Temporally diagnostic artifacts include Corner Notched, Gary, Johnson, Edgewood and Dalton projectile points indicate a possible date in a middle to late Archaic period (Wister phase). Historic-era farmstead disturbed. Cemetery consists of two headstones with dates of death of 1915 and reportedly two more without headstones.	Unevaluated
34PU253	Historic farmstead, ethnic affiliation uncertain; Multicomponent Site: Late Archaic habitation site without mounds and historic-era farmstead remnants. Sparse lithic scatter includes debitage, bifaces and projectile points. Temporally diagnostic artifacts include Gary projectile points.	Unevaluated
34PU265	Historic Choctaw farmstead; Multicomponent site: habitation site without mounds and Native Historic-era residential farmstead. Lithic scatter consists of debitage. The historic farmstead was owned by Choctaw Nation who sold it after the turn of the nineteenth to twentieth century and consists of several burned structures with foundations and historic scatter. Deep (60 cm) cultural material was discovered during shovel tests.	Unevaluated
34PU267	Unknown historic site with collapsed building; Multicomponent site: large habitation site without mounds and Historic-era scatter. Historic-era scatter consists of nails, tin, wires, collapsed shed, and broken porcelain. The native component consists of low density debitage scatter. Temporally diagnostic artifacts observed include Gary and Martindale projectile points dating to late archaic period.	Unevaluated
34PU269	<i>Historic Choctaw Cemetery</i> ; Native and American cemetery dating from 1840–1900+ which includes Choctaw Tribal members and settlers.	Unevaluated

34PU272	Historic farmstead, ethnic affiliation uncertain, <i>poss. grave</i> ; Multicomponent site: Habitation site without mounds and Historic-era residential farmstead. Native components consist of sparse lithic scatter projectile points, bifaces and debitage. Historic-era component consists of historic scatter, fence, rock-lined well, foundations, and a circle rock structure.	Unevaluated
34PU281	Historic; Habitation site with "Pimple" Mounds: Lithic scatter includes bifaces, projectile points, cores and debitage. Temporally diagnostic artifacts include Gary points dating to late Archaic or early Woodland period. Test pit on edge of one "Pimple" Mound identified 60 cm of cultural remains in decent density. Isolated Historic-era remnants evidence of post-1919 residential dump site includes porcelain and other ceramics.	Unevaluated
34PU292	Historic farmstead, ethnic affiliation uncertain; Historic-era residential farmstead dating from 1930-1950: residential and outbuilding foundations, root cellar, and historic scatter.	Unevaluated
34PU294	Historic; Multicomponent site: Native Open Habitation site without Mounds and historic-era residential farmsteads. Large lithic scatter consisting of projectile points, bifaces, ground stone, and numerous pieces of debitage. Temporally diagnostic artifacts include Gary projectile points dating to approximately late Archaic or early Woodland periods (Wister phase). The historic-era farmsteads consist of three occupied houses with outbuildings and scatter.	Unevaluated
34PU297	Choctaw historic farmstead; Multicomponent site: Habitation site without mounds and possibly Native Historic-era residential farmstead. Lithic scatter consists of biface, debitage. The historic-era farmstead has an unknown history but may be a Choctaw member and consists of rock-lined well, root cellar depression, foundation, mud/brick chimney, stones, and wood remnants as well as historic scatter.	Unevaluated
34PU450	Choctaw homestead; Multicomponent site: Habitation site without mounds and possibly Native historic-era residential farmstead. Lithic scatter consists of projectile points, fire-cracked rock, nutting stones, biface, and debitage. Temporally diagnostic artifacts include late Archaic corner-notched point base. The historic era farmstead has an unknown history, the historic scatter consists of porcelain, glass, and brown earthenware. The site has been heavily impacted by shovels and mechanical equipment.	Unevaluated
34PU257	<i>Choctaw historic cemetery</i> ; Historic-era Native Burial in "Pimple" Mound – Choctaw Tribal member named Wallace Le Flore 1816–1864. Headstone broken in half; the grave has been vandalized.	Unevaluated
34PU263	<i>Choctaw historic farmstead and cemetery</i> ; Multicomponent site: Historic-era farmstead with Choctaw cemetery nearby. Plain Historic sherds and sandstone grave markers observed. Cemetery needs better preservation.	Unevaluated
23PU264	Choctaw farmstead, D.H. Dukes; Native Historic-era residential farmstead: The site is of the D.H. (Dukes Home), Gilbert Dukes (1849–1919), who was the Chief/Governor of the Choctaw Nation in 1900. The site includes a rock-lined well with good water, a brick chimney (dated 1906), foundation of main house and outbuildings.	Unevaluated
34PU275	<i>Historic Choctaw cemetery</i> ; Native Historic-era Choctaw burial with lithic scatter: Lithic scatter includes projectile points and debitage. Two graves are on an isolated high point surrounded by floodplain, outlined with bricks and no headstones.	Unevaluated

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	1899 BLM GLO Structure	
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