

schneider, marchant

From: Siebentritt, Heidi
Sent: Tuesday, March 23, 2010 4:03 PM
To: schneider, marchant
Cc: Giglio, Patrick; Salinas, Michael
Subject: SPEX 2009-0040, SPEX 2009-0041, SPMI 2010-0001 & CMPT 2010-0002 - Odor Abatement Site 46

Marchant,

The archaeological reporting for the subject property is incomplete. A Phase 1 archaeological survey and report meeting the standards outlined by the Virginia Department of Historic Resources in their *Guidelines for Conducting Archaeological Survey in Virginia*, are typically required for legislative applications at submission. If there is evidence that a Phase 1 is not warranted for a specific property, a waiver of the requirement may be requested. Such a request should include a justification for why a Phase 1 survey is not warranted. A Phase 1A – reconnaissance level report is typically included as justification in this case. The submitted report entitled “Archaeological Identification for Site 46, Algonkin Regional Park Loudoun County, Virginia” prepared by Straughan Environmental Services, does not include basic information necessary for staff to complete a review of the report for compliance with state and County standards, or to evaluate potential impacts to historic and archaeological resources relative to the development proposal.

To summarize briefly the issues with the submitted report, there is no summary of the prehistoric/historic context for the property, no apparent consideration of previously identified sites within a mile radius of the property (of which there are many) and no preliminary map research. All of this information would contribute to a predictive model and a testing methodology for the property. As a result, it appears that 50 foot judgmental shovel tests were used to test a specific area, but no rationale for the location of the shovel tests or for the testing interval is provided. Further, soil profiles provided in the report appear inconsistent with County soil data for the parcel. This may be a result of previous ground disturbance within the project area, but no detail on the existing conditions or environmental setting are included in the report. Finally, archaeological testing must be conducted by a qualified professional archaeologist meeting the Secretary of the Interior’s standards for work in the field of archaeology. Verification of professional qualifications should be provided in any archaeological report.

It should be noted that all land areas that will be impacted for the construction of the odor abatement structure, loading area, parking area and access roads must be tested unless a waiver of the Phase 1 requirement is granted.

I am happy to speak with the applicant or their consultant if further clarification is needed. Once the requirement has been met, I will be sending you my referral comments related to all heritage resource issues associated with the application.

Heidi

Heidi E. Siebentritt
Historic Preservation Planner
Loudoun County Department of Planning
1 Harrison Street, SE
Leesburg, VA 20177
(703) 777-0246 (phone)
(703) 777-0441 (fax)