# Grant Lake Project (FERC No. 13211 and 13212)

## **Cultural Resources**

Draft Study Plan



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#### **List of Acronyms**

ADF&G Alaska Department of Fish and Game

AEIDC Arctic Environmental Information and Data Center (University of

Alaska)

AHRS Alaska Heritage Resources Survey

**APA** Alaska Power Authority

AWC Anadromous Waters Catalog
BLM Bureau of Land Management

°C Degrees Celsius

cfs cubic feet per second

**cm** centimeter

**CPUE** catch per unit effort °**F** Degrees Fahrenheit

**DNR** Alaska Department of Natural Resources

**EPA** Environmental Protection Agency

**FERC** Federal Energy Regulatory Commission

FL Fork Length

**fps** feet per second

**ft** feet

G&A general and administrative
GPS global positioning system

**GWh** gigawatt hours

**HEP** Hydroelectric Evaluation Program

**IFIM** instream flow incremental methodology

in inch

KHI Kenai Hydro Inc.KHL Kenai Hydro, LLC

**KPB** Kenai Peninsula Borough

**kWh** kilowatt hours

**LLC** Limited liability company

mg/L milligrams per liter

**mi** mile

MIF minimum instream flow

**mm** millimeter

MSL Mean sea level

MW Megawatt

MWh Megawatt hours

NWI National Wetlands InventoryO&M Operations & maintenance

**RM** river miles

**RVDs** Recreation visitor days

TL total length

**TWG** technical working group

**USACE** U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

**USFS** U.S. Forest Service

**USFWS** U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**USGS** U.S. Geological Survey

YOY Young of the year

### Cultural Resources Draft Study Plan Grant Lake Hydroelectric Project (FERC No. 13211/13212)

#### 1 Introduction

Kenai Hydro, LLC (KHL) received preliminary permits from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for the study of proposed hydroelectric projects at Grant Lake/Grant Creek (FERC No. 13212) and Falls Creek (FERC No. 13211) in October 2008. The preliminary permits expire on September 30, 2011. On August 6, 2009, KHL filed a Pre-Application Document (PAD), along with a Notice of Intent to file an application for an original license for a combined Grant Lake/Falls Creek Project (FERC No. 13211/13212 ["Project" or "Grant Lake Project"]) under Part I of the Federal Power Act. On September 15, 2009, FERC approved the use of the Traditional Licensing Process for development of the license application and supporting materials. As described in more detail below, the proposed Project has been modified to eliminate the diversion of water from Falls Creek to Grant Lake. KHL is planning to file a License Application for the Project in September 2011.

The Project will be located near the community of Moose Pass, Alaska in the Kenai Peninsula Borough, approximately 25 miles north of Seward, Alaska, and just east of the Seward Highway (State Route 9) (Figure 1).

The Project is considered a federal undertaking under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), because it involves the acquisition of a license from a federal agency, i.e., FERC. An undertaking is defined as a "project, activity, or program funded in whole or in part under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of a Federal agency, including those carried out by or on behalf of a Federal agency; those carried out with federal financial assistance; those requiring a Federal permit, license or approval; and those subject to State or location regulations administered pursuant to a delegation or approval by a Federal agency" (36CFR 800.16(y)). On September 15, 2009, FERC authorized KHL to initiate day-to-day consultation with the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer, appropriate Native Alaskan tribal governments and organizations, the Chugach National Forest, and other consulting parties, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(4) of the regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

This Cultural Resources study is designed to address information needs identified in the PAD, during the Traditional Licensing Process public comment process, and through early scoping conducted by FERC. A study report will be produced in early 2011. The study report will present information relative to the scope and context of potential effects of the Project. This information will be used to analyze Project impacts and propose protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures in the draft and final License Application for the Project.

#### **Proposed Project Description**

The PAD identified a preliminary Project facilities proposal, which includes a diversion dam at the outlet to Grant Lake, and a powerhouse along Grant Creek. The PAD Project proposal also included diverting water from Falls Creek into Grant Lake to provide additional flows and power generation at the Grant Creek powerhouse. The Falls Creek diversion has been removed from the

Project proposal and associated impacts will not be studied. Portions of the Falls Creek preliminary permit area will continue to be studied for access and transmission routes associated with the Grant Lake Project.

The proposed Project will use approximately 48,000 acre-feet of storage in Grant Lake during operations between pool elevations of 675 and 709 feet mean sea level (MSL). Storage will be obtained by raising the natural level of Grant Lake using a low diversion at the outlet and drawing down Grant Lake below its natural water level. The proposed lake level will range from approximately 9 feet above up to 25 feet below the natural lake elevation. A multi-level intake will be constructed near the diversion structure. An approximate 2800-foot-long, 10-foot diameter horseshoe tunnel will convey water from the intake to directly above the powerhouse at about elevation 650 MSL. At the outlet of the tunnel a 650-foot-long section of penstock will convey water to the powerhouse located at about elevation 518 MSL. The tailrace will be located in order to minimize impacts to fish habitat by returning flows to Grant Creek upstream of the most productive fish habitat. An access road will be constructed in the area between Falls Creek and Grant Creek. Two potential transmission line options will be investigated; an overhead line and an underground option. The transmission line corridor for each option would generally follow the access road grade.

#### 2 Goals and Objectives

Consistent with Section 106 consultation requirements, the goal of the study effort described in this plan is to determine if historic properties occur within the study area, and assess potential for Project effects to historic properties. A Finding of Effect and potential protection, mitigation, and enhancement measures (culminating in a Memorandum of Agreement, as appropriate) will be presented in the draft and final License Applications.

The objectives of this study are to provide supporting information on the potential effects of the proposed Project that were identified during development of the PAD, public comment, and FERC scoping for the License Application, as follows:

- Effects of Project construction and operation (including changes in flows and lake level fluctuation and potential for increased recreational use and access in the area) on historic properties in the Grant Lake and Grant Creek area.
- Assessment of existing subsistence use, and impacts of Project construction and operation on subsistence use in the area.

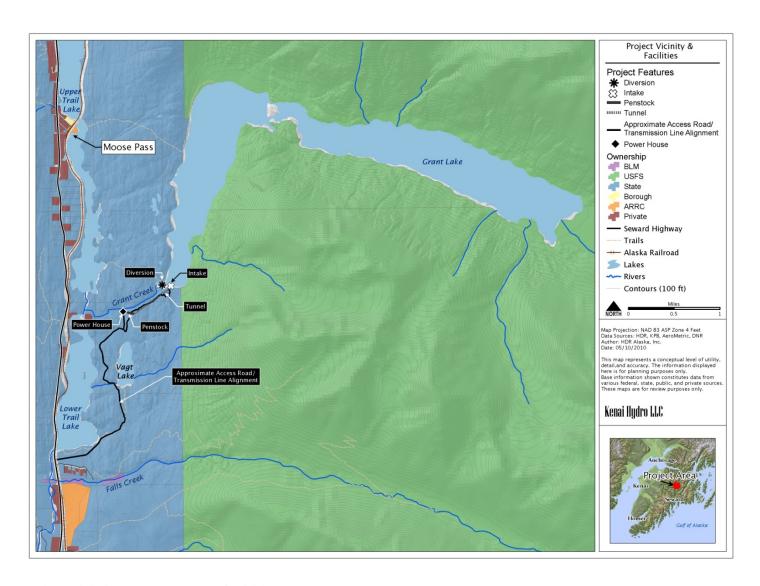


Figure 1. Project vicinity and proposed facilities.

#### 3 Existing Information and Need for Information

Existing information regarding Project area cultural resources comes from resource agency records, results of studies conducted for previous hydropower feasibility analyses (APA, 1984) and from consultation during 2009 for this Project.

#### 3.1 Existing Information

The Kenai Peninsula has been occupied prehistorically and historically by both Eskimo and Dena'ina Athapaskan groups. Additionally, historic mining, lumber, and settlement sites have been previously identified within the proposed Grant Lake and Grant Creek area; the community of Moose Pass, for example, immediately adjacent to the Project to the west, possesses numerous historic properties either listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP (AHRS n.d.).

A total of thirteen cultural resources studies have been completed within one mile of the proposed Project APE (Table 1). Thirty-nine historic properties were identified, of which nine fall within, and the remaining 30 outside of, the proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE) as defined below (Tables 2 and 3). One, the Solars Sawmill along Grant Lake at the head of Grant Creek, was determined not eligible for listing in the NRHP, and a second, the Case Mine (Grant Lake Placer Mine), on the north side of Grant Lake, was determined eligible for listing. The remaining seven recorded historic properties within the proposed APE have not been formally evaluated for listing in the NRHP. Recorded historic properties in the area primarily relate to historic logging and mining activities, and early historic settlement of the Kenai Peninsula.

Table 1. Cultural resources surveys completed within 1 mile of proposed APE.

AHRS Citation No.	Survey Name/Description	Reference
3931	Moose Pass Prescribed Burn Project	Alden 1996a
Not Applicable	Grant Lake Hydroelectric Project	Arndt 1982
3932	Moose Pass Prescribed Burn Project	Vinson 1997
4435	Moose Pass Prescribed Burn Project	Schick 2005a
3930	Moose Pass Prescribed Burn Project	Alden 1996b
6976	Evaluation of Case Mine	Bruder 2002
6878	Evaluation of Crown Point Mine	Bruder 2003
3889	Crown Point Mine Petroleum Removal	White 2001
6853	Closure of adits at Crown Point and Nearhouse Mines	Largaespada 2003
4033	Cultural Resources Monitoring at Grant Lake Placers, Case Mine	Gilliam 1999
3894	Inventory of Mull Cabins and Case Mines	Nelson 2002a
3895	Inventory of Mull Cabins and Case Mines	Nelson 2002b
4435	Grant Lake Wildlife Habitat Improvement	Schick 2005b

Table 2. Previously recorded cultural resources located within the proposed APE.

AHRS No.	Site Name	Description	Eligibility
SEW- 00258	Solars Sawmill	Collection of wooden structures, operated between 1920-1941	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00659	Case Mine (Grant Lake Placer Mine)	Cabin, bunkhouse, and 4 associated structures, 1900-1940s	Determined Eligible
SEW- 00678	Upper Trail Lake Garage	Pole and beam garage ruins	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00768	Grant Lake Cabin	Frame cabin, dating to historic prospecting, mining, hunting, or trapping	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00822	Grant Lake Prospect	Prospecting pit with channel or ditch	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00823	North Grant Lake Cabin (Case Mine Dynamite Shack)	Log cabin/dynamite storage for area mines	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 01142	USFS	No available information	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 01143	USFS	No available information	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 01144	USFS	No available information	No Determination of Eligibility

Table 3. Cultural resources located within 1 mile of the proposed APE.

AHRS No.	Site Name	Description	Eligibility
SEW- 00024	Moose Pass RR Station	Established in early 20th century	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00029	Alaska Railroad	Constructed between 1915-1923	Nomination closed
SEW- 00097	Christainsen Roadhouse	Built by Oscar Christainsen and Mickey Natt in 1909. torn down in 1941	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00098	Estes Brothers Store (Hilo Roadhouse)	Erected in 1934 by Frank Hilo	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00140	Crown Point Mine Trail	Switch-back trail connecting Crown Point Mine to Falls Creek Mine Trail	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00148	Seward-Moose Pass Trail	Trail dating to prehistoric use; also part of Iditarod Trail	Nomination Pending
SEW- 00192	Crown Point Mine	Complex of building ruins, tramways, mining equipment, tailings, and shafts	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00251	Moose Pass-Portage	Portion of the Iditarod Trail that runs from Moose Pass to Portage	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00573	Moose Pass Military Road	Connecting road for the Iditarod Trail, constructed by AK RR 1909-1912	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00580	Lyle Saxon House	Framed cottage, associated with dates 1929- 1948	Determined Eligible
SEW- 00581	Wood's Cabin	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00582	Racine Cabin	No available information	Determined Not Eligible

AHRS No.	Site Name	Description	Eligibility
SEW- 00583	Loucher/Tolsten Cabin	Mining cabin, 1929-1948	Determined Eligible
SEW- 00584	Hilo House	Small frame cottage, dating to 1929-1948	Determined Eligible
SEW- 00585	Christensen Mink Pens	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00586	Stafford House and Garage	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00587	First School	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00588	Vern Saxton Cabin	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00589	Estes Brothers Utilities Building	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00590	The Roof	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00591	The Moose Pass Highway Department and Maintenance Shop	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00592	Moose Pass Inn	Two-story gable-roofed structure, ca. 1929- 1948	Determined Eligible
SEW- 00601	Warburton's Cottage	No available information	Determined Not Eligible
SEW- 00676	Lower Trail Cabin #2	Historic homestead site, includes cabin and storage rack	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 00677	Upper Trail Lake Cabin	Collapsed 1-room log cabin and scatter of household items	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 01054	Crown Point Mine Tramline	Remains of tram associated with Crown Point Mine	Determined Eligible
SEW- 01068	Loop HD	Telephone line between Portage and Spencer	Listed site within the boundaries of a property determined eligible
SEW- 01077	Carter Lake Trail	Trail constructed ca. 1955	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 01141	USFS Building	No available information	No Determination of Eligibility
SEW- 01351	ARRC Timber Bridge at MP 29.5	285-foot timber trestle with 15-foot spans	No Determination of Eligibility

#### 3.2 Potential for Cultural Resources

A number of cultural resources have been identified during previous studies in the areas of Grant Lake and Grant Creek and the community of Moose Pass (Tables 1, 2, and 3). The perimeters of Grant Lake and Grant Creek and the proposed access road and transmission line alignments have not been previously surveyed for cultural resources. It is possible that cultural resources related to the long history of the area, including the development of Moose Pass, exist within the proposed APE.

#### 4 Methods

The purpose of this study plan is to outline a methodology for cultural resources research for the proposed Project. The proposed cultural resources methodology follows the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation, which establishes a comprehensive approach to the identification, evaluation, and management of historic properties.

Cultural resources in the proposed APE will be studied using a combination of literature review, consultation, and field survey. Consultations begun in 2009 will continue with Tribal governments and organizations and the SHPO, and include additional interested consulting parties as they are identified.

#### 4.1 Study Area

The proposed undertaking has the potential to affect historic properties near the shores of Grant Lake and Grant Creek and along the proposed alignments of the access road and transmission line. The shoreline of Grant Lake will be affected by fluctuating lake levels. The proposed Project operations would cause the lake level to fluctuate between a minimum of 675 ft, to a maximum of 709 ft, potentially affecting cultural sites or exposing previously-unidentified sites. Flows in Grant Creek will be altered and a powerhouse and tailrace will be constructed near the channel. Clearing, construction, and maintenance of the access road and transmission line also could potentially disturb cultural sites.

Consequently, it is proposed that the APE delineates an area extending 30 ft (10m) above the proposed high water mark around Grant Lake, or 740 ft MSL; an area 30 ft beyond the perimeter of Project features such as the area that would be impacted by powerhouse construction; the APE includes areas along Grant Creek that may experience increased use; and within Project construction areas, areas to be used for road access, and transmission line alignments (Figure 2). This area would encompass all probable effects, with a conservative buffer to fully identify all potential historic properties that may be directly or indirectly affected by the Project.

#### 4.2 Consultation

Consulting parties will be contacted in writing and invited to attend work group meetings to share knowledge of cultural resources and any concerns regarding potential Project effects to historic properties. Section 106 consultation meetings are anticipated to occur in May to review the proposed APE; following the FERC scoping meeting; and in late fall to review survey results and recommended determinations of eligibility for listing in the NRHP, as appropriate. If no additional cultural resources are identified during survey, and there are no further concerns raised by consulting parties, these meetings would complete the Section 106 consultation. A list of identified Section 106 consulting parties includes:

- Kenai Peninsula Borough
- City of Seward
- City of Kenai
- Qutekcak Native Tribe
- Kenaitze Indian Tribe

- Village of Salamatoff
- Native Village of Eklutna
- Kenai Natives Association, Inc.
- Salamatof Native Assoc., Inc.
- Cook Inlet Region, Inc. (CIRI)
- Chenega Corporation
- Chugach Alaska Corporation
- Ninilchik Natives Association, Inc.
- Alaska Railroad Corporation
- U.S. Forest Service, Chugach National Forest
- Office of Historic and Archaeology (OHA), State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)
- Alaska Department of Natural Resources

#### 4.3 Subsistence and Cultural Use Study

Through consultation with identified Tribal governments and organizations, an assessment will be conducted to determine subsistence use, in tandem with biological and wildlife studies and cultural resources consultation. This effort will establish areas of traditional cultural use and evaluate project effects on potential continued subsistence use areas in the proposed APE. The field methods for this work will depend primarily on consultation with Tribal governments and organizations during cultural resources consultation, as well as research and coordination with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Alaska Department of Fish and Game, along with terrestrial and aquatic studies generated for the FERC licensing process. Potential effects on subsistence use in the area will be assessed in the study report.

#### 4.4 Historical and Archaeological Field Study Design

Probability areas will be established prior to field mobilization, based on topographic features and the locations of previously recorded sites. Areas that represent low topography, or are adjacent to streams or lake shores will be considered to possess a higher probability for cultural resources than steep mountainsides. These latter areas, although possessing a lower probability for cultural resources, may still possess such features as mine adits. These areas will be examined as thoroughly as possible, depending on terrain and safety precautions.

The field effort will involve cultural resources specialists meeting the Secretary of Interior standards for historic preservation professionals (36 CFR 61). Pedestrian surveys will be conducted by walking in parallel transects no more than 15 meters (50 feet) apart within the Project APE, and visually observing the ground for surface indications of cultural materials (including but not limited to: lithic scatters, cabins, mining properties, cache pits and semi-subterranean houses, and historic can and bottle scatters). Survey of built environment resources (i.e., structures, cabins, bridges, and mining features) will occur concurrently with the archaeological pedestrian survey.

Sub-surface shovel tests measuring 30 cm x 30 cm (1 ft square) will be conducted during survey in areas determined to represent locations of high probability for cultural resources. Shovel tests will be excavated to a depth of up to 1 meter (39 inches); any soil strata containing cultural

materials will be recorded as to depth and characteristics. All recovered artifacts will be photographed, measured, and described. After detailed field recording, all cultural materials will be re-deposited in place.

In the event that human remains are encountered either on the ground surface or contained within a shovel test, examination will proceed only until remains can be unequivocally determined to be human, and the area protected and secured against further erosion. The principal archaeologist will then notify appropriate project leaders, and assist in contacting and consultation support with appropriate Tribal governments and organizations, agency officials, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and FERC, as appropriate.

#### 4.4.1 Cultural Resources Evaluation

The project team will use NRHP criteria to evaluate significance and eligibility for listing of identified resources as part of the reconnaissance level survey process. For those archaeological resources that have been identified but have not been formally evaluated for eligibility for listing in the NRHP, a one square meter test unit will be excavated within site boundaries to evaluate vertical integrity of any identified cultural deposits, as appropriate. All recovered artifacts from sub-surface evaluations will be photographed, measured, described and recorded in detail. Artifacts will not be collected, except in the rare cases of items that may be considered threatened by erosion or looting. Any materials collected will be curated at a facility meeting the Secretary of the Interior's standards for appropriate cultural resource storage.

Upon completion of the survey and evaluation efforts, a report will be prepared including Alaska Heritage Survey Records (AHRS) site forms, and Determinations of Eligibility (DOEs), with recommendations on eligibility of identified sites within the APE. For those cultural resources that have been determined not eligible for listing on the NRHP, they will be photo-documented, and any changes observed in the character of the resource from its previous recordation will be recorded, and AHRS site card documentation at the Office of History and Archaeology (OHA) will be updated.

Any data collected as a result of the field effort would include field notes, UTM locational information, photographs, field maps and descriptions. These data will be used to create graphics for report documentation, as well as aid in assessing adverse effects, and making determinations of eligibility on historic properties within the proposed project APE. Recorded sites and boundaries, where known, will be plotted on map figures for project planning purposes, in order to identify possible avoidance and/or minimization efforts. Following the significance evaluation, a formal recommendation on determination of eligibility will be prepared for FERC review and subsequent review and concurrence by consulting parties, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(2)

Further consultation with Tribal governments and organizations, SHPO, and other interested consulting parties and FERC will follow to address any potential adverse effects to historic properties. A draft Historic Properties Management Plan will be prepared for the Project area.

#### 5 Agency Resource Management Goals

Management and land use plans relevant to cultural resources studies include:

- KPB. 2005. Kenai Peninsula Borough Comprehensive Plan. KPB Planning Department.
- USFS. 2002. Revised Land And Resource Management Plan for the Chugach National Forest.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. 1966. National Historic Preservation Act. 36 CFR Part 60.
- U.S. Department of the Interior. 2004. 36 CFR Part 800. Protection of Historic Properties: incorporating amendments effective August 5, 2004.

#### 6 Project Nexus

The proposed Project may have a number of potential effects on historic properties within the APE. The study plan described above is intended to provide sufficient information regarding the nature of historic properties located in the APE, such that potential effects can be adequately assessed. Findings of Effect on historic properties in the APE will be developed for the study report and reviewed with consulting parties. Study information will aid in developing measures to be proposed in the draft and final License Applications to protect or minimize adverse effects on historic properties.

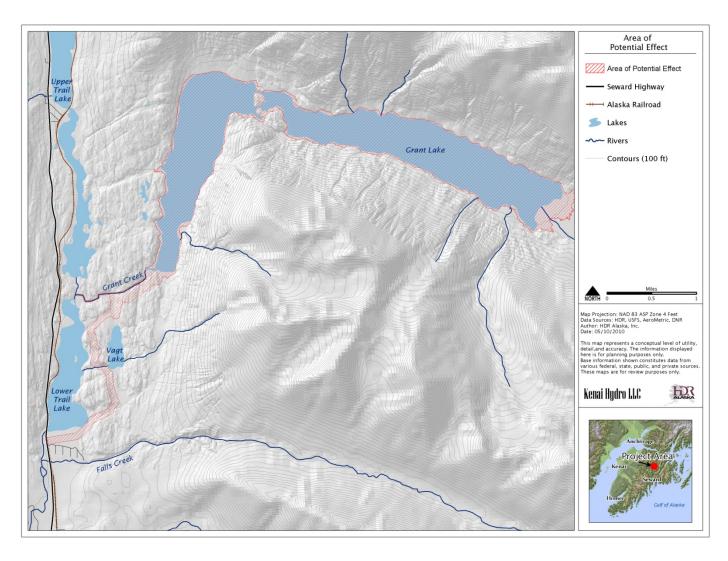


Figure 2. Proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE).

## 7 Quality Control and Consistency with Generally Accepted Practices

All work performed by HDR will be conducted directly by cultural resources specialists meeting the Secretary of the Interior Professional Standards for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (36 CFR 61).

#### 8 Schedule for Conducting the Study and Technical Review

- Ongoing: consultation meetings as appropriate including consultation on APE, possible site visit, review of survey results and concurrence with recommended DOEs.
- April 2010: Draft study plan with proposed APE
- May 2010: Consult re: APE
- May 2010: Review background information and research; establish survey strategy based on identification of high probability areas
- June July 2010: Conduct field studies and evaluation, as appropriate
- August September 2010: Finish evaluations and begin draft report and DOEs
- October 2010: Draft study report to consulting parties
- November 2010 December 2010: Consultation meetings to discuss Project, field findings, DOEs, and address additional concerns
- November 2010 December 2010: Prepare draft Historic Properties Management Plan for eligible properties
- December 2010: Finalize report based on field studies and consultation; prepare Finding of Effect, as appropriate, for review, submittal and concurrence to consulting parties

#### 9 References

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