

DRAFT
ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
FOR A
COMBINED POWER AND BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM
FORT YUKON, ALASKA

APPENDIX B
AGENCY CORRESPONDENCE

APPENDIX B

Agency Correspondence



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 7, 2012

Judith E. Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

SUBJECT: SECTION 106 CONSULTATION FOR THE FORT YUKON COMBINED
BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT (FILE NO. 3130-2R AEA)

Dear Ms. Bittner:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) Rural Utility Services and the Denali Commission are considering authorizing the expenditure of Federal funding to implement a Combined Biomass Heating System in Fort Yukon, Alaska, and will be developing an Environmental Assessment for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. The funding would be used for the purchase of diesel generators and a high efficiency boiler, the installation of a new diesel power plant with heat recovery and the high efficiency boiler fired by wood chips, a wood chip storage area, harvesting equipment, a shop to protect and work on equipment and a district heating loop to distribute heat to local users. To support operation of the wood-fired boiler, approximately 1,600 – 2,000 green tons of woody biomass would be harvested from surrounding private lands owned by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation each year.

The proposed project was reviewed by your agency earlier this year, and you concurred that no historic properties would be affected (Date 2/14/2012; File no. 3130-2R AEA). However, harvesting of timber to supply the biomass for the project was not addressed. Because that harvesting is an action connected to the operation of the facility, these activities are being evaluated by DOE and the above cooperating agencies. Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA) and its associated implementing regulations, DOE, as the lead agency for the Environmental Assessment, is requesting concurrence from your office that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project, including the harvesting of timber.

Project Description

The location and design of the combined heat and power facility and heat and energy distribution systems are the same as considered previously (Figure 1). The forested areas to be harvested are located within T20N, R11E & 12E and T21N, R11E, Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quad map Fort Yukon C-5 (Figure 2). The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this proposed project includes the locations of the heat and power plant and distribution system that you previously evaluated (Figure 1), plus the harvest and storage areas shown in Figure 2.

In compliance with the Alaska State Forest Practices Act, Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation has developed a Forest Stewardship Plan to ensure that the forest resource is managed and protected for sustainable and healthy biomass production, wildlife protection and wild land fire management. The project will selectively harvest woody biomass in accordance with the Fort Yukon Forest Stewardship Plan.

The Alaska Historic Resources Survey was reviewed by Alison Sterley, Cultural Resource Specialist at Alaska Energy & Engineering, Inc. for the presence of historic properties in the APE on November 9 and December 15, 2011. The Northern Land Use Research December 2003 report on Fort Yukon was also reviewed for the presence of historic properties in the APE. No historic properties were identified in the APE.

The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Natural Resources Department has prepared an extensive GIS mapping database of known culturally significant and historical subsistence use areas. The Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Lands Committee, consisting of Tribal, Corporation, and community members, has individually selected the harvest locations to avoid areas of cultural use. All stands to be harvested will be examined prior to harvest to verify no unmapped historical sites are apparent. Newly discovered sites will be avoided and reported to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal Government Lands Committee. No digging or ground disturbance will occur near any historic site.

Fort Yukon area has a long history of human habitation and use. This project includes a vegetative buffer zone of 100-feet in accordance with the Alaska Forest Practices Act along waterways that will serve to protect cultural resources along waterways that may be present yet not immediately evident. The harvest practices proposed for this project are designed to have low impacts on the environment and coincide with economic efficiencies for the community. Harvest will primarily be in the winter months on frozen ground, using small-scale equipment for harvest and transport. Vegetative buffer areas are designated along creeks and rivers. No timber harvest roads will be constructed.

Determination

Due to the lack of cultural and historic resources being identified in the research described above, the fact that no new harvest roads will be constructed, and that most of the activities would occur in the winter, DOE, Rural Utility Services, and the Denali Commission have determined that there would be no historic properties affected by the proposed project. In compliance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), these agencies ask the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer for concurrence in this finding.

Although no cultural or historic resources were found during the review described above, DOE requires as part of best management practices for any project with ground disturbing activities that if the funding recipient or their staff encounters cultural materials (i.e., historic or prehistoric), all activities cease in the vicinity of the discovery immediately, and the State Historic Preservation Officer and the Gwitchyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government are to be informed of the discovery immediately.

Please forward the results of your review and any requests for additional information to me as soon as possible using the contact information below.

Sincerely,



Casey Strickland
NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401
Phone: 720-356-1575
Fax: 720-356-1350
casey.strickland@go.doe.gov

Enclosures: Figure 1 – CHP Plant and Distribution System
Figure 2 – Project Location, Harvest and Storage Areas

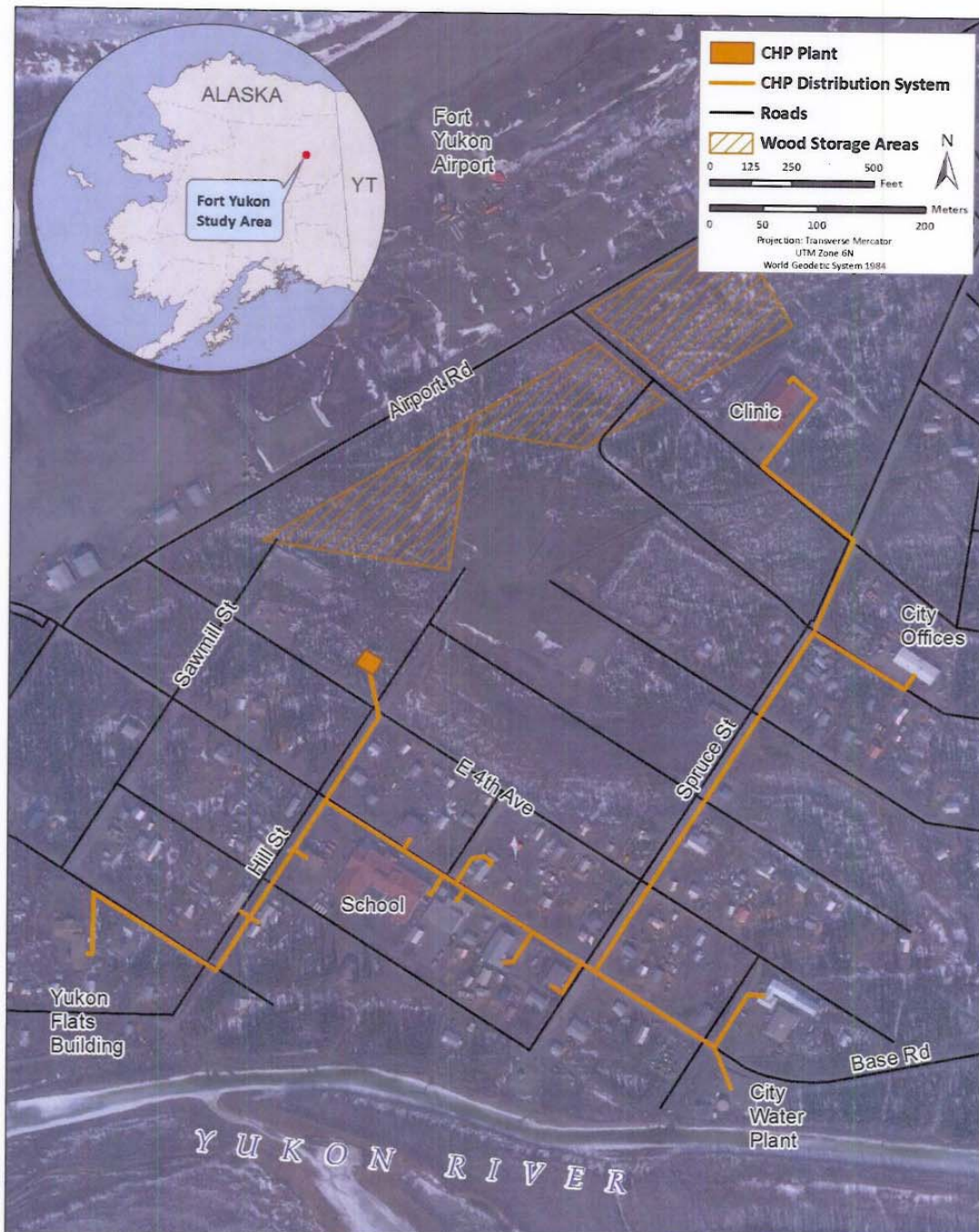


Figure 1 - CHP Plant and Distribution System

Source: Microsoft Virtual Earth

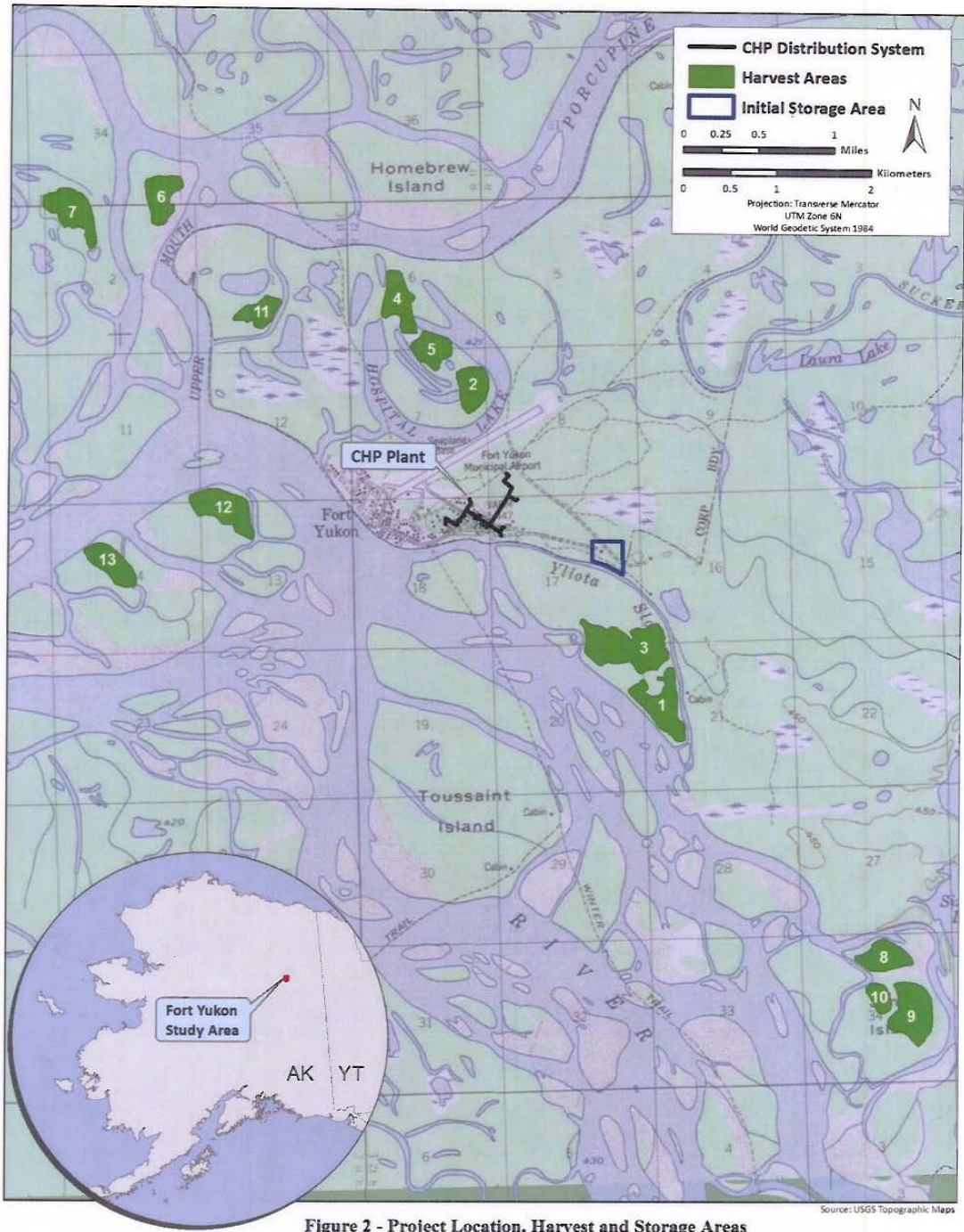


Figure 2 - Project Location, Harvest and Storage Areas

The following letter was sent to Nancy James, First Chief, Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government; Randy Mayo, Chairman, Council of Athabascan Governments, and Laurie Thomas, President, Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation and Subsidiaries.



Department of Energy

Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

November 7, 2012

Nancy James, First Chief
Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government
P.O. Box 126
Fort Yukon, AK 99740

**SUBJECT: INITIATION OF THE SECTION 106 CONSULTATION PROCESS FOR THE
FORT YUKON COMBINED BIOMASS HEATING SYSTEM PROJECT**

Dear Ms. James:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services, and the Denali Commission are considering authorizing the expenditure of Federal funding to implement a Combined Biomass Heating System in Fort Yukon, Alaska, and will be developing an Environmental Assessment for the project in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act. As described in more detail in an attachment to this letter, the project includes installation of a combined heat and power facility and heat and energy distribution systems in the community of Fort Yukon. The project also includes harvesting of timber from local forested lands surrounding Fort Yukon that are owned by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation.

Installation of the Combined Biomass Heating System would include the purchase of diesel generators and a high efficiency boiler, the installation of a new diesel power plant with heat recovery and the high efficiency boiler fired by wood chips, a wood chip storage area, harvesting equipment, a shop to protect and work on equipment and a district heating loop to distribute heat to local users. The proposed Biomass Heating System would replace the existing power house located in Fort Yukon, and offset about 80 percent of the current utility and community use of fuel oil. Operation of the proposed Biomass Heating System would help stabilize volatile fuel prices and provide economic development in Fort Yukon through the development of a local wood products industry.

To operate the wood-fired boiler, approximately 2,000 green tons of biomass fiber would be harvested annually from surrounding private lands owned by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation. The Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Natural Resources Department has prepared an extensive GIS mapping database of known culturally significant and historical subsistence use areas. The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Lands Committee, consisting of Tribal, Corporation, and community members, has individually selected the harvest locations to avoid areas of cultural use. All stands to be harvested will be examined prior to harvest to verify no unmapped historical sites are apparent. Newly discovered sites will be avoided and reported to the Tribal Government Lands Committee and to the Alaska Historic Preservation Officer. No digging or ground disturbance will occur near any historic site.

Federal Recycling Program



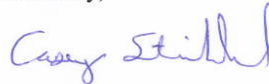
Printed on Recycled Paper

The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for this proposed project includes the location of the power plant and distribution system, plus the harvest and storage areas shown in Figure 2 of the attachment. The Alaska Historic Resources Survey was reviewed in November–December 2011 for the presence of historic properties in the APE. The Northern Land Use Research report on Fort Yukon was also reviewed for the presence of historic properties in the APE. No historic properties were identified in the APE.

Per the regulations of the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation at 36 CFR Sections 800.2(c)(5) and 800.4(a)(3), DOE, Rural Utility Services, and the Denali Commission are inviting your tribe to participate in the consultation process specified by the National Historic Preservation Act. Specifically, I am requesting information you may have on properties of traditional religious and cultural significance within the vicinity of the proposed project and any comments or concerns you have on the potential for this proposed project to affect those properties. This information is being requested to aid in the preparation of the Environmental Assessment and to comply with the National Historic Preservation Act. If you have any such information, require additional information, or have any questions or comments about that project, please contact me via e-mail to me at casey.strickland@go.doe.gov or contact me by phone at 720-356-1575.

Please provide your response to this inquiry within 30 days of the receipt of this letter to assist us in moving the process forward. If a reply is not received within 30 days, then DOE will assume that you have no issues, questions or concerns related to the proposed project.

Sincerely,



Casey Strickland
NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401
Phone: 720-356-1575
Fax: 720-356-1350
casey.strickland@go.doe.gov

Enclosure: Fort Yukon Combined Biomass Heating System

Attachment
Fort Yukon Combined Biomass Heating System

The U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Agriculture Rural Utility Services (RUS), and the Denali Commission are considering authorizing the expenditure of Federal funding to implement a Combined Biomass Heating System in Fort Yukon Alaska.

The funding would be used for the purchase of diesel generators and a high efficiency boiler, the installation of a new Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plant containing a new diesel power plant with heat recovery and a high-efficiency boiler fired by wood chips, a wood chip storage area, harvesting equipment, a shop to protect and work on equipment, and a district heating loop to distribute heat to local users. The proposed Combined Biomass Heating System would replace the existing inefficient power plant in Fort Yukon, and offset about 80 percent of the fuel oil currently used by commercial end-users. To support operation of the wood-fired boiler, approximately 2,000 green tons of woody biomass would be harvested from surrounding private lands owned by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation (GZC) each year. Operation of the proposed Combined Biomass Heating System would help stabilize volatile fuel prices and provide economic development in Fort Yukon through the development of a local wood products industry.

Power Plant

The diesel power plant and wood boiler facilities would be located in Fort Yukon (Figure 1) and would be housed in a new pre-engineered metal building. Because the power plant would be located within a 100-year floodplain, the building and foundation would be elevated on an earthen pad to mitigate flood issues and to comply with federal codes.

The new power plant would contain electronically-controlled, fuel-efficient diesel generators with a total installed capacity of between 1,900 and 2,500 kilowatts. Two of the existing electronically controlled generators currently used in the Gwitchyaa Zhee Utility Company (GZU) power plant would be moved to the new facility and re-used, and two new electronically controlled fuel-efficient generators would be purchased to replace existing antiquated and inefficient equipment. New switchgear would provide automatic paralleling and load control of the four generating units to maximize generation reliability and fuel efficiency. Critical grade silencers and sound insulating dampers would attenuate noise from the plant. The cooling system would be equipped with new radiators and efficient variable-speed motor controls. The plant would be provided with a new fire suppression system, and new engine coolant, fuel, and lube oil piping. A new double-wall fuel tank would be located adjacent to the power plant. The double-wall tank would be truck filled, and equipped with redundant overfill protection devices. The existing community above-grade electric distribution system would be upgraded to tie into the new power plant. A wood-chip-fired boiler rated at 3.2 million British Thermal Units would augment the heat recovery system from the diesel generators and provide heat for the district heating system. The wood boiler would be equipped with chip storage and an automatic chip feed system. Areas for wood processing and feeding, chip storage, and wood storage would be located contiguous to the plant site.

District Heating System

The district heating system would provide heat to public and community buildings in the downtown community core and adjacent areas of Fort Yukon (Figure 1). Below-grade, pre-insulated, arctic piping would be routed from the CHP facility to those buildings. The buildings would be tied into the district heating system via a combination of heat exchangers, fan coil units, and unit heaters. The district heating system would offset as much as 145,000 gallons of diesel heating fuel annually. Work associated with the CHP plant and its distribution system would be performed within existing road and utility rights-of-ways, to the maximum extent possible.

Biomass Harvesting

To operate the wood-fired boiler, approximately 1,600 – 2,000 green tons per year of woody biomass would be harvested from 80 to 100 acres of surrounding private lands owned by the Gwitchyaa Zhee Corporation (GZC) (Figure 2). For the first five years all harvesting would take place within a five-mile radius of Fort Yukon in order to develop the forest management capacity as an adaptive management program. Ultimately, a forty-year biomass rotation is expected and harvesting would occur within a 10-mile radius around the village.

Regeneration efforts would focus on developing faster growing hardwood stands and creating a series of stands of different ages, structural diversity, and species composition across the landscape. A total harvest area of approximately 4,500 acres would occur during the forty-year rotation period. This represents approximately 2 percent of the total acreage of land owned by GZC in the area. After forty years, sufficient woody biomass would be regenerated in the original stands to permit a second harvest.

The harvest and transportation of woody biomass would occur mostly in the winter after freeze-up of the ground and area rivers have occurred, and before break-up in the spring. Designated wetland areas within a stand would not be harvested and any other activities occurring in wetlands would take place during winter when the ground is frozen, to limit soil impact. Some harvest would occur during the summer in select non-wetland areas that are dry enough to support harvest with no adverse impacts to soils or wetlands. A harvest plan has been approved by the local Lands Committee and would be updated annually. All harvesting activities would be in compliance with the Alaska Forest Resources Practices Act with special attention paid to minimizing impacts to riparian areas and wetlands. A total of 4 – 5 harvest and forest management jobs would be created as a direct result of this project.

Alaska Energy and Engineering, Inc.
Mailing Address - P.O. Box 111405
Anchorage, AK 99511-1405
(907) 349-0100, 349-8001 fax

RECEIVED
FEB 08 2012

February 1, 2012

OHA

Judith E. Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

No Historic Properties Affected
Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 2/14/2012
File No.: 3130-2R AEA SUR

Subject: Fort Yukon RPSU Combined Heat & Power Project:
Finding of No Historic Properties Affected

Dear Ms Bittner:

Alaska Energy and Engineering, Inc., under the direction of the Alaska Energy Authority (AEA) Rural Energy Group is working with the Gwichyaa Zhee Corporation to upgrade the community's energy infrastructure in Fort Yukon, including replacing the existing power plant and providing a new district heating system. The project is located within Sections 7, 8, 17 and 18, T20N, R12E, Fairbanks Meridian; USGS Quad map Fort Yukon C-3. Attached are Figures 1 & 2, and Photo 1. These include a community site plan with location map, project area site plan with Area of Potential Effect (APE), and an aerial photo. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), implementing regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the AEA requests concurrence that no historic properties would be affected by the proposed project.

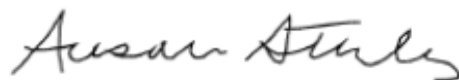
The Fort Yukon RPSU CHP project will provide reliable and code compliant power generation and district heating to benefit the entire community. The project's APE includes the footprint for the new power plant and biomass boiler (CHP Facility) gravel pad, the wood storage lots, and the arctic piping alignment for the district heating system. The CHP Facility and Wood Storage Areas are located along a sparsely wooded area adjacent to Airport Road. The district heating arctic piping system will be installed below grade within previously disturbed City road rights-of-ways and easements. Installation of the heating system will not alter the appearance of the community buildings and all excavated areas around existing buildings will be returned to pre-construction elevations.

The Alaska Historic Resources Survey (AHRS) was reviewed on November 9 and December 15, 2011. The Northern Land Use Research (NLUR) December 2003 report on Fort Yukon was also reviewed for the presence of historic properties in the APE. No historic sites were identified within the APE.

Should the proposed activities reveal cultural or paleontological resources, work that would disturb cultural resources will stop immediately and the State Historic Preservation Office (907-269-8720) and the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government will be contacted so that consultation per section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act may proceed.

Sincerely,

Alaska Energy and Engineering, Inc.



Alison Sterley
Cultural Resource Specialist



THE STATE
of **ALASKA**
GOVERNOR SEAN PARNELL

Department of Natural Resources

DIVISION OF PARKS AND OUTDOOR RECREATION
Office of History and Archaeology

550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, Alaska 99501-3565
Web: <http://dnr.alaska.gov/parks/oha>
Phone: 907.269.8721
Fax: 907.269.8908

December 7, 2012

File No.: 3130-1R DOE / 3130-2R AEA

Casey Strickland
NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401

Subject: Fort Yukon Combined Biomass Heating System Project

Dear Mr. Strickland:

The Alaska State Historic Preservation Office (AK SHPO) received your correspondence (dated November 7, 2012) on November 13, 2012.

Following our review of the documentation provided, we are unable to concur that a finding of 'no historic properties affected' is appropriate for the proposed project, including the harvesting of timber, as requested within your cover letter. At this time, we do not believe that we have enough information to provide concurrence.

We believe that the areas proposed for timber harvest and any other potentially ground disturbing activity area associated with the subject undertaking should be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist or cultural resource specialist. At a minimum, each area should be professionally assessed for its potential to contain archaeological or historic resources.

There are a number of known cultural resources in the vicinity of Fort Yukon and according to your letter, areas of cultural and historical significance in the vicinity of the proposed activities were identified by the Council of Athabascan Tribal Governments Natural Resources Department and the Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Lands Committee. However, no additional details were provided in your documentation regarding these areas. Additionally, your documentation suggests that each proposed harvest area will be examined prior to harvest to identify any unmapped sites. We recommend that if this investigation is already planned, it should be conducted by a qualified archaeologist or cultural resource specialist and that the results of the investigation be provided to our office prior to initiating work. Should any cultural resources be identified during this investigation, they should be evaluated for eligibility to the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with standard practice. Finally, the maps provided show both "wood storage areas" and "initial storage area," but no additional information

is provided to describe the proposed activities in these areas or their potential for effects. Our records indicate that the "initial storage area" polygon is located in an area of several previously-recorded cultural resources.

Please note that as stipulated in 36 CFR 800.3, other consulting parties such as the local government and Tribes are required to be notified of the undertaking. Additional information provided by the local government, Tribes or other consulting parties may cause our office to re-evaluate our comments and recommendations. Please note that our comment letter does not end the 30-day review period provided to other consulting parties.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to continued consultation on the subject project. Please contact Shina duVall at 269-8720 or shina.duvall@alaska.gov if you have any questions or if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,



Judith E. Bittner
State Historic Preservation Officer

JEB:sad

1.30.2013

3130-1R DOE



Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401-3393

January 17, 2013

RECEIVED

JAN 22 2013

OHA

Judith E. Bittner, State Historic Preservation Officer
Alaska Office of History and Archaeology
Alaska Department of Natural Resources
550 West 7th Avenue, Suite 1310
Anchorage, AK 99501-3565

SUBJECT: FORT YUKON CHP PROJECT – FILE NO. 3130-1R DOE/3130-2R AEA

Dear Ms Bittner:

The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) received your correspondence dated December 7, 2012 requesting additional information regarding the proposed project. The following additional information is provided regarding the initial storage area and the biomass harvest areas. Figure 1 shows the project location for the initial storage and harvest areas.

In the vicinity of the initial storage area is FYU46 White Alice Communication System (WAC) which includes sites FYU57-80. Figure 2 shows an overview of the vicinity, with the initial storage area in the left central portion of the figure. The project proposes to use a building, known locally as "the Quonset hut" to store biomass and biomass harvest equipment in the initial storage area. This building is located within the parcel designated for the initial storage area and is designated site FYU66, built in 1956, and currently used for community recyclables. Figure 3 shows the initial storage area parcel within which FYU66 is located. This site is associated with the Fort Yukon Long Range Radar System (LRRS) and was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as part of the Aircraft Control and Warning (AC&W) System and in an MOA signed by the Air Force, SHPO and ACHP, and approved January 1998 in conjunction with the Clean Sweep program. The preservation strategy was to document the facilities before demolition. FYU66 was documented in accordance with the MOA requirements, along with many other sites, some now demolished. Subsequently, as part of the decommissioning of the LRRS, the building and the initial storage area were deeded to the Gwitchyas Zhee Corporation in 2005.

The area designated as the initial storage area has been previously disturbed. Buildings and installations have been removed and contaminated sites have been cleaned up. In order not to disturb the ground further, vegetation would be cleared by cutting at the surface level, thus leaving the root and soil structures undisturbed. Biomass would be placed on the ground surface for storage.

No Historic Properties Adversely Affected
Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer
Date: 1.30.2013
File No. 3130-1R DOE

Because FYU66 has been preserved through documentation in accordance with the MOA requirements, DOE has determined that use and/or alteration of the facility would not have an adverse effect.

The areas proposed for the biomass harvest do not contain any known Alaska Heritage Resource Survey sites and are located on islands or other areas adjacent to channels of the braided river system surrounding Fort Yukon and are subject to frequent flooding and the associated addition and removal of surface soils. Therefore, it is unlikely that there are buried or above-ground cultural resources or other historic properties at the harvest sites. This project includes a vegetative buffer zone of 100-feet along waterways in accordance with the Alaska Forest Practices Act that will serve to protect cultural resources that may be present yet not immediately evident. The harvest practices proposed for this project are designed to have low impacts on the environment and economic efficiencies for the community. Harvest would primarily be in the winter months on frozen ground, using small-scale equipment for harvest and transport. Ice roads, but no permanent, timber harvest roads would be constructed.

The Gwichyaa Zhee Gwich'in Tribal Government Lands Committee, consisting of Tribal, Corporation, and community members, has individually selected the harvest locations to avoid areas of cultural use. If previously undiscovered sites are found during timber surveys to be conducted prior to harvesting, those sites will be avoided and reported to the Alaska State Historic Preservation Office and Tribal Government Lands Committee. No digging or ground disturbance will occur near any historic site.

In compliance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), the DOE asks the Alaska State Historic Preservation Officer for concurrence in a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties.

Sincerely,



Casey Strickland
NEPA Document Manager
U.S. Department of Energy
Golden Field Office
1617 Cole Boulevard
Golden, Colorado 80401

Enclosures: Figures 1-3

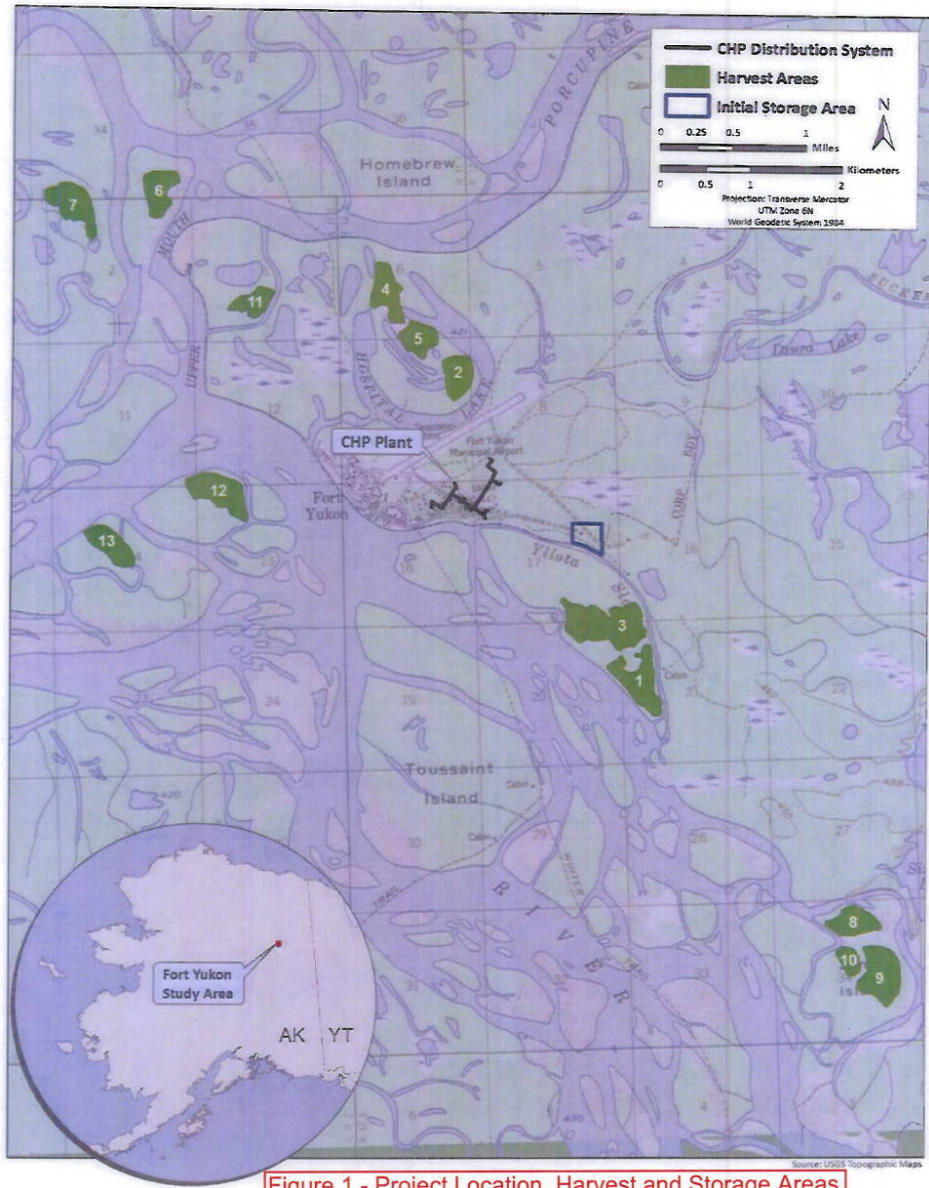
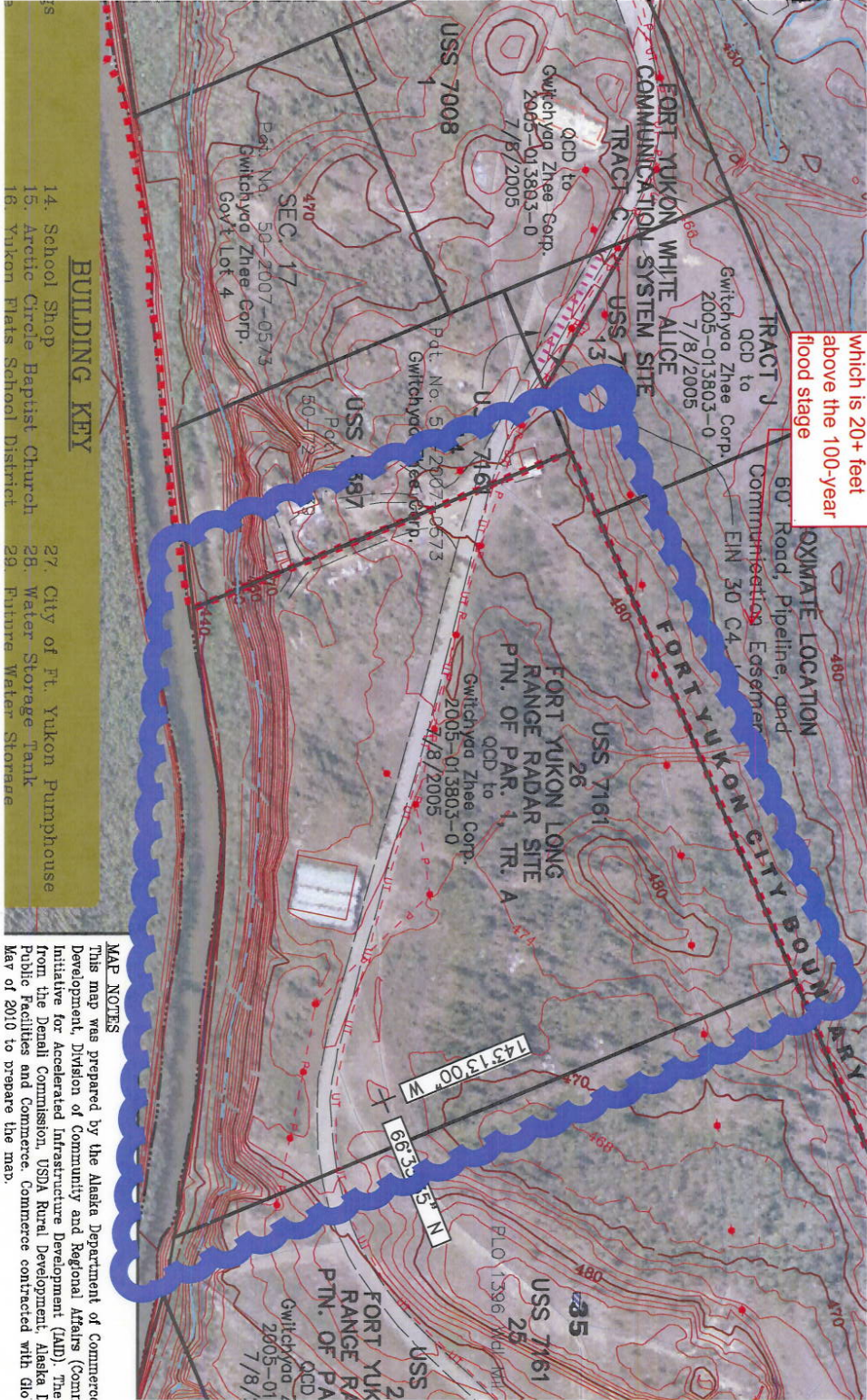


Figure 1 - Project Location, Harvest and Storage Areas





quonset hut lands,
 elevation is 470',
 which is 20+ feet
 above the 100-year
 flood stage

BUILDING KEY

- 14. School Shop
- 15. Arctic Circle Baptist Church
- 16. Yukon Flats School District
- 27. City of Ft. Yukon Pumphouse
- 28. Water Storage Tank
- 29. Future Water Storage

MAP NOTES

This map was prepared by the Alaska Department of Commerce, Development, Division of Community and Regional Affairs (ComDev) Initiative for Accelerated Infrastructure Development (IAID). The map was prepared by the Detail Commission, USDA Rural Development, Alaska Public Facilities and Commerce. Commerce contracted with G10 May of 2010 to prepare the map.

Figure 3

From: Denise_Walther@fws.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 01, 2012 11:49 AM
To: Alison Sterley
Cc: Alan Fetters; Steve Stassel;
Neesha_Stellrecht@fws.gov
Subject: Concurrence for Fort Yukon RPSU CHP Project
Section 7
Attachments: FYU-USFWS-concur-req.PDF

Hi Alison,

Thank you for your email requesting information on endangered and threatened species and critical habitats pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Based on your letter (attached below), we understand Alaska Energy and Engineering, Inc. is working under the direction of the Alaska Energy Authority and the Denali Commission to upgrade energy infrastructure in Fort Yukon, AK.

The Service concurs with your determination of No Listed Species Present/No Effect for the project. Preparation of a Biological Assessment or further consultation under Section 7 of the Act regarding this project is not necessary. This letter applies only to endangered or threatened species under our jurisdiction. It does not preclude the need to comply with other environmental legislation or regulations such as the Clean Water Act. Thank you for your cooperation in meeting our joint responsibilities under the Act. If you need further assistance, please contact me at (907) 456-0277.

Best regards,
Denise

Denise A. Walther, Ph.D.
Fish & Wildlife Biologist
Fairbanks Fish and Wildlife Field Office
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service
101 12th Ave., Room 110
Fairbanks, AK 99701
907-456-0277
907-456-0208 fax
denise_walther@fws.gov

--- Forwarded by Denise Walther/R7/FWS/DOI on 03/01/2012 11:11 AM ---

--- Forwarded by Ted Swam/R7/FWS/DOI on 02/28/2012 02:52 PM ---

Alison Sterley <aeetech@ak.net>

To Ted_Swam@fws.gov

CC Alan Fetters <AFetters@arden.org>, Steve Stassel <stassel@ak.net>

02/28/2012 01:44 PM

Subject: Fort Yukon RPSU CHP Project: Section 7