



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Molly Joseph Ward
Secretary of Natural Resources

Department of Historic Resources
2801 Kensington Avenue, Richmond, Virginia 23221

Julie V. Langan
Director

Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391
www.dhr.virginia.gov

June 24, 2016

Mr. Randy Steffey, Environmental Scientist
US Army Corps of Engineers – Southern Virginia Regulatory Section
803 Front Street
Norfolk, VA 23510

Re: *Phase I Remote-Sensing Archaeological Survey of Three Proposed Overhead Transmission Line Corridors Crossing the James River from Gravel Neck in Surry County to Skiffes Creek in James City County, Virginia*, revised to include: *Variation Four Alignment Survey and Analysis in 2014, Remote-Sensing Survey of Fender Sites in 2016, and Phase II Assessment of Buffer NS WN1 and Cluster EC EF Anomalies in 2016*
DHR File No. 2011-2071

Dear Mr. Steffey:

The Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) has received from Stantec Consulting Services, Inc. (Stantec) the report referenced above prepared by Tidewater Atlantic Research, Inc. (TAR) for Dominion Virginia Power (Dominion) and the Army Corps of Engineers (Corps). On June 12, 2014, DHR provided comments to the Corps on the report entitled *A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Dominion Virginia Power Skiffes Creek to Surry 500 kV Transmission Line Alternatives in James City and Surry Counties, Virginia, Volumes I and II* (Stantec, April 2014) which incorporated an earlier version of TAR's underwater survey report. The current extracted and revised underwater survey report incorporates the results of the previous studies, new remote-sensing survey of four (4) additional areas, and underwater assessment of two (2) recorded anomalies. It is our opinion that this work meets all applicable standards and guidelines for archaeological investigation. The comments below are provided to the Corps as assistance in meeting its responsibilities pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act

The previous remote-sensing survey identified 76 anomalies that reflect characteristics consistent with submerged cultural resources and established 23 buffers around those anomalies for avoidance. The revised report corrects an error presented in the earlier version regarding the number of buffers and presents 22 buffers for avoidance or further study. DHR concurs with this correction.

The revised report also presents the results of remote-sensing survey of four (4) fender sites – East Channel/East Fender, East Channel/West Fender, West Channel/East Fender, and West Channel/West Fender – not included in the earlier surveys. The investigation of the fender sites identified 32 magnetic

Administrative Services
10 Courthouse Ave.
Petersburg, VA 23803
Tel: (804) 862-6408
Fax: (804) 862-6196

Eastern Region Office
2801 Kensington Avenue
Richmond, VA 23221
Tel: (804) 367-2323
Fax: (804) 367-2391

Western Region Office
962 Kime Lane
Salem, VA 24153
Tel: (540) 387-5443
Fax: (540) 387-5446

Northern Region Office
5357 Main Street
PO Box 519
Stephens City, VA 22655
Tel: (540) 868-7029
Fax: (540) 868-7033

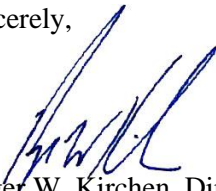
anomalies and 14 sonar targets. Three (3) geographically associated magnetic anomalies, designed collectively as EC EF, are recommended for avoidance or further study. DHR concurs with these recommendations.

Based on the current project plans, two (2) anomaly clusters/buffers are located within 200 feet of proposed construction activity. To evaluate the archaeological significance of these two anomalies, TAR completed diver investigations on sonar target NS WN1, a buffered resource near Tower 20, and magnetic anomaly EC EF, located near Tower 26. Target NS WN1 appears to be a modern oyster bed and anomaly EC EF is a section of modern 12-strand cable. TAR recommends and DHR concurs that neither diver-investigated anomaly is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

The report concludes that only five (5) of the remaining 21 buffered areas are within the path of the preferred route. These five (5) buffers are NS WN2, CC1, CC2, CC3, and CC4. DHR recommends that an avoidance plan be developed for the remaining 21 buffered areas consistent with Stipulation I.b.2 of the draft Memorandum of Agreement in development for this undertaking.

Thank you for the opportunity to review this document. If you have any questions concerning our review or comments, please do not hesitate to contact me at roger.kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,



Roger W. Kirchen, Director
Review and Compliance Division

c. Dominion
Stantec