

Appendix 10-2

Summary of Heritage Resource Impact Assessment Studies

Memo

To: Ms. Leanne Shewchuk
Company: Manitoba East Side Road Authority
From: Mr. Murray Lobb
Date: December 15, 2015
CC: Ms. Jaime Clarke
Ref: Project 4 All Season Road
Re: Heritage Resources

1.0 PROJECT 4 ALL SEASON ROAD HERITAGE RESOURCES

Heritage resources within the Province of Manitoba are protected by the *Heritage Resource Act* of 1986. Heritage resources include archaeological objects which are a product of human art, workmanship or use, and can include plant and animal remains left by people in the past. Heritage sites or archaeological sites are resources which consist of objects, structures, or groups of objects that are abandoned in antiquity and are found in buried, submerged, or surficial contexts.

For the Project 4 All Season Road, Heritage Resources Impact Assessments (HRIA) were completed in support of this project. The purpose of these HRIA were to discover any heritage sites that may be impacted by the creation of the all season road. In the event that heritage resources were encountered, the all season road could be re-aligned to avoid these important places.

HRIA's were completed in 2012 by Virginia Petch PhD. of Northern Lights Heritage Services (NLHS) and by Murray Lobb M.A. of Amec Foster Wheeler from 2013 to 2015. Prior to these HRIA studies, only 46 heritage sites were known in the region. These sites included prehistoric campsites and isolated artifacts, pictographs (rock art), and two former town sites. The majority of these sites were located on major watercourses such as Poplar River and Berens River, and on lakes such as Weaver Lake.

Before each HRIA was completed, archaeologists selected heritage targets to test then flew the proposed rights-of-way to further assess the heritage potential of those targets. All HRIA studies focused on High Heritage and Moderate Heritage Potential targets.

Locations with high heritage potential were generally believed to occur next to water at portages, lake shores, and traditional camping locations. This was based on the majority of previously recorded archaeological sites which had been discovered next to water courses during previous HRIA. Moderate heritage potential locations are interpreted as places which feature elevated topography away from major water and may provide a good view of areas for travel or hunting. These heights of land are generally surrounded by muskeg and/or wetlands. These locations during winter months may have provided good animal travel corridors or provided lookout locations in which lower wetter areas are visible to spot wildlife (Lobb and Dow 2015a).

2.0 HERITAGE RESOURCES IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

In September of 2012, NLHS completed an HRIA of the northern half of the Project 4 All Season Road. Eight heritage sites consisting of seven petroforms (ceremonial stone features) and one isolated stone tool were discovered. NLHS focused on areas away from water courses in an area of rocky outcrops in which the Project 4 All Season Road was to follow (Petch and Norris 2013).

Based on the locations of the new heritage sites and consultation with the Poplar River First Nation, it was decided to move the road farther to the west to completely avoid these important sites.

In 2013, Amec Foster Wheeler was contracted to survey the new alignment from Poplar River First Nation to Berens River First Nation. In late October of 2013, an HRIA was completed of the northern portion from Poplar River to Bull Lake. Sixteen locations which exhibited high or moderate heritage potential were investigated during the HRIA. Three archaeological sites were discovered during that HRIA including a precontact/prehistoric trail and campsite, a workshop for making stone tools, an isolated find consisting of a stone tool made from the local quartz crystal. In addition, a recent traditional use site consisting of a modern campsite were also found. All archaeological sites found during the 2013 HRIA will be avoided by the proposed All Season Road

In June of 2014, the south half from Bull Lake to Berens River First Nation was completed. A total of twenty seven high and moderate potential locations were examined during this field program. No new archaeological sites were found however four traditional use sites were discovered. Two campsites, one on the Berens River and another near the Maskoseemin Rapids on the North Etomami River. In addition, two former trap lines were located Omache Lake and Get Rice Lake, while the other was on the Etomami River (Lobb et al. 2015). In 2015, a final HRIA study was completed on the proposed quarries along the complete Project 4 All Season Road. This study examined thirteen individual quarries which exhibited high to moderate heritage potential. No heritage sites were discovered during this HRIA (Lobb and Dow 2015b).

3.0 SUMMARY CONCLUSION

A total of eleven heritage resources sites were discovered during HRIA studies on behalf of Project 4 All Season Road. Based on those HRIA results, no further archaeological investigation for Heritage Resources is recommended with respect to the Project 4 All Season Road right-of-way or the associated quarries. MESRA will be avoiding all discovered heritage resources found during the HRIA studies completed from 2012 to 2015. Amec Foster Wheeler recommends that the Project 4 route construction should proceed and that under section 13(1) of the *Heritage Resources Act* that the Minister responsible for heritage approve development of the Project 4 All Season Road (Lobb and Dow 2015a, Lobb et al. 2015, Lobb and Dow 2015b).

4.0 REFERENCES CITED

Lobb, M. and A. Dow

2015a *Manitoba Floodway and East Side Road Authority (MFESRA) Project 4 All Season Road Realignment – Poplar River Heritage Resource Impact Assessment*. Permit A69-13. Copy on file. Historic Resources Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

2015b *MFESRA Project 4 All Season Road Realignment Quarry Sources Heritage Resources Impact Assessment*. Permit A33-15. Draft Report. Copy on file at Manitoba East Side Road Authority. Winnipeg, Manitoba.

M. Lobb, A. Dow, and T. Dedemus

2015 *Manitoba Floodway and East Side Road Authority (MFESRA) Project 4 All Season Road Realignment – Poplar River Heritage Resources Impact Assessment*. Permit A14-14. Copy on file. Historic Resources Branch, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Petch, V. and D. Norris

2013 *Manitoba Floodway and East Side Road Authority, Archaeological Field Investigations of the Poplar River All Season Road Heritage Resource Impact Assessment*, Northern Lights Heritage Services Inc. Consultant's Report on File at the Manitoba Floodway & East Side Road Authority, Winnipeg, Manitoba.

Yours truly,

**Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure
a Division of Amec Foster Wheeler Americas Limited**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, consisting of several loops and a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Murray Lobb M.A.
Senior Archaeologist

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