September 30th, 2011

Alabama Historical Commission
Attention: Elizabeth Ann Brown
468 South Perry Street
Montgomery, Alabama 36130-0900

RE: **AHC 02-1402**
Southland Resources, Inc. – Searles Mine No. 5 – Revision R-12 Project
ASMC Permit No. P-3894

County: **Tuscaloosa** ***Latitude:*** **33.3223** ***Longitude:*** **-87.3102**

Dear Ms. Brown,

We are in the process of applying for coal mining permit revision through the Alabama Surface Mining Commission for the area described below and would like to request comments from your office in order to proceed with this project.

Southland Resources, Inc. has an existing mining operation in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. In order to accommodate its business expansion in Tuscaloosa County, Southland Resources wants to permit nine (9) acres at the project site as located in Section 7, Township 20 South, Range 7 West, on the Brookwood, Alabama U.S.G.S Quadrangle as found in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. The proposed site location is shown on the attached 2000' scale project area map attachment "B".

The project area consists of nine (9) acres all of which received a cultural resource study in September of 2011. In the study it states that no cultural resources were recorded through the course of the field investigation and that the project area should be cleared from further cultural resource investigations. I have attached this study in attachment "C".

Post Office Box 3431 • 450 19th Street • Jasper, Alabama 35502-3431 • 205-221-0686 • Fax 205-221-7721 • kaylen@mcgehee.org

Therefore, based on the information provided in the attached cultural resource study would you concur that the project activities will have no adverse effect on cultural resources eligible for or listed on the National Register of Historic Places. However, should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during the project activities, work will cease and you will be consulted immediately.

I would like to thank you for your co-operation concerning this matter and would appreciate your comments at your earliest convenience. If you should have any questions or need additional information, please do not hesitate to contact our office.

Sincerely,

McGehee Engineering Corp.

Kaylen Jones

Kaylen Jones
Project Manager,

Enclosure:

(A) *Project Notification Summary*
(B) *Project Area Map*
(C) *Cultural Resource Study – September 2011*

Attachment “A”

Project Notification Summary

Post Office Box 3431 • 450 19th Street • Jasper, Alabama 35502-3431 • 205-221-0686 • Fax 205-221-7721 • kaylen@mcgehee.org

PROJECT NOTIFICATION & PROJECT SUMMARY
REQUEST FOR IDENTIFICATION OF THE AREAS OF SPECIAL CONCERN
FOR A SURFACE OR UNDERGROUND MINING OPERATION

Date: ____ September 30th, 2011

Mining Company Name: __Southland Resources, Inc. ____

Return Address: ___P. O. Box 3431, Jasper, Alabama 35502-3431___

Return Fax Number: __(205) 221-7721__

Contact Person: __McGehee Engineering Corp., Kaylen Jones

Project Name: ___Searles Mine No. 5 – Revision R-12

Number of Acres: ___9 Acres __

USGS Quad Sheet(s) on which the Mine occurs: Brookwood ____

County: __Tuscaloosa County____

See Attached Map

Current Landuse of Permit and Adjacent Areas:

_Undeveloped/No current use_____

Dominant Vegetation Communities of Permit and Adjacent Areas:

Virginia and Loblolly Pine, Fescue and other various grasses, weeds &_briars.

Project:

__ _ _ _Southland Resources, Inc. – Searles Mine No. 5 – Revision R-12 Project

Attachment “B”

Project Area Map 2000 Scale

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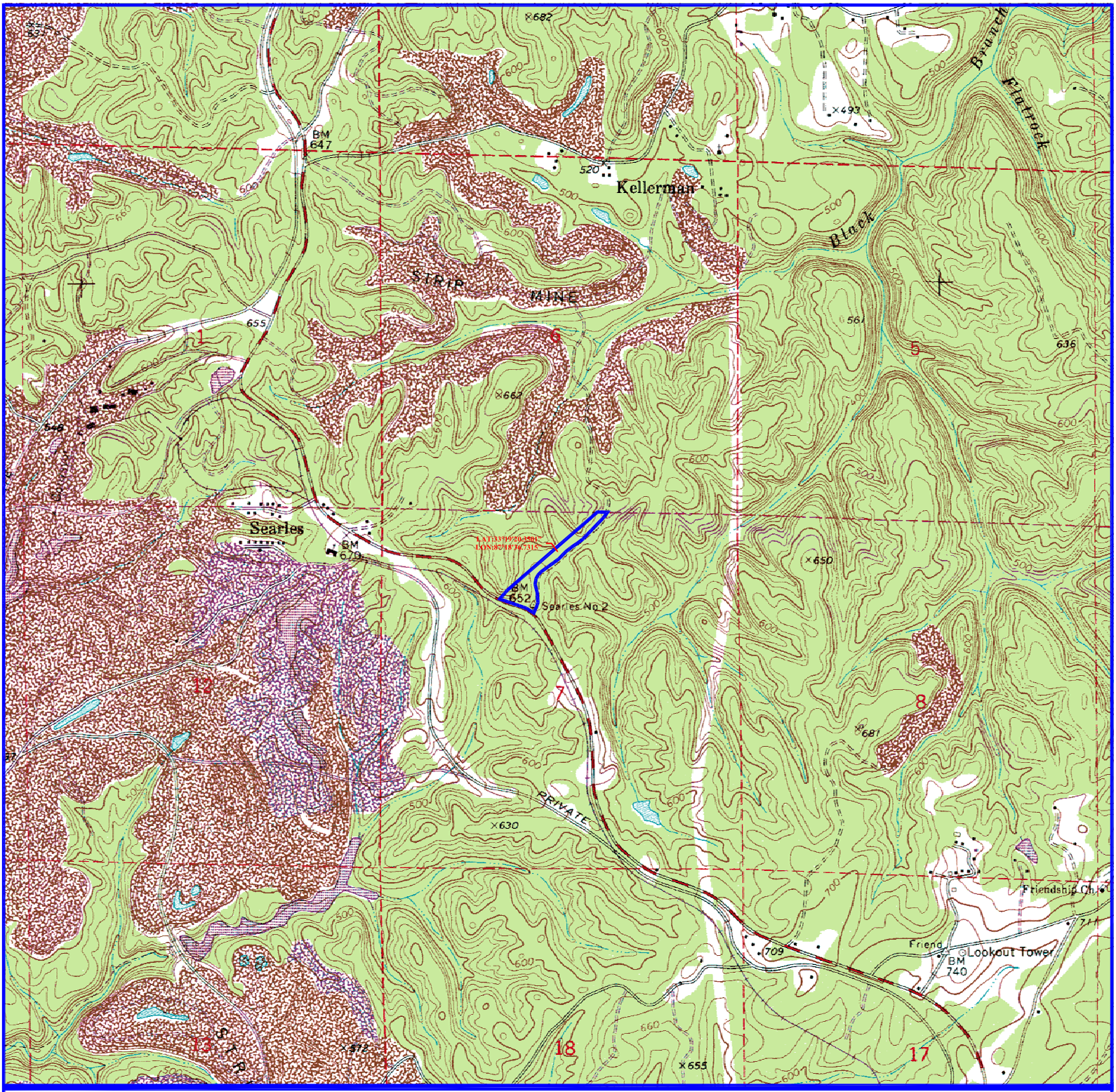

SCALE: 1" = 2000'
September 30th, 2011

SOUTHLAND RESOURCES, INC.
SEARLES MINE NO. 5
(APPROXIMATELY 9 ACRES)

N
W E
S

REVISION R-12
PROJECT AREA MAP

SECTION 7, TOWNSHIP 20 SOUTH, RANGE 7 WEST,
ALL IN TUSCALOOSA COUNTY, ALABAMA
AS FOUND ON THE BROOKWOOD, ALABAMA USGS QUAD.

REVISION R-12 BOUNDARY

mcgehee engineering corp
post office box 3431
jasper, alabama 35502-3431
telephone: (205) 221-0686 fax: 221-7721
email: staff@mcgehee.org

Latitude: 33°19'20" N
Longitude: 87°18'36" W

Attachment “C”

Cultural Resource Study

Post Office Box 3431 • 450 19th Street • Jasper, Alabama 35502-3431 • 205-221-0686 • Fax 205-221-7721 • kaylen@mcgehee.org

PELA GeoEnvironmental

A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment For The Searles Mine No. 5, R-12 Area, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama

Prepared For:

McGehee Engineering, Corp.
450 19th Street West
Jasper, Alabama 35501

Prepared By:

PELA GeoEnvironmental
P.O. Box 12
Lauderdale, MS 39335

September 28, 2011

Terry L. Lolley, M.A., R.P.A.
Archaeologist

INTRODUCTION

In September 2011, PELA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (PELA) conducted a cultural resource survey for Southland Resources, Inc.'s proposed Searles Mine No. 5, Revision R-12, in Tuscaloosa County, Alabama through McGehee Engineering, Corp. The purpose of this investigation was to locate and document any prehistoric or historic archaeological resources present, and to obtain sufficient data about those resources to allow PELA to make any recommendations for avoidance or mitigation of adverse impacts to any sites from the proposed activities.

The project area (Figure 1) is comprised of approximately nine acres. The survey was conducted in Section 7 of Township 20 South, Range 7 West on the Brookwood (USGS 1983) topographic quadrangle. Graphics documenting the present state of the area with regard to terrain, general flora, and previous land-use are provided within this report (Figures 2 through 4).

Terry Lolley, Principal Investigator, conducted the fieldwork on September 28, 2011.

LITERATURE AND DOCUMENT SEARCH

Prior to the fieldwork, a background literature review was performed. Neither the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nor the Alabama Tapestry lists any historic properties within the project area. A 1938 and 1950 (University of Alabama) aerial photograph of the Kellerman and Burchfield area indicated much of the area around Kellerman consisted of mining operations and related structures.

The 1934 (USGS) Searles 15 minute topographic quadrangle and an earlier soil survey map (USDA 1911) indicate numerous structures along the east side of Lock 17 Road in Section 7; however, these structures are no longer present and no evidence of their location was observed in the field.

The primary source of information for the research was the Alabama State Archaeological Site Files (ASASF) maintained at the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research at the Moundville Archaeological Park, Moundville, Alabama.

A previous survey was conducted north and west of the project area (Hollis 1998). This survey (Figure 1) consisted of approximately 413 acres with no recording of any cultural resources. This area is actively being surface mined.

Several previous surveys have been also performed south and west of the project area (Venegas 2000; Lolley 2001, 2003, 2004, 2009, 2010, and 2011). Sites 1Tu984 (Lolley 2001) and 1Tu990 (Lolley 2003) were recorded as historic artifact scatters. Site 1Tu991 (Lolley 2003) consists of a battery of coke ovens and a concrete platform. This site was recommended as potentially eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Site 1Tu1061 (Lolley 2011) was recorded as a battery of poorly preserved coke ovens not recommended eligible to the NRHP.

Additional historical research was conducted by a review of the *Directory of Underground Coal Mines in Alabama* (DeJarnette 1986). DeJarnette (1986) listed three mines owned by the Central Coal Company that may have been within or near the project area.

FIELD METHODS

The project area lies within the Warrior Basin physiographic district of the Cumberland Plateau. Land surface elevation for the project area is approximately 650 feet above mean sea level. The project area is comprised of a narrow upland bordered to the south and east by roads and to the north by an active surface mine.

Previous disturbances within and around the project area are from surface mining, road construction, and powerline construction. Typical of the area, the ridges are generally eroded with large amounts of shale and sandstone on the ground surface. All of the ridgetops have been previously logged.

The Tuscaloosa County Soil Survey (Johnson 1981) indicated one primary soil types within the project area. The ***Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep*** is described as a well-drained soil on steep hillsides, narrow ridgetops, and drainageways. The surface layer consists of brown fine sandy loam approximately 15 centimeters thick. The subsurface layer is yellowish-brown sandy loam from 15 to 43 centimeters below ground surface. The subsoil is yellowish-red sandy clay loam. Due to the slope and hazard of erosion, the soils within this association are generally suited only for woodland use.

The survey was conducted in accordance with procedural standards set by the Alabama Historical Commission. Land coverage requirements were achieved by physically walking and visually examining the project area. Any roads and areas of ground surface exposure were visually examined for cultural material.

A standard 30 meter interval transect pattern was employed where previous ground disturbance or slope did not preclude excavation (Figure 1). Shovel tests were excavated at 30 meter intervals along any transects. Excavated shovel tests consisted of standard 30 centimeter (cm) diameter cylindrical holes excavated to the top of the underlying subsoil. Shovel test soils were passed through a 1/4" wire mesh screen to recover any cultural materials, which may have been present. A total of 10 transect shovel tests were excavated in the project area.

LABORATORY METHODS AND COLLECTION CURATION

All project records and cultural material collected from cultural resource surveys are periodically transported for curation at the Office of Archaeological Research, Erskine Ramsay Archaeological Repository, at the University of Alabama Museums, Moundville.

SURVEY RESULTS AND EVALUATION

The survey was initiated near the intersection of Lock 17 Road and a dirt and gravel access road (Figure 1). The terrain sloped to the west and northwest toward the active mine. Numerous pushpiles were observed within the wooded areas and near the roads. A single transect was traversed parallel to the access road. Sparse areas of trees remained as several secondary dirt roads extended from the access road toward the active mine. Underbrush in some areas was very thick.

Soil profiles along the ridges were typical of the area. The surface layer generally consisted of 0-5n centimeters of yellowish-brown (10YR5/4) shaly sandy loam overlying yellowish-red (5YR4/6) clay subsoil.

Sandstone and shale was observed on the ground surface across the project area. No cultural material was recovered.

A vehicular and pedestrian survey for standing structures indicated there were no standing structures within or adjacent to the project area (Figure 1). Overall, the project area is disturbed from previous logging and road construction. The narrow upland ridge limited the likelihood of cultural resources being present in the project area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey was conducted by PELA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. (PELA) for Southland Resources, Inc. through McGehee Engineering Corp. in compliance with Federal and State regulations. Based on the field methods employed, no cultural resources were recorded through the course of the field investigation. It is PELA's opinion that the project area should be cleared from further cultural resource investigations.

There is always the possibility of undetected cultural resources such as graves and other features not identified through standard survey methods, especially in areas of dense vegetation. If any potential cultural features are revealed through the course of development of the project area, an archaeologist should be contacted to ascertain the nature of these features before development continues.

REFERENCES

DeJarnette, Donald, W.
1986 Directory of Underground Coal Mines in Alabama. Geological Survey of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Hollis, John M.
1998 A Cultural Reconnaissance Survey of Approximately 413 Acres Associated with Southland Resources. Inc. Coal Mine Near Kellerman, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Office of Archaeological Services, Moundville, Alabama.

Johnson, Kenneth W.
1981 Soil Survey of Tuscaloosa County. United States Department of Agriculture, Washington D.C.

Lolley, Terry L.
2001 A Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Carter Mine Addition, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2003 A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Proposed Carter Mine R-3, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2004 Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment of the Proposed Carter Mine Revision 5 (P-3819), Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2009 A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Proposed Swann's Crossing Mine, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PE LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2010 A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Proposed Swann's Crossing Mine, Additional Area A, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PELA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2011 A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for Additions to the Carter Mine, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PELA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.
2011 A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for Searles Mine No. 5, R-11, Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. PELA GeoEnvironmental, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

United States Department of Agriculture

1911 Soil Map of Tuscaloosa County, Alabama. Washington D.C.

United States Geological Survey
1934 Searles 15 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.
1983 Brookwood 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.

University of Alabama
1938 Aerial Photograph, Kellerman, Alabama. Internet; http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/Counties/Tuscaloosa/index.html
1938 Aerial Photograph, Burchfield, Alabama. Internet; http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/Counties/Tuscaloosa/index.html
1950 Aerial Photograph, Kellerman, Alabama. Internet; http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/Counties/Tuscaloosa/index.html
1950 Aerial Photograph, Burchfield, Alabama. Internet; http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/Counties/Tuscaloosa/index.html
1960 Aerial Photograph, Kellerman, Alabama. Internet; http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/Counties/Tuscaloosa/index.html
1960 Aerial Photograph, Burchfield, Alabama. Internet; http://alabamamaps.ua.edu/aerials/Counties/Tuscaloosa/index.html

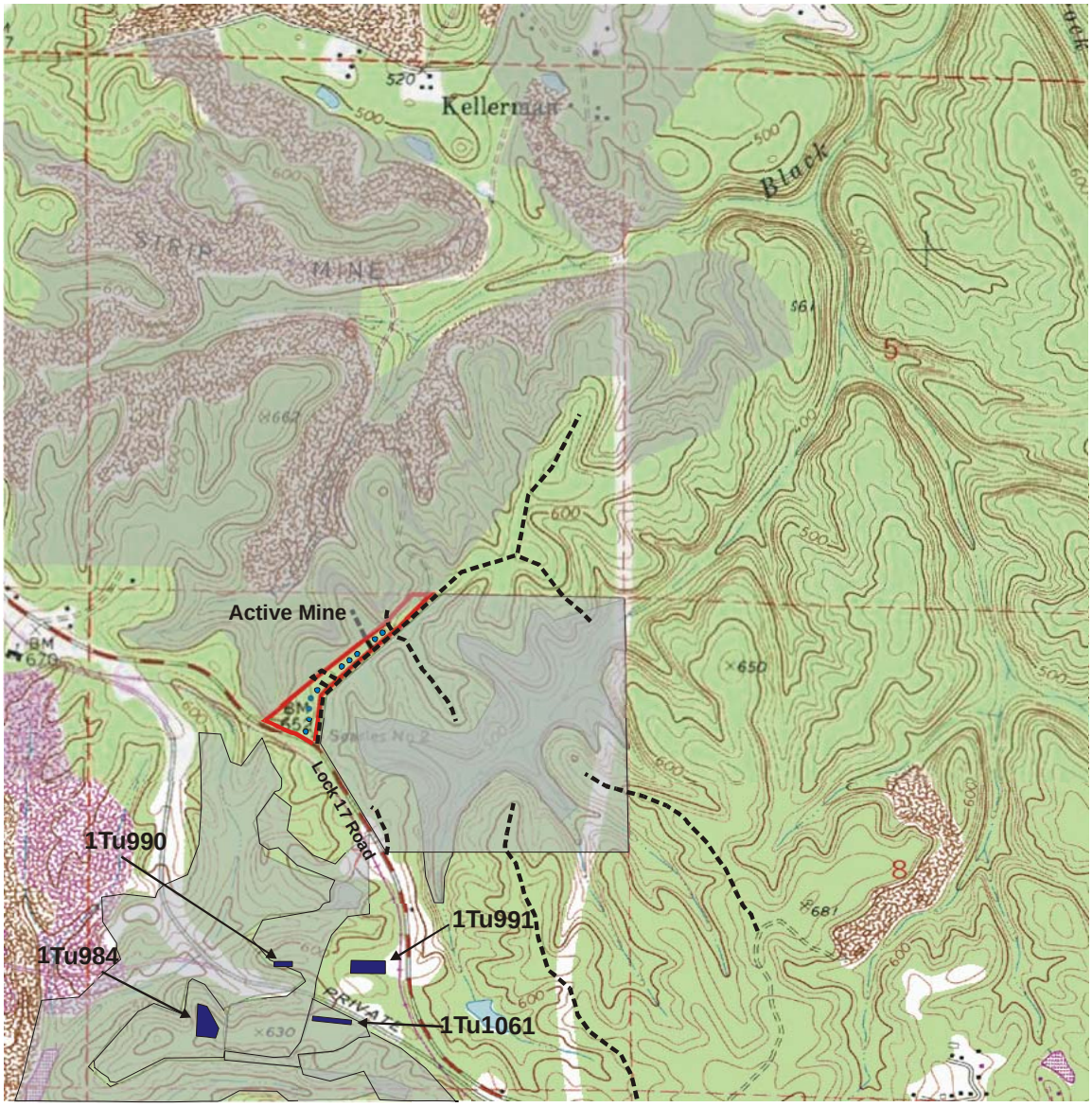

Figure 1. Project Area and Survey Coverage (Brookwood 1983 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle).

Figure 2. Wooded Portion of the Project Area Near Lock 17 Road.

Figure 3. View of An Area Between the Access Road and Active Mine Facing North.

Figure 4. Typical View of the Project Area Northeast from Lock 17 Road.

University of Alabama Museums

Office of Archaeological Research

THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA
MUSEUMS

March 21, 2011

Terry Lolley
PELA GeoEnvironmental
PO Box 12
Lauderdale MS 39335

Dear Terry:

As per your request, this letter is to confirm our agreement to provide curation services for PELA GeoEnvironmental. As you know, we are recognized by a variety of Federal agencies as a repository meeting the standards in 36 CFR Part 79 and have formal agreements to provide curation under these guidelines to agencies such as the Corps of Engineers, National Park Service, Tennessee Valley Authority, U.S. Soil Conservation Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, etc.

We appreciate being able to assist you in this matter and look forward to helping in the future.

Sincerely,

Eugene

Eugene M. Futato, RPA,
Interim Director

13075 Moundville
Archaeological Park
Moundville, Alabama 35474
(205) 371-2266
FAX (205) 371-2494