STATE OF ALABAMA
ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION
468 South Perry Street
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Frank W. White
Executive Director

Tel: 334-242-3184
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March 5, 2012

Jackie Grace
PERC Engineering
P.O. Box 1712
Jasper, Alabama 35502

Re: AHC 08-0621
SMC P-3930
Fishtrap Mine No. 2, Revision R-2
Jefferson County, Alabama

Dear Ms. Grace:

Upon review of the cultural resource assessment submitted by your office, we have determined that the project activities will have no adverse effect on cultural resources listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, we concur with the proposed project activities. However, should artifacts or archaeological features be encountered during project activities, work shall cease and our office shall be consulted immediately.

We appreciate your efforts on this project. Should you have any questions, please contact Greg Rhinehart at (334) 230-2662. Please have the AHC tracking number referenced above available and include it with any correspondence.

Truly yours,

Elizabeth Ann Brown

Elizabeth Ann Brown
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
EAB/GCR/gcr

PELA
GeoEnvironmental

A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment For Fishtrap Mine No. 2, Revision R-2 In Jefferson County, Alabama

Prepared For:

PERC Engineering, Inc.
1606 Highway 78 West
Jasper, Alabama 35501

Prepared By:

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

February 20, 2012

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

INTRODUCTION

In February 2012, PELA GeoEnvironmental (PELA) conducted a cultural resource survey for proposed activities at WB Mining LLC's Fishtrap Mine No. 2 in Jefferson County, Alabama. The project was performed under contract to PERC Engineering Inc. 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 total project area (Figure 1) consists of three acres, with the majority of the project area comprised of steep slope. The project area is located in Sections 3 and 4 of Township 17 South, Range 5 West and Sections 33 and 34 of Township 16 South, Range 5 West on the Sylvan Springs (USGS 1982), Alabama 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 1 through 3).

Terry Lolley served as Principal Investigator for this project and conducted the fieldwork on February 20, 2012.

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 Register lists any historic properties within the project area. Based on an examination of earlier maps (USDA 1908; ALDOT 1938; USGS 1938), the project area has not been populated since those times. No structures were observed in or around the project area during the field investigation.

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. An examination of the site file maps and site forms indicated there were no recorded prehistoric or historic sites within the project area. A previous survey to the south (Hendryx 2000) resulted in the recording of six lithic-bearing sites (Figure 1). A previous survey to the east (Meredith 2009) resulted in the recorded of two lithic-bearing sites. Due to the eroded nature of the sites, none were recommended eligible to the NRHP.

FIELD METHODS

The project area lies within the Warrior Basin physiographic district. Land surface elevation for the project area ranges from 540 to 580 feet above mean sea level. The project area is characterized by steep slope from the roadway eastward toward a small drainage. The only level portion of the project area was south of an abandoned access road. Secondary pine growth was present in the southern project area while hardwoods dominated the vegetation on the slopes.

The Jefferson County Soil Survey of 1982 indicates one soil association within the project area (Spivey 1982). ***Montevallo-Nauvoo association, steep*** is represented by soils on strongly dissected plateaus. Ridges and slopes are underlain by shale and sandstone. The surface layer is very dark gray shaly silt loam approximately 15 centimeters thick. The

subsoil is yellowish-brown very shaly silt loam.

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 undisturbed portions of the project area. Unimproved 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.

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 four 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 in the southern portion of the project area (Figures 1 and 2). A small and level landform was present with secondary pine growth. Two shovel tests were excavated east of the roadway with negative results. A third shovel test was excavated on the north side of the previously surveyed area just before the slope became too steep. This test was also negative. The final shovel test was excavated in the northern terminus of the project area on a small flat area that slopes to the east. The untested portions of the project area were steeply sloped from the edge of the roadway to the east (Figure 3).

Soil profiles generally consisted of 0-8 centimeters of grayish-brown (10YR5/2) silt loam, overlying 8+ centimeters of brownish-yellow (10YR6/6) to strong brown (7.5YR5/8) clay loam subsoil.

The survey resulted in no cultural material recovered from any of the shovel tests or from the ground surface examination of the project area. Relatively shallow surface soils in some locations, previous disturbances, slope, and the small size of the survey area likely affected the lack of cultural resources identified. A vehicular survey of the project area and its environs indicated no historic standing structures within or immediately adjacent to the project area.

RECOMMENDATIONS

This survey was conducted by PELA GeoEnvironmental for WB Mining, LLC through PERC Engineering, Inc. in compliance with Federal and State regulations. Based on the field methods employed, no cultural resources were identified during the field investigation and the project area should be cleared from further cultural resource concerns.

There is always the possibility of undetected cultural resources such as graves and other features not identified through standard survey methods. 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

ALDOT
1938 Jefferson County Highway Map.

Hendryx, Gregory S.
2000 *A Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Fishtrap Mine in Jefferson County, Alabama.* The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Services, Moundville, Alabama.

Lolley, Terry L.
2006 *A Phase I Cultural Resource Assessment for the Proposed Fishtrap Mine in Jefferson County, Alabama.* P.E. LaMoreaux & Associates, Inc. Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Meredith, Stephen
2009 *A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed WB Mining LLC-Fishtrap Mine No. 2, Jefferson County, Alabama.* The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research, Moundville, Alabama.

USDA
1908 Jefferson County Soil Survey Map.

United States Geological Survey
1938 Port Birmingham 15 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.
1982 Sylvan Springs 7.5 Minute Topographic Quadrangle.

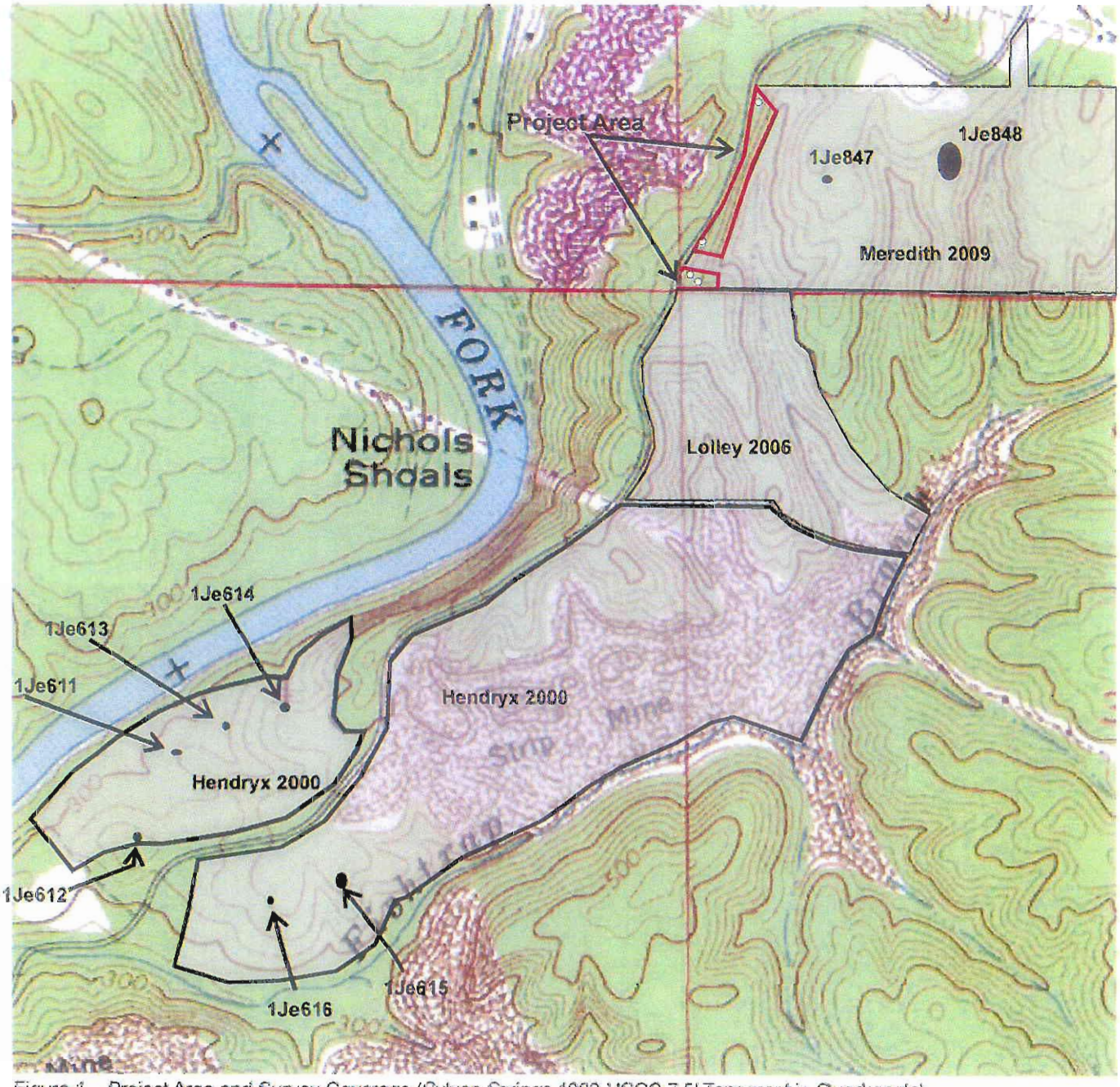

Figure 1. Project Area and Survey Coverage (Sylvan Springs 1982 USGS 7.5' Topographic Quadrangle).

Figure 2. Secondary Growth in the Southern Project Area.

Figure 3. General View East of the Roadway Showing Steep Slope.

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

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