

**Attachment E – Cultural and Historic Resources Correspondence**

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TVA Correspondence to Mississippi SHPO - 2006

May 24, 2006

Mr. Thomas H. Waggener  
Review and Compliance Officer  
Mississippi Department of Archives and History  
Historic Preservation Division  
P.O. Box 571  
Jackson, Mississippi 39205-0571

Dear Mr. Waggener:

TVA, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, YELLOW CREEK PORT, PICKWICK RESERVOIR,  
TISHIMINGO COUNTY

The Tennessee Valley Authority Cultural Resources staff is conducting an assessment of their land holdings associated with the Yellow Creek Industrial Park (YCIP) on Pickwick Reservoir in Tishomingo County, Mississippi (Figure 1). This assessment is being conducted in light of a recent proposal to dispose of approximately 35 acres of land (TVA Tract XYECR-1IE, Parcel 1) currently under a 99-year easement with the State of Mississippi (Figure 2). Additional tracts within the YCIP may be sold in the future.

Approximately 270 acres of land are associated with the YCIP. Currently, 49.1 acres within this area have been sold for industrial use; 83 acres are under permanent easement with the State of Mississippi, 18 acres are owned and used by the Yellow Creek Port Authority, and 89.5 acres have been retained by TVA.

A number of archaeological surveys have been conducted in this area over the last 30 years. Marshall conducted a survey of the YCIP and associated railway spur and industrial parks in November 1971. This survey identified three sites within the current project APE. These sites include 22TS530, 22TS531, and 22TS532. O'Hear conducted a survey in 1981 for access road right-of-way for the YCIP facility. No archaeological sites were identified within this project's APE. This report was reviewed and its findings were concurred with by your office (enclosed).

Thorne conducted a reconnaissance survey of a portion of the tract in 1983 when the property was considered for industrial development. This survey attempted to relocate previously recorded sites 22TS531 and 22TS532 without success. Site 22TS530 was destroyed by the construction of the YCIP. Thorne identified four new sites (22TS1529, 22TS1530, 22TS1531, and 22TS1532). Three of these sites (22TS1529, 22TS1530, and 22TS1531) were located above pool. The fourth (22TS1532) was recorded as being an inundated site identified along the exposed shoreline. Survey results indicated that the majority of the site was inundated by the construction of Pickwick Reservoir. Three sites were recommended as potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP (22TS1529, 22TS1530, and 22TS1531). The sites are located on the enclosed Figure 3. Results of this survey and the proposed industrial park in relation to it were coordinated with your office (attached).

Additional testing of sites 22TS1529, 22TS1530, and 22TS1531 was conducted by Thorne in 1983 (Thorne n.d.). At this time it was determined that 22TS1531 had been destroyed through sheet erosion and plowing. Sites 22TS1529 and 22TS1530 were recommended for avoidance.

Between 1986 and 1990, TVA conducted several surveys of its fee-owned lands within the Pickwick Reservoir. Reconnaissance survey of the YCIP tracts were included in these surveys. Sites 22TS1529, 22TS1530, and 22TS1532 were revisited. Exposed portions of 22TS1532 were determined to be ineligible for listing in the NRHP. Sites 22TS1529 and 22TS1530 were, again, recommended for further testing and/or avoidance. One additional site was recorded on the tract (22TS1564). This site was recommended as ineligible for listing in the NRHP. No other sites were identified or relocated during this survey.

In January 2006, Jay Johnson conducted a reconnaissance survey of a portion of the 35 acre tract (Tract XYECR-1IE, Parcel 1) currently being considered for disposal. This reconnaissance failed to re-locate sites 22TS531 and 22TS532. Johnson recommended no further work on this property. A copy of this letter report is enclosed.

Based on the findings of these surveys, TVA has determined that archaeological sites 22TS1529 and 22TS1530 are potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP. These sites will be retained by TVA and protected from future development (depicted as Area C in Figure 4). A majority of TVA Tract XYECR-1IE, Parcel 3 (approximately 27 acres – Area A in Figure 4) has not been systematically surveyed and will need to undergo an intensive Phase I archaeological survey should TVA decide to develop this property or dispose of it. Any survey work conducted on these tracts will be coordinated with the Mississippi State Historic Preservation Officer and culturally affiliated Indian tribes.

TVA has determined that the remaining acreage, including the 35 acres (Tract XYECR-1IE, Parcel 1) slated for disposal, contains no properties eligible for listing in the NRHP (Area B in Figure 4). Any future development and/or land disposal on these tracts will have no effect on historic properties.

By this letter, TVA is seeking your concurrence with the following:

- Our determination that the disposal of Tract XYECR-1IE, Parcel 1 will have no effect on historic properties;
- Our finding that additional testing will be required to determine the eligibility status of sites 22TS1529 and 22TS1530; and
- Our determination that no historic properties will be affected by any undertakings that may occur at the YCIP within Area B.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact me at 865.632.2458 or by email at [jbgraham@tva.gov](mailto:jbgraham@tva.gov).

Sincerely,

*Original Signed By*

J. Bennett Graham  
Manager and  
Senior Archaeologist

Enclosures

## References Cited

Johnson, Jay K.

- 2006 *Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Expansion of the Yellow Creek Port, Tishomingo County, Mississippi*. Report prepared for Tommy Dean, Dean McCrae Engineering, Iuka, Mississippi.

Marshall, Richard A.

- 1971 *An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Yellow Creek Port and Harbor and Associated Railway Spur and Industrial Parks*. Report prepared for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Meyer, Catherine C.

- 1995 *Cultural Resources in the Pickwick Reservoir*. Report prepared by the University of Alabama, Alabama Museum of Natural History, Division of Archaeology. Report prepared for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

O'Hear, John W.

- 1981 Letter report prepared by John W. O'Hear for Mr. Neal Davis, Yellow Creek Port Authority. Report dated July 28, 1981.

Thorne, Robert M.

- 1983 *Archaeological Reconnaissance of TVA Property Scheduled for Development as Industrial Park Adjacent to the Yellow Creek Port Facility, Tishomingo County, Mississippi*. Report prepared by the Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Thorne, Robert M.

- n.d. *Intensive Archaeological Survey – Proposed Yellow Creek Industrial Park Development – Tishomingo County, Mississippi*. Report prepared by the Center for Archaeological Research, University of Mississippi, University, Mississippi for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

Mississippi SHPO Response to TVA - 2006



PO Box 571, Jackson, MS 39205-0571  
601-576-6850 • Fax 601-576-6975  
mdah.state.ms.us  
H. T. Holmes, Director

July 7, 2006

Mr. J. Bennett Graham  
Manager and Senior Archaeologist  
Tennessee Valley Authority  
400 West Summit Hill Drive  
Knoxville, TN 37902-1401

RE: Cultural Resources Survey of proposed expansion of the Yellow Creek Port,  
MDAH Project Log #05-201-06, Tishomingo County, Mississippi

Dear Mr. Graham:

We have reviewed the January 2006 cultural resources survey report by Dr. Jay K. Johnson, archaeologist, for the above referenced undertaking pursuant to our responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and 36 CFR Part 800. After reviewing the information provided, which we received on May 31, 2006, we concur that (a) disposal of Tract XYER-11E, Parcel 1 will have no effect on historic properties, that (b) no historic properties will be affected in Area B of the YCIP, and that (c) additional testing will need to be performed to determine the eligibility of sites 22Ts1529 and 22Ts1530. We have no reservations with the project as a whole, however.

As always, there remains the possibility that unrecorded cultural resources may be encountered during the project. Should this occur, we would appreciate your contacting this office immediately in order that we may offer appropriate comments under 36 CFR 800.13. If you need further information, please let us know.

Sincerely,

H.T. Holmes  
State Historic Preservation Officer

BY:  Jim Woodrick  
Acting Review and Compliance Officer

cc: Clearinghouse for Federal Programs

Board of Trustees: William E. White, president / Arch Daley, vice president / Kate Diers / Lynn Coody Garrison / E. Jackson Garner  
Gilbert R. Moore, Sr. / Duncan M. Morgan / Martin D. Ranney, Jr. / Rosemary Taylor Williams

TVA General Correspondence to Federally Recognized Tribes

June XX, 2007

Tribe

Dear :

TVA, ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSESSMENT, YELLOW CREEK PORT, PICKWICK RESERVOIR, TISHIMINGO COUNTY

The Tennessee Valley Authority Cultural Resources staff is conducting an assessment of their land holdings associated with the Yellow Creek Industrial Park (YCIP) on Pickwick Reservoir in Tishomingo County, Mississippi (Figure 1). This assessment is being conducted in light of a recent proposal to dispose of approximately 35 acres of land (TVA Tract XYECR-1IE, Parcel 1) currently under a 99 year easement with the State of Mississippi (Figure 2). Additional tracts within the YCIP may be sold in the future. An aerial photo of this area is enclosed for your review.

Approximately 270 acres of land are associated with the YCIP. Currently, 49.1 acres within this area have been sold for industrial use; 83 acres are under permanent easement with the State of Mississippi, 18 acres are owned and used by the Yellow Creek Port Authority, and 89.5 acres have been retained by TVA.

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- Our determination that no historic properties will be affected by any undertakings that may occur at the YCIP within Area B.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please feel free to contact Erin Pritchard at 865.632.2463 or myself at 865.632.6461 (or via email at pbezzell@tva.gov).

Sincerely,

Pat Bernard Ezzell  
Historian and  
Tribal Liaison

Enclosures

**References Cited**

Johnson, Jay K.

- 2007 *Cultural Resource Survey of the Proposed Expansion of the Yellow Creek Port, Tishomingo County, Mississippi*. Report prepared for Tommy Dean, Dean McCrae Engineering, Iuka, Mississippi.

Marshall, Richard A.

- 1972 *An Archaeological Survey of the Proposed Yellow Creek Port and Harbor and Associated Railway Spur and Industrial Parks*. Report prepared for the Tennessee Valley Authority.

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