

A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF A PORTION OF THE
TRANSCONTINENTAL GAS PIPE LINE CORPORATION
SS-1 STORAGE SERVICE PROJECT
(DOCKET NO. CP87-196-000)
AND
DOCKET NO. CP86-597-000
PIPELINE EXPANSION PROJECT,
LUZERNE COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA
(REVISED)

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ABSTRACT

In 1985 and 1986, we conducted a cultural resources survey and subsequent site testing program along a segment of pipeline right-of-way, 15.18 miles in length, in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania. Fifteen cultural localities, including both prehistoric and historic properties, were found during the course of investigations.

Five of the seven prehistoric sites were subjected to evaluative testing. Detailed archival studies were completed for three of the eight historic localities. On the basis of these procedures, two prehistoric sites (36Lu90 and 36Lu105) were determined to require further work. 36Lu90, subjected to Phase II testing, is considered eligible to the National Register of Historic Places and data recovery within the proposed construction zone is planned. Additional Phase II testing will be completed at 36Lu105 to determine eligibility to the Register. None of the remaining sites or localities were judged eligible and no additional work is planned for them.

CHAPTER ONE

INTRODUCTION

In 1982, Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corporation (TRANSCO) announced an ambitious program to expand its existing Leidy Line natural gas pipeline and certain other pipeline facilities in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. Included was the construction of in excess of 230 miles of new, interconnecting pipeline segments adjacent to its existing pipelines (a process termed "looping" of the existing pipeline), adding compressors at existing compressor stations along the system (EMANCO 1982:2), constructing interconnections with the pipeline systems of others, and constructing a new compressor station in New Jersey.

As one portion of the environmental review process, we considered the possible effect of this expansion program on cultural resources. As a result of the work of Phillips (1982), we initially determined that cultural resources were known to exist in areas where various pipeline facilities would be constructed. Comments were subsequently solicited from the State Historic Preservation Officers (SHPOs) in each state concerning the possible effect of such construction on these resources (see Appendix 1:1-1 and EMANCO 1987, Appendix F:128). In each case (Appendix 1:1-3 and EMANCO 1987, Appendix F:133), the SHPO determined that a high probability of impacting unknown cultural resources existed, and recommended that additional cultural resource investigation, including field survey and archaeological testing, be undertaken in the project area prior to construction.

Following initial review of the project (originally termed the "Leidy Line and Market Area Facilities Expansion Project") in its entirety in correspondence with the SHPOs, TRANSCO determined that the facilities would be constructed in steps or phases as required based on market demand for the natural gas and other factors. Subsequent pipeline system planning developments also dictated that TRANSCO either lengthen or shorten certain of the pipeline segments originally proposed for expansion, and that others be added in the same general area. Thus, detailed cultural resource studies in Pennsylvania and New Jersey since 1982 have been designed in

consultation with the SHPOs as TRANSCO's system planning was finalized from year to year. These studies were then completed, usually a year or so in advance of the date when various pipeline segments and other facilities were to be actually scheduled for construction.

As a consequence of TRANSCO's phased approach to expansion of the pipeline system, the results of the cultural resource work on this project have been presented in several interim and final reports and other work products, each of which discusses certain pipeline loops or other facilities and sites. All such reports have been submitted for SHPO review and comment in the appropriate state and for review by the Environmental Evaluation Branch of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and other Federal agencies as needed.

The following subsection of this chapter briefly reviews the work in Pennsylvania as it has been performed and reported both chronologically and geographically in order to provide the reader with a comprehensive overview of all investigations completed to date, and of those that are on-going. Also included in this chapter is a further discussion of the organization of this report which includes the results of field and laboratory work performed along two contiguous pipeline segments during 1985 and 1986. This loop, which extends from Milepost (MP) 10.82 to MP 26.10 on TRANSCO's existing Leidy Line, is shown on Figure 1.

TRANSCO has applied to the FERC for permission to construct and operate the facilities discussed in this report in two separate dockets. Docket No. CP87-196-000, the "SS-1 Storage Service Project," includes 14.28 miles of pipeline looping from MP 26.10 on the west bank of the Susquehanna River, Luzerne County, to MP 11.82, also in Luzerne County. This segment is termed "Loop B" in EMANCO (1987). Cultural resource investigations along other pipeline segments included in Docket No. CP87-196-000 have been reported on elsewhere (see EMANCO 1987:47-51).

Docket No. CP86-597-000 includes 0.9 miles of pipeline looping from MP 11.82 to MP 10.82, also along the Leidy Line in Luzerne County.

PROJECT WORK TO DATE

1983 Field Season

Field work performed during November and December, 1983, in Pennsylvania is discussed by Thomas et al. (1984). This work consisted of pedestrian reconnaissance and site testing along two pipeline segments totalling about 60 miles in length in Lycoming, Columbia and Luzerne counties (Figure 1).

One previously recorded prehistoric site (36Lu52) was relocated outside of the potential impact area. One historic dam (36Lu62) and an historic bottle fragment were also found during the survey.

These findings were reviewed by the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission (PHMC) and a letter requesting supplemental information was

PIPELINE SEGMENTS

- EXISTING LEIDY LATERAL
- REPORTED BY THOMAS, et al. (1984)
- REPORTED IN THIS REPORT
- REPORTED BY WEED (1986)

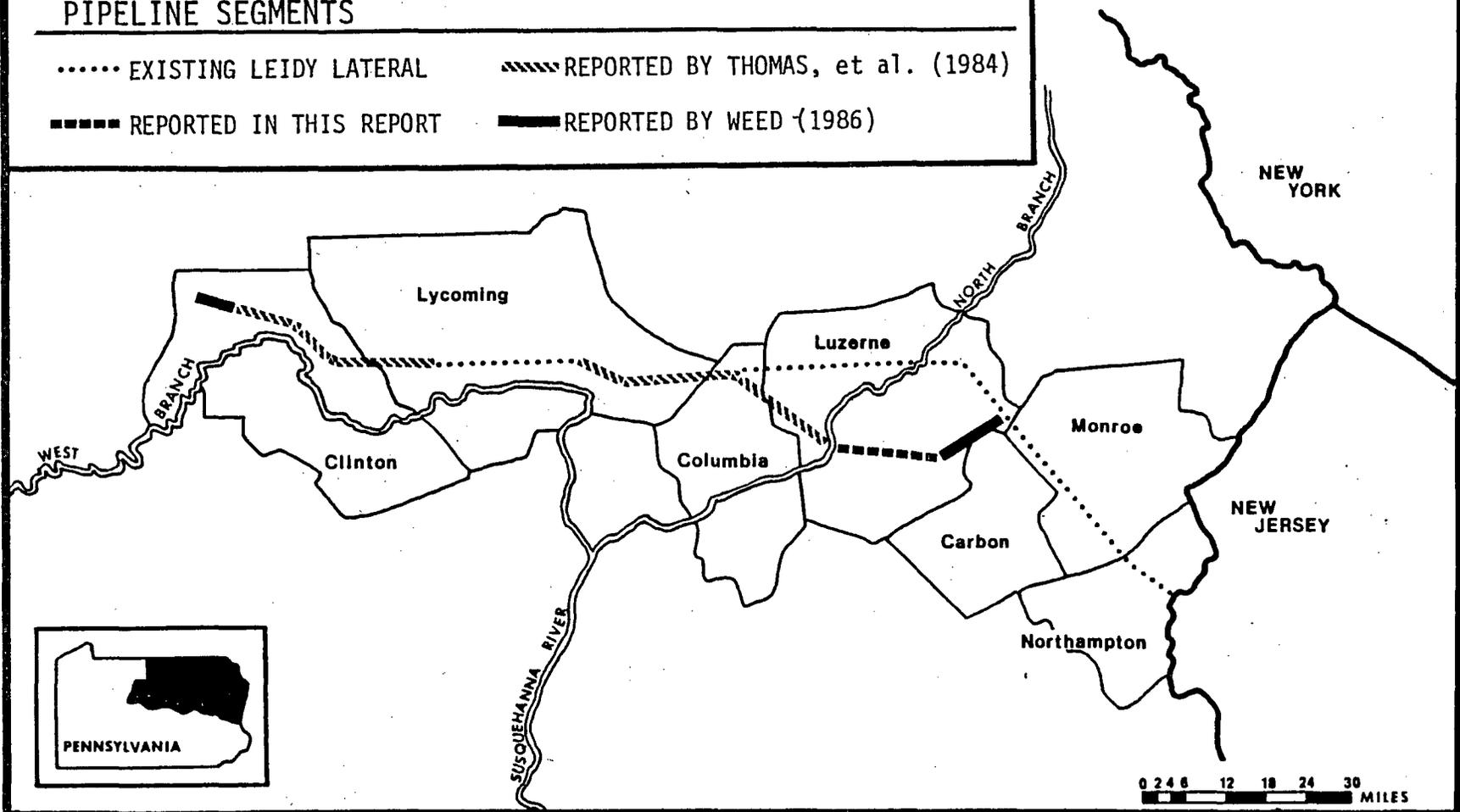


FIGURE 1. GENERAL LOCATION OF PROJECT AREA AND LOCATIONS OF PREVIOUSLY REPORTED SEGMENTS.

issued by that agency (Appendix 1:1-4). Responses were provided (Appendix 1:1-6; 1-14). The PHMC (Appendix 1:1-17; 1-18) was then able to find that the project as proposed would have no effect on significant cultural resources.

1985 Field Season

Prior to initiating field work in 1985, additional comments on the methodology reported by Thomas et al. (1984) were solicited from the PHMC (Appendix 1:1-19). No such comments were received.

In 1985, field work was performed in Pennsylvania between April and November (Weed 1986) and consisted of pedestrian survey of two pipeline segments in Clinton and Luzerne counties, site recordation, background research and preliminary site testing. The pipeline segments studied during 1985 (Figure 1) totalled approximately 32 miles in length.

Work performed during the 1985 field season in Pennsylvania revealed the locations of 11 cultural properties, including both prehistoric and historic sites.

Preliminary site testing was initiated at 36Lu90 in late August. Additionally, background work and transit mapping was completed at 36Lu96, the "Lutz Mill and Farm Site." As a result of the mapping, the site was found to be outside of the construction zone.

The work at 36Lu90 during late 1985 indicated that the site was potentially eligible for NRHP listing. Accordingly, a plan for comprehensive Phase II testing at the site was prepared (New World Research 1985) for PMHC review, and subsequent to review by that agency, also incorporated in Weed (1986). Weed (1986) reported the results of the 1985 work; it was submitted for PMHC review on 7 March 1986 (Appendix 1:1-20). Additional work proposed at 36Lu90 was further clarified in letters to the PMHC (Appendix 1:1-22; 1-24).

The remaining sites were found to either lie outside of the potential pipeline construction zone, or were judged ineligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

1986 Field Season

Prior to initiating field work at the survey level in Pennsylvania in 1986, the PHMC was notified by letter dated 9 May 1986 (EMANCO 1987, Appendix 1:1-25) and comments on the methodology used during previous field seasons were solicited. No comments were received from the PHMC in response to the 9 May letter.

In April, Phase II testing began at 36Lu90. On 18 June 1986, the PHMC issued a letter (Appendix 1:1-26) commenting on Weed (1986). The letter is also discussed in EMANCO (1987:39). In part, the letter requested additional Phase II testing at certain sites, concurred in our determination that 36Lu90 was eligible for NRHP listing, requested

additional Phase I reconnaissance survey of certain locations along route segments discussed by Weed (1986), and requested that Weed (1986) be revised to incorporate the PHMC comments and our responses thereto.

By 14 July 1986, Phase II excavations at 36Lu90 were sufficiently advanced to outline a proposed approach to mitigating the impacts of pipeline construction at this site. This approach was discussed in a written plan (EMANCO Inc. and New World Research, Inc., 1986) which was forwarded for PHMC review. A subsequent meeting resulted in clarification of the approach to data recovery at the site (Appendix 1:1-29) which then allowed the PHMC to determine that the plan for data recovery "will supply...significant information which will be destroyed by the proposed action. Therefore, construction of the proposed pipeline will have no adverse effect on cultural resources" (Appendix 1:1-32). The plan was also forwarded to FERC for review in July, 1986.

The additional Phase I and Phase II investigations requested by PHMC in its 18 June 1986 letter were completed in September, and discussed with the PHMC in a preliminary letter report issued 23 September 1986 (Appendix 1:1-33).

1987 Field Season

In March, 1987 (Appendix 1:1-46; 1-48) a report (Weed et al. 1987) summarizing the 1986 field season results, and also incorporating requested editorial changes in Weed (1986) was submitted to the PHMC for review. The report included proposed data recovery plans for both 36Lu90 and 36Lu105, a multi-component prehistoric site situated on Gould Island in the Susquehanna River. The 36Lu90 mitigation plan included methodological changes requested following the July, 1986, PHMC review of EMANCO Inc. and New World Research, Inc. (1986). No written or verbal comments regarding the plan had been received from the FERC.

Weed et al. (1987) was reviewed by PHMC, and several points of clarification were requested (Appendix 1:1-50). The most extensive of these dealt with the eligibility of 36Lu105, and concluded that "[T]here is insufficient data at this point to make a determination of eligibility for 36Lu105 and more field work will be needed to make this decision." Therefore, additional intensive Phase II testing at that site was initiated in July, 1987. Other points raised in the letter are incorporated into this revision of Weed et al. (1987).

REPORT ORGANIZATION

As this report represents a continuation of previously reported investigations (Thomas et al. 1984; Weed 1986), the cultural sequence for the project area is not repeated here. The area's environmental setting is summarized in Chapter Two.

Chapter Three summarizes the field methods used in both 1985 and 1986, and briefly summarizes the results of the investigation. Chapter Four presents both site and locality descriptions. Chapter Five concludes the main text with interpretations and recommendations for the various properties encountered.

Four appendices are also included. Appendix 1 presents copies of all pertinent correspondence. Appendix 2 is the plan for mitigation of pipeline construction by data recovery at 36Lu90, incorporating revisions to the draft of the plan required by PHMC. Appendix 3 consists of a series of U.S. Geologic Survey (USGS) quadrangle map reprints showing the route of the proposed pipeline segments. Appendix 4 is a tabular summary of stratigraphic information for the 1985/86 survey level excavation units.

This report has been prepared to reflect the comments of PMHC in that agency's 18 June 1986 and 6 July 1987 letters (Appendix 1:1-26; 1-50) and, therefore, supersedes Weed (1986) in presenting the results of cultural resource studies performed to date along the subject pipeline segments. In combination with the discussion of cultural resources, cultural resource consultation, and correspondence in EMANCO (1987) and the correspondence contained herein as Appendix 1, it provides a complete record of the cultural resource work which has been completed to date in support of this phase of TRANSCO's Leidy Line expansion program.

Other segments studied during 1985 and discussed in Weed (1986) as well as other segments studied during 1986, which are not included in the FERC dockets referenced above, will be reported on elsewhere.