

REGULATORY DOCKET FILE COPY

NEW YORK STATE MUSEUM AND SCIENCE SERVICE

ANTHROPOLOGICAL SURVEY

January 24, 1978

50-286

Mr. Robert P. Geckler
Senior Environmental Project Manager
Environmental Projects Branch 1
Division of Site Safety and Environmental
Analysis
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555



Dear Mr. Geckler:

I have reviewed the materials provided on the Indian Point Nuclear Plant proposed improvements. I appreciate the opportunity to comment regarding archeological resources and the potential impact of these plans on such resources.

Although the Draft Environmental Impact Statement indicates only two archeological sites in Westchester County, our statewide archeological site files indicate 13 archeological sites along the Hudson River within three miles of the plant site, 5 sites within two miles and 1 site within one mile of the plant site. It is not unusual to find up to 700% more sites in an area through on-site survey than are reported in the site files, either due to their not being discovered as yet or lack of formal reporting to the State Museum by local collectors. This would be particularly expected in the Hudson Valley, where prehistoric occupation was intense.

The area of Indian Point appears very sensitive, archeologically, from its geographic location and topographic characteristics. Modern construction associated with the amusement park and the nuclear plant may have reduced the probability of finding significant archeological sites in the proposed construction area greatly. However, the general nature of the area, and the known sites reported in proximity to it, tend to support at least a moderate probability that sites may be found in the impact zone for these proposed towers.

I would suggest a brief on-site inspection, with subsurface survey, of the area to determine whether any sites remain and what their significance might be. A similar study conducted for the Cementon Plant did produce several sites, in spite of a great deal of modern industrial disturbance in the area. We have proposed a system to begin in May by which we will conduct such studies. Reimbursement of direct costs would be made via a "charge-back" budget effective April 1.

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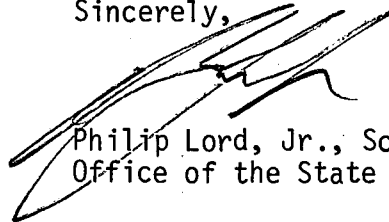
We estimate the time and cost for a study required to locate and evaluate archeological resources in the tower location at less than 7 days of field time and under \$1,500 cost, including report preparation. If archeological sites do not exist in the impact area, this fact could be confirmed in 2 days with costs below \$500.

Please contact us if you wish us to schedule a site examination. As an alternative a list of private consulting firms or individuals known to be active in the area is enclosed.

Please note that under Section 233 of State Education Law, archeological materials excavated on State lands become part of the collections of the State Museum. In that regard, we would be happy to accept any cultural materials for curation and storage, thus answering the question of artifact disposition raised by the Department of Interior in their letter of September 23, 1977.

If I can assist you in any further way, please feel free to contact me. I am returning the map you provided, showing site locations, as part of this assessment. I hope this information will prove helpful.

Sincerely,



Philip Lord, Jr., Scientist (Archeology)
Office of the State Archeologist

PL:dm
enc.

Albert Dekin
Department of Anthropology
State University of New York at Binghamton
Binghamton, New York 13901

Karen Hartgen
Consultant
31 Terrace Avenue
Albany, New York 12203

Charles Fisher
Department of Anthropology
State University of New York at Albany
Albany, New York 12204