

**A CLASS III CULTURAL RESOURCE INVENTORY
OF THE PROPOSED EAGLE ROCK ENRICHMENT FACILITY
BONNEVILLE COUNTY, IDAHO**

VOLUME I: REPORT

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ABSTRACT

Western Cultural Resource Management, Inc. (WCRM) conducted a Class III investigation of the proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility (EREF) site for AREVA Enrichment Services LLC (AREVA) from April 14 through July 23, 2008 in an effort to provide information for an Environmental Report (ER). AREVA, the project participant, is preparing an application to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to construct, operate, and decommission a gas centrifuge uranium enrichment plant in Bonneville County, Idaho. The Class III survey was conducted to identify, document, and evaluate cultural resources in the event that the proposed action is licensed as a future federal undertaking requiring the application of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended, its provisions, and policies.

The proposed Area of Potential Effect (APE) was defined by AREVA as 1,701 ha (4,200 ac) and includes all project components, an approximate 305 m (1,000 ft) buffer around the components and a 76 m (250 ft) buffer around two access roads. A Class I file search was conducted of the proposed APE and a 1.6 km (one-mi) buffer surrounding it. A Class III intensive survey was conducted of five groundwater well locations, ten borehole locations, and the proposed EREF (two access roads and the footprint of the plant). The EREF is a 381 ha (941 ac) plant site with associated access roads. The groundwater well locations comprise 1.15 acres outside of the facility, while the borehole locations are within the EREF. All areas surveyed to a Class III level are in the portion of the proposed APE that will likely be directly affected. The potential effects of the proposed project will be evaluated in the ER. The current report documents the results of the Class I file search of the proposed APE and surrounding buffer and the Class III inventory and National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) evaluation of cultural resources recorded within the proposed groundwater well and borehole locations and the EREF Project area.

The Class I file search data provided by the Idaho State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) indicate that within the proposed EREF APE no previous surveys have been conducted; therefore, no previously recorded resources have been documented. In the 1.6 km (one-mi) buffer surrounding the proposed APE, there have been five previous surveys resulting in the recording of seven sites. Three are prehistoric cave sites within the Wasden Cave Complex, one is a lithic scatter, and three are noted in the SHPO files but have not been officially identified and documented.

Newly recorded resources within the Class III survey area include 11 sites (three prehistoric, four historic, and four multi-component) and 17 isolated finds (four prehistoric, ten historic, one multi-component, and two indeterminate). Prehistoric site types include a site with two projectile points (MW011), a lithic scatter associated with a rock feature (MW012), and a prehistoric flake associated with a small rock wall feature (MW015). Historic site types include two trash scatters (MW003 and MW009), a trash scatter and associated rock feature (MW013), and a trash scatter associated with a two-track road (MW014). Multi-component site types include a prehistoric lithic scatter associated with a historic trash scatter (MW002), a prehistoric lithic scatter associated with the John Leopard homestead (MW004), a prehistoric scraper associated with a historic trash scatter (MW006), and a prehistoric projectile point midsection associated with a historic trash scatter and two rock features of indeterminate age (MW007).

Of the newly recorded sites, the historic component of MW004, the John Leopard Homestead, is recommended eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Sites (MW003, MW006, MW007, MW009, MW011, MW013, and MW014) are recommended not eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The prehistoric components of three sites (MW002, MW012, and MW015) required additional data collection in order to complete NRHP evaluation.

An onsite meeting was held on September 4, 2008 with WCRM and the Idaho SHPO. The three unevaluated sites were visited, and the SHPO, in consultation with WCRM, developed a sampling/testing method that would provide the information necessary for the completion of NRHP evaluations. Evaluative testing of sites MW002, MW012, and MW015 was conducted from October 1-3, 2008 with paperwork completed in the field on October 4, 2008. As a result, sites MW002, MW012 and MW015 were found to be lacking in significant information and are recommended as not eligible to the NRHP.

The remainder of this report is withheld because it contains Sensitive Unclassified Non-Safeguards Information (SUNSI) consisting of detailed descriptions and/or maps of the locations of archaeological sites and/or other possible historic and cultural resources within the boundary, and/or in the vicinity, of the proposed Eagle Rock Enrichment Facility site.