



# COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

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February 11, 2013

Mr. Michael J. Case, Director  
Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

RE: Earthquake Reconnaissance along River Cut Banks  
DHR File No. 2013-0145

Dear Mr. Case:

We have received your request for comments on the project referenced above. The project, as presented, is the identification and testing of paleoliquifaction features along the South Anna, Rivanna, and James Rivers in Virginia. We have reviewed the submitted materials and provide the following comments as assistance to the NRC in meeting its responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

As you may be aware, floodplain environments, such as those in this study, are somewhat culturally sensitive and likely to contain archaeological deposits. Although not quantified as part of this review, it is assumed that there are numerous sites recorded in or near the areas of your concern. However, given the scale and scope of the proposed study, significant impacts to intact historic properties are unlikely. Accordingly, we concur with your finding of *no adverse effect*. If archaeological deposits are encountered in a study area and those deposits are unavoidable during any testing that requires ground-disturbance, please contact our office for guidance on the appropriate treatment of the discovery.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this project. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me [roger.kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov](mailto:roger.kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Kirchen".

Roger W. Kirchen, Archaeologist  
Office of Review and Compliance

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