



Cultural Resources Fact Sheet

Cultural resources represent or convey a place's heritage or help tell the story of a region's past. The Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addresses three categories of cultural resources: archaeological resources, historical resources, and culturally significant properties. Archaeological resources, which are often below ground, provide evidence of prior human occupation. Historical resources are human-made objects or landscapes that are particularly important or unique. Culturally significant properties are sites or locations that are culturally important to a group or people.

Impacts on tribal resources are addressed in the *Tribal Treaty Rights and Trust Responsibilities Fact Sheet*.



1966 aerial photograph of Reynolds Metals Reduction Plant
(source: Cowlitz County Historical Museum)

How were impacts on cultural resources identified and analyzed?

A literature review and records search were conducted to establish prehistoric and historic contexts and to identify previously recorded cultural resources near the project areas. Field investigations were also conducted for the On-Site Alternative project area. The literature review and field investigations were used to determine if there are cultural resources near the project areas that could be affected by the proposed export terminal.

The Draft EIS evaluated how cultural resources at or near the project areas would be affected by the proposed export terminal. The analysis assessed the likelihood that construction could disturb archaeological resources at the project areas. It also considered whether any buildings in or near the project areas are historically significant and how they might be affected by the proposed export terminal.

How would the proposed export terminal affect cultural resources?

Two types of impacts were evaluated as part of this analysis: construction impacts and operational impacts.

Construction

Construction of the export terminal at the On-Site Alternative project area would adversely affect cultural resources associated with the Reynolds Metals Reduction Plant Historic District, which was previously determined to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The On-Site Alternative would involve demolishing buildings and structures that contribute to the historic significance of the Reynolds Metals Reduction Plant Historic District. As a result, the district would no longer be eligible for listing on the NRHP. A Memorandum of Agreement is being prepared to address this impact pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Based on the literature review and past studies, there appears to be limited potential for construction to encounter undocumented archaeological sites at the On-Site Alternative location. An Unanticipated Discovery

Plan would be prepared to address any discovery of previously unidentified archaeological resources during construction.

Construction of the export terminal at the Off-Site Alternative location would not involve demolishing buildings or structures that contribute to the historical significance of the Reynolds Metals Reduction Plant Historic District. Construction at the Off-Site Alternative location would have no effect on any known cultural resources in or near the project area.

Because an archaeological survey has not been conducted at the Off-Site Alternative project area, it is possible construction could affect unidentified archaeological resources. The analysis determined there is a high probability for archaeological resources to exist based on the site's lack of prior development, the site's proximity to the Columbia River, and the results of past studies conducted in and near the On-Site Alternative project area. Archaeological investigations would be conducted prior to initiating construction at the Off-Site Alternative project area, and an Unanticipated Discovery Plan would be developed to address any discovery of previously unidentified archaeological resources during construction.



1946 interior photo of Reynolds Metals Reduction Plant
(source: Cowlitz County Historical Museum)

Operations

Operation of the proposed export terminal under either alternative is not expected to affect cultural resources in the study area.

What measures could reduce impacts on cultural resources?

The Draft EIS identifies the following mitigation measures to reduce impacts on cultural resources:

- Because no fieldwork has been conducted at the Off-Site Alternative project area (due to access limitations), archaeological investigations and a historic resources survey of the project area could be conducted prior to construction. The results of this effort would be used to help determine an appropriate course of action consistent with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
- The Applicant could have a qualified professional archaeologist monitor ground-disturbing activities. If archaeological resources are discovered, construction could be halted in the area until regulatory agencies determine the appropriate course of action.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) has initiated consultation with applicable federal, state, and local agencies, potentially affected Native American tribes, and the Applicant regarding the proposed export terminal's potential impacts on cultural resources. The Corps is currently consulting under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. A Memorandum of Agreement is expected to stipulate measures to mitigate the proposed export terminal's impact on cultural resources in the study area.

A detailed list of mitigation measures can be found in the Draft EIS in Chapter 8, *Minimization and Mitigation Measures*.

Where can I find more information?

Chapter 4, Section 4.4, *Cultural Resources*, of the Draft EIS has detailed information on current conditions, analysis and findings related to the potential impacts of the proposed export terminal on cultural resources.

Visit www.millenniumbulkeiswa.gov for more information on the proposed export terminal and the Draft EIS.