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DATE: October 26, 2011

TO: Caryn Kiehl-Simpson
Parsons
301 Plainfield Road, Suite 350
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FROM: Daniel Seib and Chris Hohman

SUBJECT: Cultural Resource Investigation, Slurry Pipeline from Station 136+89 to Station 145+63, Onondaga Lake Upland Project, Town of Geddes, Onondaga County, New York

In April of 2011, a cultural resource survey report for the Slurry Pipeline and Fiber Optic line portion of the Onondaga Lake project was submitted to Parsons, Honeywell and NYSDEC (Hohman 2011a). That report recommended that a short section of the proposed slurry pipeline have additional geotechnical borings or monitoring of excavation trenches. The reason this work was recommended was because previous soil borings and reconnaissance surveys to the northwest could not be used to determine the depth of intact soils and the identification of wetland soils.

Recently, Honeywell and Parsons forwarded to us the location of proposed trenching for a portion of the slurry pipeline within the Onondaga Lake Project. The alignment of the buried pipeline had been changed since the April 2011 report, but is still within the vicinity of the earlier alignment. The APE (area of potential effects) consists of approximately 183 m (600 ft) of pipeline trenching, 1 m (3.3 ft) in width, from the earlier Station markers 136+89 to 145+63 (see Figures 1 and 2). The pipeline is to be buried 1.5-1.9 m (5-6 ft) below the surface. A review of literature and maps, as well as trench profiles was conducted to determine if the pipeline will impact any precontact or postcontact cultural resources.

The cultural resource survey included in this report applies only to potential archaeological and architectural resources. PAF understands that the USEPA has initiated government-to-government consultations with the Onondaga Nation in compliance with 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(b) regarding properties of religious and cultural significance. However, at this time, USEPA has not asked Honeywell, Parsons, or PAF to address the task of identifying religious and cultural properties. Therefore, no analysis has been performed as to whether the new proposed areas of potential impact included in this letter report may have an effect on Properties of Cultural and Religious Significance.

Previous assessments and surveys completed by PAF have not identified any known precontact sites or postcontact structures from the 19th century within the project areas for the proposed slurry pipeline (Hohman 2010; Hohman and Versaggi 2010; Hohman 2004). Two soil borings were completed in 1965 for the construction of I-695 in the vicinity of the slurry pipe APE: #L61 and #L62 (Hohman 2011a). #L61 is located approximately 30 m (100 ft) east of the APE and #L62 is located approximately another 30 m (100 ft) to the east of #L61. Changes in surface elevations since 1965 suggest that approximately 1.1 m (3.6 ft) of fill has been added to this area. A GPR survey conducted by NY Leak Detection in February of 2011 estimated that between 0.9-1.5 m (3 to 5 ft) of fill was present near the APE. Soil profiles for #L61 and #L62 were vague, with 2.1 m (7 ft) of moist clay and silt found in #L61, but #L62 having 0.3 m (1 ft) of topsoil on top of 3.3 m (9 ft) of silt and clay.

Onondaga Nation's Spiritual and Cultural History of Onondaga Lake¹

The region of Onondaga Lake and the Onondaga Lake watershed has been our homeland since the dawn of time. We have been a steward of Onondaga Lake since time immemorial and will continue to do so forever, as that is what has been mandated from the Gayanashagowa, the Great Law of Peace. In the 1794 Treaty of Canandaigua the United States government recognized Onondaga Lake as part of our aboriginal territory.

The Lake is the spiritual, cultural and historic center of the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. Over one thousand years ago, the Peacemaker brought the Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga, and Seneca Nations together on the shores of Onondaga Lake. At the lakeshore, these Nations accepted the message of peace, laid down their arms, and formed the Haudenosaunee Confederacy. The Confederacy was the first representative democracy in the West.

To symbolize the Confederacy, the Peacemaker planted a white pine, the Tree of Peace, on the shore of Onondaga Lake. It is understood that the Peacemaker chose the white pine because the white pine's needles are clustered in groups of five, just as the five founding Nations of the Confederacy clustered together for strength. The boughs of the white pine represent the laws that protect all the people. An eagle was placed at the top of the tree to watch for danger from without and within. Four white roots of peace reach out in the four directions towards anyone or any Nation who wishes to come under this tree of peace.

As the birth place of the Confederacy and democracy, the Lake is sacred to the Haudenosaunee. The Onondaga Nation has resided on the Lake and throughout its watershed since time immemorial, building homes and communities, fishing, hunting, trapping, collecting plants and medicine, planting agricultural crops, performing ceremonies with the natural world dependent on the Lake, and burying our ancestors - the mothers, fathers and children of the Onondaga Nation. The Onondaga Nation views its relationship to this area as a place where we will forever come from and will return to.

It brings great sadness to the people of the Onondaga Nation that despite our long stewardship of the Lake and its watershed, it took only one hundred years of abuse to wreak havoc to the Lake, its tributaries and all the plants, animals and marine life that depend on the Lake and its watershed. Industry interfered with the Onondaga Nations's relationship to the land and disturbed the ancestors that were interred throughout the watershed - either by direct excavation or contamination, or indirect efforts such as construction on top of grave sites. We wish to bring about a healing between us and all others who live within our homelands around the lake. We must in order to protect the future generations "whose faces are looking up from the earth."

We are one with this land and this Lake. It is our duty to work for a healing of this land, and all of its waters and living things, to protect them, and to pass on a healthy environment to future generations - yours and ours.

¹The Onondaga Nation requested that the oral tradition concerning the significance of Onondaga Lake to the Onondaga and Haudenosaunee Confederacy be included in this report. The Onondaga Nation's statement may not necessarily reflect the views of the Public Archaeology Facility, Parsons, or Honeywell International Inc. Further, the inclusion of the Onondaga Nation's oral tradition shall not constitute an admission of any fact or law in any judicial or administrative proceeding. In addition, the statements and findings made in this report by Honeywell, Parsons, and the Public Archaeology Facility may not reflect the opinions and views of the Onondaga Nation, and do not constitute an admission by the Onondaga Nation of fact or law in any legal or other proceeding.

Mechanical excavation of the slurry pipe trench was conducted from July 27-28, 2011. Archaeological monitoring was conducted concurrently with these excavations; the trench extended to approximately 1.5-2.1 m (5-7 ft) in depth. Soil profiles were examined at five locations to the depth of the planned excavation, as well as deeper at one location to examine the depth of the fill. Two profiles were examined west of the Geddes Brook culvert (see Figure 1). The western most soil profile (SP#1) contained 1.5 m (5 ft) of fill; below the fill there is at least 30 cm (1 ft) of dark grey brown clay, which is suggestive of wetland soils. The profile was taken in the trench just south of an access road, as well as just south of a poured concrete wall. The second profile (SP#2), located on the north side of the access road, was deeper to examine the depth of the fill. At that location, there was approximately 3.05 m (10 ft) of fill on top of dark grey clay (a wetland soil). At the base of the fill was Solvay waste. To the east and west of the buried Geddes Brook culvert (approximately 80 ft), the pipeline was not excavated at this time due to an adjacent telephone pole and the buried culvert for Geddes Brook.

To the east of the Geddes Brook culvert, a third profile (SP#3) encountered 2.06 m (6.8 ft) of fill, with water table at the base of the profile. Between profiles SP#3 and SP#4, modern fill, with concrete near the base, was encountered to 1.8 m (6 ft) below the surface. The fourth profile (SP#4) located to the west of the former alignment identified 1.36 m (4.5 ft) of fill on top of dark grey brown clay loam (a wetland soil) with some gravel at the interface. At the eastern end of the trench (at its intersection with the original alignment, 1.16 m (3.8 ft) of fill was identified above the wetland soils (dark grey brown clay loam), which extended to the base of the excavations between 1.5-1.8 m (5-6 ft) below the surface. No intact A horizons, with the exception of wetland soils, were encountered throughout the length of the trench from the original Station 136+89 to Station 145+63.

Summary and Recommendations

Due to the lack of soil borings, a short section of the proposed slurry pipeline was recommended for additional geotechnical borings or monitoring of excavation trenches. Monitoring and examination of the soil profiles of the slurry trench took place between July 27 and July 28, 2011. Monitoring of the backhoe trench for the slurry pipeline did not located any soil horizons that were suggestive of intact soils except for wetland soils; the remainder of the trench profiles showed deep fill. It is unlikely that evidence of precontact or postcontact landuse would be found within the identified wetland soils. No culturally sensitive soil horizons were identified along this segment of the slurry pipeline. No further archaeological investigation is recommended for the slurry pipe within this portion of the Onondaga Lake project.

REFERENCES

Hohman, Christopher D.

2011a *Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1B Reconnaissance Survey, Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Slurry Pipeline and Fiber Optic Line, Towns of Camillus and Geddes, Onondaga County, New York.* Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.

2011b *Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1B Reconnaissance Survey, Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Geddes Brook Floodplain, Towns of Camillus and Geddes, Onondaga County, New York.* Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.

2010 *Work Plan Addendum for Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Onondaga County, New York.* Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.

2004 *Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1A Cultural Resource Assessment, Onondaga Lake Project, Onondaga Lake, Wastebed B and Wastebed 13, Towns of Camillus, Geddes and Salina and City of Syracuse, Onondaga County, New York.* Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton University, Binghamton, New York.

Hohman, Christopher D. and Dr. Nina Versaggi

2010 *Cultural Resource Management Report, Phase 1B Archaeological Work Plan, Onondaga Lake Project, Upland and Shoreline Area, Wastebed 13, Geddes Brook IRM, Tributary of Geddes Brook, Ninemile Creek RI/FS, Shoreline Survey and Wastebed B/Harbor Brook IRM, Town of Camillus and Geddes, Onondaga County, New York.* Public Archaeology Facility, Binghamton, New York.

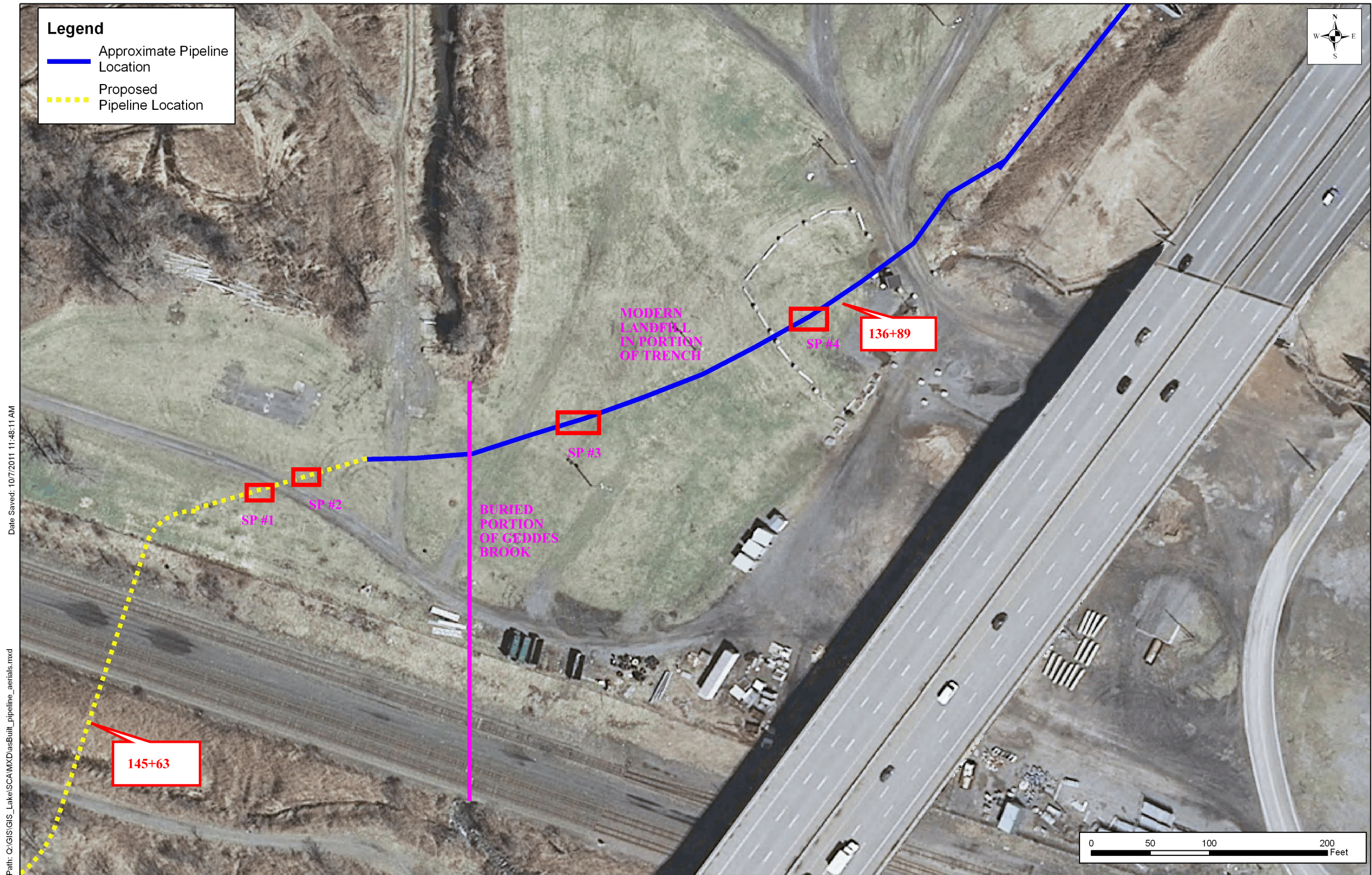


Figure 1. Final alignment of Slurry Pipeline in the vicinity of the original alignment between Stations 136+89 to 145+63.

