

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



18 June 2014

Alfred Dumauual
US Environmental Protection Agency Region 6
Air Permits Section (6PD-R)
1445 Ross Avenue, Suite 1200
Dallas, TX 75202-2733

**RE: Request for Concurrence – Finding of No Effect to Archaeological and Historic Resources
Lon C. Hill Power Station Project
Nueces County, Texas**

Mr. Dumauual:

Lon C. Hill, LP (Lon C. Hill) is requesting a review of the enclosed project information for the Lon C. Hill Power Station Project in Nueces County, Texas. Lon C. Hill is seeking concurrence from the Texas Historical Commission (THC)/State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) and the United States (US) Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) that the construction and operation of the power station will not affect historic properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) or that meet the criteria for the NRHP in accordance with Section 106 guidance. The proposed project is subject to Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) review for greenhouse gases by the EPA; and, therefore, is subject to regulation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The proposed project is expected to be subject to New Source Review (NSR) and PSD review for nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide, volatile organic compounds, and particulate matter, but not for sulfur dioxide. The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality is responsible for issuance of the NSR permit and PSD review of National Ambient Air Quality Standards criteria pollutants.

Lon C. Hill proposes to construct a 2x2x1 combined cycle power plant. It will consist of 2 natural gas-fired combustion turbines, 2 heat recovery steam generators, and 1 steam turbine. The combined cycle unit will exclusively fire natural gas. The facility's nominal capacity will be between 625-740 megawatts (MW). The project will utilize existing

permitted wastewater and storm water outfall structures. One existing pipeline will be upgraded by a third party (gas transportation provider) to a larger diameter pipe. This proposed pipeline replacement will be located within the Project Area. The proposed project will utilize existing power lines. No linear projects are proposed outside of the Project Area.

The proposed Project Area is located near the Calallen District in the City of Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas. The proposed project is approximately 0.75 miles south of Interstate 37 and about a mile east of US Highway 77 (Figure 1 - Appendix A).

Project location information:

USGS Quads	Latitude/Longitude
Annaville	27.847864, -97.614628

Construction of the proposed power station project will take place within Lon C. Hill's property boundaries. The limits of the earth disturbance footprint will be referred to as the "Project Area." The Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the undertaking consists of the entire 45.5-acre Project Area. The APE is shown in Figure 1 of the cultural resources report in Appendix B. The proposed pipeline replacement is included within the APE and within the Project Area.

Earth disturbance will be limited to the Project Area. Groundcover in the Project Area consists of historically disturbed soils (i.e., caliche, gravel, and clay composite) with herbaceous vegetation. In addition, a caliche pad and concrete foundations from pre-existing industrial facilities are located within the Project Area. Photographs of the Project Area are included in Appendix C.

The following general construction activities are included:

- Site dirt work
- Installation of drilled shaft foundations and spread footings or driven piles (approximately 700-1000 piles)
- Installation of pipe rack and other pipe supports

- Setting of major equipment items (gas turbines, steam turbine, generators, HRSGs, auxiliary boiler, cooling tower, etc.)
- Installation of rack piping and interconnecting pipe between major equipment
- Replacement of existing natural gas pipeline with larger diameter pipe to be completed by a third party (gas transportation provider)
- Installation of Motor Control Center building and associated wiring to equipment motors
- Installation of instrument devices and associated wiring
- Post-erection cleaning and pressure testing of various piping systems
- Installation of insulation
- Controls checkout
- Plant start-up and commissioning
- Touch-up painting

The estimated depth of disturbance includes pipeline replacement approximately 8 feet deep and approximately 700-1000 piles driven to the depth of bedrock (bedrock depth unknown at this time).

The Project Area has historically been impacted by industrial development. The area previously hosted a power station with 4 cooling towers. The approximate depth of historical disturbance was up to 20 feet for the cooling towers and to the depth of bedrock for piles associated with the power station. In addition, the depth of the existing pipeline is approximately 8 feet. All new facilities and the upgraded pipeline will be constructed within the previous power station footprint.

A Cultural Resources Review was conducted by Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. This review included a 1-mile radius of the Project Area. The results indicated the presence of 8 previously recorded archaeological sites within the 1-mile radius of the Project Area. No documented cultural resources are located within or immediately adjacent to the boundaries of the Project Area. Eight prior surveys have been conducted within 1 mile of the APE. The detailed results of the cultural resources review are included in the enclosed document titled "Proposed Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas Cultural Resources Review"

(Appendix B). Given the extent of the historical industrial disturbance in the Project Area, there exists a low probability that intact cultural resources eligible for listing on the NRHP will be present in the Project Area. The proposed facilities would be similar in structure and height to previous structures in the same location. Therefore, no net increase to viewshed impacts is anticipated.

Based on the results of the archival review, Lon C. Hill is requesting concurrence from the THC/SHPO and the EPA that construction and operation of the proposed power station project will not adversely affect historic properties listed in the NRHP or that meet the criteria for the NRHP in accordance with Section 106 guidance. In the unlikely event that any cultural materials are inadvertently discovered at any point during construction or operation of the Project Area, all work at the location of the discovery should cease immediately, and the THC and the EPA should be notified of the discovery. Please call me at 512.353.3344 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,



Jayme A. Shiner

Appendix A - Figure 1 - Project Location

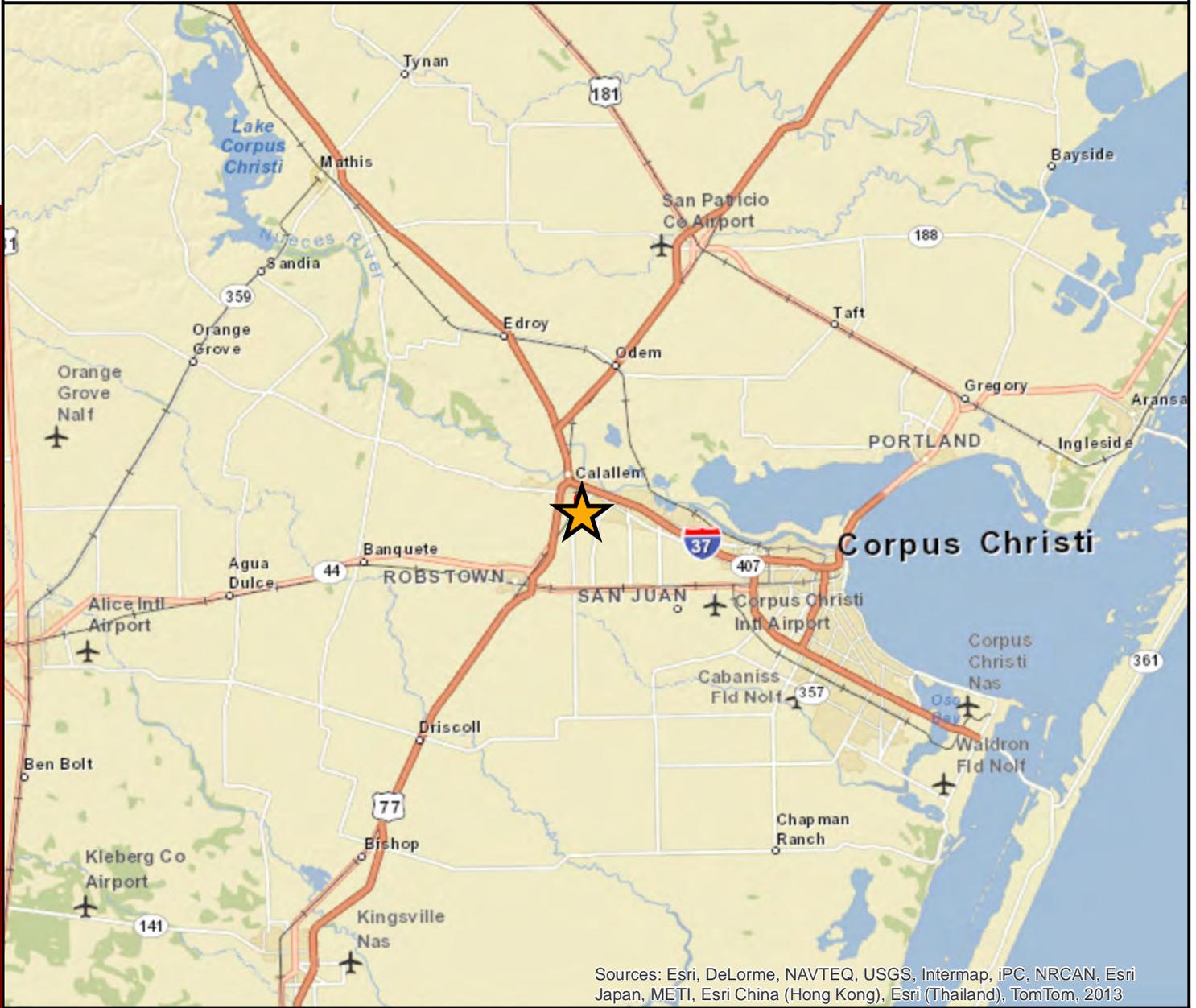
Appendix B - Proposed Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas Cultural Resources Review

Appendix C – Photographic Log

APPENDIX A

FIGURE 1 – PROJECT LOCATION

Figure 1 Project Location Lon C. Hill Power Station Project Nueces County, Texas

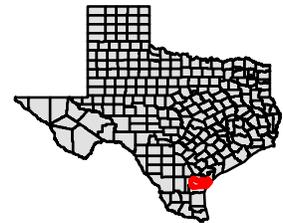


Sources: Esri, DeLorme, NAVTEQ, USGS, Intermap, iPC, NRCAN, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri (Thailand), TomTom, 2013

Nueces County



Project Location



Background Resources:
World Street Map

Surveyor(s):
Jayme Shiner PWS
Debbie Scott AWB
Bryan Whisenant

Project Number and Information:
1352
Lon C. Hill Power Station Project
Biological Assessment

GPS and Coordinate Type:
Trimble Geo XH 6000 Series
UTM NAD 1983
Zone 14 North

Map Created:
04/10/2014 by D. Scott



3413 Hunter Road San Marcos Texas 78666



US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT

APPENDIX B
CULTURAL RESOURCES ASSESSMENT

**Proposed Lon C. Hill Power Station
Expansion Project,
Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas**

Cultural Resources Review

Prepared for:



**Whitenton Group, Inc.
3413 Hunter Road
San Marcos, Texas 78666**

Prepared by:



**Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.
1507 South IH 35
Austin, Texas 78741**

HJN 110012.40 AR

April 2014

MANAGEMENT SUMMARY

Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. (Horizon), has been contracted to provide a cultural resources assessment for proposed improvements to the Lon C. Hill Power Station. Lon C. Hill, LP, is proposing to construct and own a 2-by-2-by-1 combined-cycle power plant at the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station located at 3501 Callicoatte Road, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78410. The combined-cycle unit will consist of 2 natural-gas-fired combustion turbines, 2 heat-recovery steam generators, 1 steam turbine, and ancillary equipment. Excluding the replacement of 1 existing pipeline with a larger-diameter pipe, no other linear facilities are planned for this project, and no new outfall structures will be required. The combined-cycle unit will exclusively fire natural gas. The facility's nominal capacity will be between 625 and 740 megawatts. The proposed project site is located off the west side of Callicoatte Road approximately 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) southeast of its intersection with Interstate Highway (IH) 37. The site is bounded by Callicoatte Road on the east, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the west, an electrical substation (not part of the Lon C. Hill Power Station) on the south, and a residential subdivision on the north. Construction of the proposed combined-cycle generating unit will occur entirely within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and no additional earth disturbance would be required beyond the limits of the property.

The proposed improvements to Lon C. Hill Power Station will require a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As such, the undertaking falls under the regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, which is invoked when federal funds are utilized or when federal permitting is required for a proposed project. The NHPA states that the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), which serves as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the state of Texas, must be afforded the opportunity to comment when any cultural resources potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are present in a project area affected by federal agency actions or covered under federal permits or funding.

In April 2014, Horizon conducted a cultural resources background study of the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property within which improvements would be undertaken. For purposes of the cultural resources assessment, the Area of Potential

Effect (APE) of the proposed project was established based on the direct impacts from construction and operation of proposed improvements. Construction of the proposed combined-cycle generating unit will occur entirely within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and no additional earth disturbance would be required beyond the limits of the property. Excluding the replacement of 1 existing pipeline with a larger-diameter pipe, no other linear facilities are planned for this project, and no new outfall structures will be required. The combined-cycle unit will exclusively fire natural gas. Regarding direct effects, the proposed undertaking would involve only impacts associated with construction and process improvements within the existing industrial complex and would not result in an increase to the overall footprint of the existing plant.

Regarding indirect effects, the existing facility would remain an industrial process area with no changes to the overall size and height of the facility; as such, there would not be a net increase to existing viewshed impacts in regard to historic properties in the surrounding area. The noise levels generated via the project construction and operation would not exceed those associated with typical daily facility activities; and indirect effects of air pollutant emissions would not contribute to the existing geographical boundaries of the APE. As such, the APE was not expanded due to indirect impacts resulting from viewshed, noise, or atmospheric effects.

The cultural resources assessment consisted of a desktop review of potential project impacts on historic properties or other culturally significant features or landscapes within the APE. No field investigations were undertaken as a part of the cultural resources assessment. Based on the results of desktop archival research, no known cultural resources are located within the boundaries of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property. Eight previously recorded archeological sites are present within a 1.6-kilometer (1.0-mile) radius of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station complex. All 8 previously recorded sites are located well beyond the boundaries of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and none of the sites would be disturbed as a result of the proposed undertaking. No cemeteries or historic properties listed on the NRHP were identified within a 1.6-kilometer (1.0-mile) radius of the project site.

As many as 8 prior cultural resources surveys have been conducted within 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) of the project site. One of the previous surveys, a linear utility survey conducted in 2013 by Tierras Antiguas Archaeological Investigations for the Y-Grade to Equistar Pipeline Project, ran adjacent to part of the northern boundary of the Lon C. Hill Power Station, but no portion of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station complex has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. In November 2008, URS Corporation (URS) prepared a cultural resources background study similar to that presented in the current report for proposed improvements to the Lon C. Hill Power Station. Based on extensive levels of previous land-altering disturbances within the property and the lack of known historic properties located in close proximity to the project site, URS recommended a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" with regard to proposed upgrades to the existing industrial facility. The THC concurred with URS's recommendations and cleared the prior proposed upgrades to proceed.

The APE associated with the current proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station would be contained entirely within the existing industrial facility. Based on the extent of existing disturbances within the proposed project site resulting from prior construction,

use, and ongoing maintenance of the industrial plant, there is a low probability that intact cultural resources are present that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. No known cultural resources were identified within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) project site based on desktop archival research, and there is a low probability that any unrecorded, intact cultural resources are present that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. It is Horizon's opinion that the proposed project site does not require an intensive cultural resources survey, and no known archeological or historic properties that are listed on, eligible for, or potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP would be adversely affected. Horizon recommends a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" with regard to the proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station. However, it should be noted that human burials are protected under the Texas Health and Safety Code. In the unlikely event that any human remains or burial objects are inadvertently discovered at any point during construction, use, or ongoing maintenance in the project area, all work should cease in the vicinity of the inadvertent discovery and the THC should be notified immediately.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

Horizon Environmental Services, Inc. (Horizon), has been contracted to provide a cultural resources assessment for proposed improvements to the Lon C. Hill Power Station. Lon C. Hill, LP, is proposing to construct and own a 2-by-2-by-1 combined-cycle power plant at the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station located at 3501 Callicoatte Road, Corpus Christi, Texas, 78410. The combined-cycle unit will consist of 2 natural-gas-fired combustion turbines, 2 heat-recovery steam generators, 1 steam turbine, and ancillary equipment. Excluding the replacement of 1 existing pipeline with a larger-diameter pipe, no other linear facilities are planned for this project, and no new outfall structures will be required. The combined-cycle unit will exclusively fire natural gas. The facility's nominal capacity will be between 625 and 740 megawatts. The proposed project site is located off the west side of Callicoatte Road approximately 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) southeast of its intersection with Interstate Highway (IH) 37. The site is bounded by Callicoatte Road on the east, the Union Pacific Railroad tracks on the west, an electrical substation (not part of the Lon C. Hill Power Station) on the south, and a residential subdivision on the north. Construction of the proposed combined-cycle generating unit will occur entirely within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and no additional earth disturbance would be required beyond the limits of the property (Figures 1 and 2).

The proposed improvements to Lon C. Hill Power Station will require a Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) permit for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions issued by the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). As such, the undertaking falls under the regulations of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended, which is invoked when federal funds are utilized or when federal permitting is required for a proposed project. The NHPA states that the Advisory Council for Historic Preservation (ACHP) and the Texas Historical Commission (THC), which serves as the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the state of Texas, must be afforded the opportunity to comment when any cultural resources potentially eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) are present in a project area affected by federal agency actions or covered under federal permits or funding.

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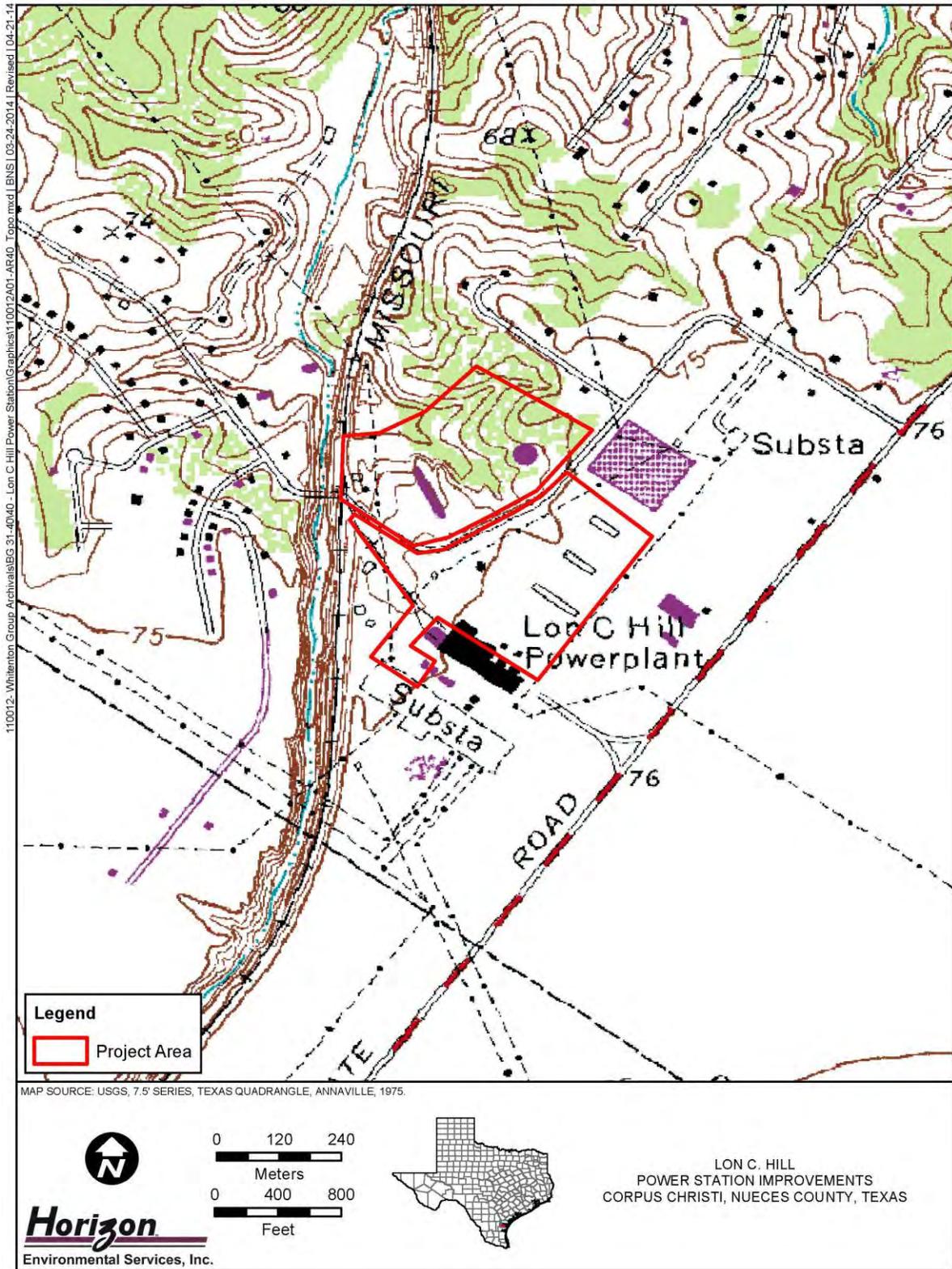


Figure 1. Location of APE on USGS Topographic Quadrangle



Figure 2. Location of APE on Aerial Photograph

Effect (APE) of the proposed project was established based on the direct impacts from construction and operation of proposed improvements. Construction of the proposed combined-cycle generating unit will occur entirely within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and no additional earth disturbance would be required beyond the limits of the property. Excluding the replacement of 1 existing pipeline with a larger-diameter pipe, no other linear facilities are planned for this project, and no new outfall structures will be required. The combined-cycle unit will exclusively fire natural gas. Regarding direct effects, the proposed undertaking would involve only impacts associated with construction and process improvements within the existing industrial complex and would not result in an increase to the overall footprint of the existing plant.

Regarding indirect effects, the existing facility would remain an industrial process area with no changes to the overall size and height of the facility; as such, there would not be a net increase to existing viewshed impacts in regard to historic properties in the surrounding area. The noise levels generated via the project construction and operation would not exceed those associated with typical daily facility activities; and indirect effects of air pollutant emissions would not contribute to the existing geographical boundaries of the APE. As such, the APE was not expanded due to indirect impacts resulting from viewshed, noise, or atmospheric effects.

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As many as 8 prior cultural resources surveys have been conducted within 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) of the project site. One of the previous surveys, a linear utility survey conducted in 2013 by Tierras Antiguas Archaeological Investigations for the Y-Grade to Equistar Pipeline Project, ran adjacent to part of the northern boundary of the Lon C. Hill Power Station, but no portion of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station complex has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. In November 2008, URS Corporation (URS) prepared a cultural resources background study similar to that presented in the current report for proposed improvements to the Lon C. Hill Power Station. Based on extensive levels of previous land-altering disturbances within the property and the lack of known historic properties located in close proximity to the project site, URS recommended a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" with regard to proposed upgrades to the existing industrial facility. The THC concurred with URS's recommendations and cleared the prior proposed upgrades to proceed.

The APE associated with the current proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station would be contained entirely within the existing industrial facility. Based on the extent of existing disturbances within the proposed project site resulting from prior construction,

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This document presents the results of Horizon's cultural resources background review of the proposed project site. Following this introductory chapter, Chapters 2.0 and 3.0 present the environmental and cultural backgrounds of the project area, respectively. Chapter 4.0 presents the results of the background review, and Chapter 5.0 summarizes the results of the background review and presents management recommendations for the proposed undertaking. Chapter 6.0 lists the references cited in the document. Appendix A contains the resume of Jeffrey D. Owens, Horizon Senior Archeologist, who served as Principal Investigator for this project.

2.0 ENVIRONMENTAL SETTING

2.1 PHYSIOGRAPHY AND HYDROLOGY

The APE is located in Nueces County on the Gulf Coastal Plain in southeastern Texas. The Gulf of Mexico represents a structural basin formed by lithosphere deformation. The Texas Coastal Plain, which extends as far north as the Ouachita uplift in southern Oklahoma and westward to the Balcones Escarpment in central Texas, consists of seaward-dipping bodies of sedimentary rock, most of which are of terrigenous clastic origin, that reflect the gradual infilling of the basin from its margins (Abbott 2001). The Corpus Christi area is underlain by rocks and unconsolidated sediments that are quite young in a geological sense, ranging from modern to Miocene in age. These consist predominantly of a series of fluviodeltaic bodies arranged in an offlapped sequence, with interdigitated and capping eolian, littoral, and estuarine facies making up a relatively minor component of the lithology. Major bounding unconformities between these formations are usually interpreted to represent depositional hiatuses that occurred during periods of sea level low stand. The oldest rocks in this fill are of Late Cretaceous age. As a result of the geometry of basin filling, successively younger rock units crop out in subparallel bands from the basin margin toward the modern coastline.

The APE is situated on a modified coastal flat on the uplands south of the Nueces River channel. A heavily modified, unnamed tributary of the Nueces River flows northward across the Union Pacific Railroad tracks from the site to the west, and the Nueces River, in turn, flows eastward to discharge into Nueces Bay. Elevations across the APE range from approximately 16.8 to 22.9 m (55.0 to 75.0 ft) above mean sea level (amsl), sloping downward toward the modified tributary channel to the west. The natural topography within the APE has been altered and leveled to varying degrees over the course of ongoing construction, use, and maintenance of the Lon C. Hill Power Station.

2.2 GEOLOGY AND GEOMORPHOLOGY

The APE is situated on the Beaumont Formation (Groat 1975). The Beaumont, or Prairie, terrace consists of clay, silt, and fine sand arranged in spatial patterns that reflect the distribution of fluvial (e.g., channel, point bar, levee, and backswamp) and mudflat/coastal marsh facies (Abbott 2001; Van Siclen 1985). Sandy deposits associated with littoral facies are also frequently considered part of the Beaumont. Many investigators (cf. DuBar et al. 1991;

Fisk 1938, 1940) have correlated the Beaumont terrace with the Sangamon Interglacial (ca. 130 to 75 thousand years ago [kya]), although age estimates range from Middle Wisconsinan (Alford and Holmes 1985) to 100 to 600 kya (Blum and Price 1994). While debate about the temporal affiliations of and correlations among the deposits that underlie the major coastline terraces remains active, they are of little direct geoarcheological relevance because virtually all investigators agree that these deposits considerably predate the earliest demonstrated dates of human occupation in North America.

The APE is situated on 6 mapped soil units (NRCS 2014) (Figure 3; Table 1). The majority of the overall APE is underlain by loamy fluviomarine sediments deposits between the Early and Late Pleistocene epochs, though portions of the APE are composed of loamy and calcareous loamy alluvial sediments and sandy eolian deposits of Quaternary and Holocene age. While some of the mapped soil units within the APE are of Quaternary and/or Holocene age, the natural soils within the majority of the APE have been heavily modified as a result of ongoing construction, use, and maintenance of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station.

2.3 CLIMATE

Evidence for climatic change from the Pleistocene to the present is most often obtained through studies of pollen and faunal sequences (Bryant and Holloway 1985; Collins 1995). Bryant and Holloway (1985) present a sequence of climatic change for nearby east-central Texas from the Wisconsin Full Glacial period (22,500 to 14,000 B.P.) through the Late Glacial period (14,000 to 10,000 B.P.) to the Post-Glacial period (10,000 B.P. to present). Evidence from the Wisconsin Full Glacial period suggests that the climate in east-central Texas was considerably cooler and more humid than at present. Pollen data indicate that the region was more heavily forested in deciduous woodlands than during later periods (Bryant and Holloway 1985). The Late Glacial period was characterized by slow climatic deterioration and a slow warming and/or drying trend (Collins 1995). In east-central Texas, the deciduous woodlands were gradually replaced by grasslands and post oak savannas (Bryant and Holloway 1985). During the Post-Glacial period, the east-central Texas environment appears to have been more stable. The deciduous forests had long since been replaced by prairies and post oak savannas. The drying and/or warming trend that began in the Late Glacial period continued into the mid-Holocene, at which point there appears to have been a brief amelioration to more mesic conditions lasting from roughly 6000 to 5000 B.P. Recent studies by Bryant and Holloway (1985) indicate that modern environmental conditions in east-central Texas were probably achieved by 1,500 years ago.

The modern climate is typically dry to subhumid with long, hot summers and short, mild winters. The climate is influenced primarily by tropical maritime air masses from the Gulf of Mexico, but it is modified by polar air masses. Tropical maritime air masses predominate throughout spring, summer, and fall. Modified polar air masses are dominant in winter and provide a continental climate characterized by considerable variations in temperature.

In winter, the average temperature is 52 degrees Fahrenheit (°F); however, during winter the temperature tends to fluctuate greatly as air masses move in and out of the area. These air masses can produce light rain and drizzle, and conditions can become cloudy. Spring is

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Figure 3. Distribution of Mapped Soil in APE

Table 1. Mapped Soils Located within APE

Soil Name	Soil Description	Typical Profile
Raymondville complex, 0 to 1% slopes (CcA)	Loamy fluviomarine deposits of Late Pleistocene age on coastal flats	0-8 in: Clay 8-40 in: Clay 40-60 in: Clay
Raymondville complex, 3 to 5% slopes (CcB)	Loamy fluviomarine deposits of Late Pleistocene age on coastal flats	0-8 in: Clay 8-40 in: Clay 40-60 in: Clay
Miguel fine sandy loam, 3 to 5% slopes (MgC)	Loamy alluvium of Holocene age on stream terraces	0-10 in: Fine sandy loam 10-30 in: Sandy clay 30-55 in: Sandy clay
Orelia fine sandy loam (Of)	Loamy fluviomarine deposits of Early Pleistocene age on coastal flats	0-6 in: Fine sandy loam 6-40 in: Sandy clay loam 40-62 in: Sandy clay loam
Comitas fine sand (Sa)	Sandy eolian deposits of Quaternary age on sand sheets	0-30 in: Loamy fine sand 30-80 in: Fine sandy loam
Willacy fine sandy loam, 1 to 4% slopes (WaB)	Calcareous loamy alluvium on stream terraces	0-16 in: Fine sandy loam 16-60 in: Sandy clay loam

Source: NRCS 2014
in: Inches

relatively dry, with some thunderstorms and cool spells. Summer temperatures are high, with the daily maximum temperature often reaching or exceeding 90°F. Fall is warm, dry, and pleasant, with increasing cold spells.

The average precipitation within the region is 33 inches. The majority of this precipitation occurs as rain that falls between April and September. The growing season is approximately 265 days long.

2.4 FLORA AND FAUNA

The project site is located in the Tamaulipan Biotic Province (Blair 1950) and the South Texas Plains vegetational region (Gould 1975). The upland areas support a rich tapestry of south Texas chaparral. The vegetation of the undeveloped and uncleared areas can be characterized as brush country, with variably dense scrub ranging in height from 1 to 3 m (4 to 10 ft). Mesquite and associated thorny shrubs, such as catclaw acacia, huisache, blackbrush, granjeno, whitebrush, prickly pear, and Spanish dagger are common locally. Understory vegetation is characteristically sparse. Along major drainages, live oak, Texas ebony, Texas sugarberry, cedar elm, and retama occur. Little bluestem, bristlegrass, paspalums, windmill grass, and buffelgrass are dominant grasses.

The Tamaulipan/Mezquital ecoregion of southern Texas and northeastern Mexico has unique plant and animal communities containing tree- and brush-covered dunes, wind tidal flats, and dense native brushland. Although there are large acreages of cultivated land on the South Texas Plains, most of the area is still rangeland. Land holdings predominantly are large cattle

ranches. Deer and other wildlife species are common. This area originally supported a grassland- or savannah-type climax vegetation. Long continued grazing and other factors have altered the plant communities to such a degree that ranchmen of the region now face a severe brush problem (Gould 1975).

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3.0 CULTURAL BACKGROUND

The prehistory of South Texas can essentially be divided into 3 major periods— (1) PaleoIndian (9200 to 6000 BC); (2) Archaic, which has been subdivided into the Early Archaic (ca. 6000 to 2500 BC), Middle Archaic (ca. 2500 to 400 BC), and Late Archaic (ca. 400 BC to AD 800); and (3) Late Prehistoric (AD 800 to 1600). These prehistoric periods are principally defined by the presence of particular diagnostic projectile points, but they are intended to designate general cultural patterns based on ecology, technology, and subsistence strategies (Black 1989:48-57; Suhm et al. 1954).

3.1 PALEOINDIAN PERIOD (CA. 9200–6000 BC)

Evidence of PaleoIndian occupations in South Texas (9200 to 6000 BC) usually consists of surface finds found most frequently in the Nueces-Guadalupe and Rio Grande plains. Only 2 stratified PaleoIndian sites have been excavated in the region: Buckner Ranch (Sellards 1940) and Berger Bluff (Brown 1987). Both sites were deeply buried in alluvial terraces. Diagnostic projectile point styles of the PaleoIndian period include Clovis (Meltzer 1986), Folsom (Largent et al. 1991), Golondrina, Scottsbluff, and Angostura (Black 1989:48-49). Finely flaked end scrapers fashioned on blades and bifacially worked Clear Fork tools are also diagnostic of the PaleoIndian period. PaleoIndian peoples have traditionally been characterized as terminal Pleistocene big-game hunters, but these highly mobile hunter-gatherers probably exploited a rich diversity of wild plant and animal foods. Investigations at Baker Cave, for instance, indicate that a diverse array of fish, snakes, and rodents was exploited by the PaleoIndian occupants (Hester 1983). PaleoIndian populations were probably organized into small groups that ranged over great distances across periglacial plains and marginally forested areas to acquire different food sources throughout the year (Black 1989:48).

3.2 ARCHAIC PERIOD (CA. 6000 BC–AD 800)

The major distinction of the Early Archaic period (6000 to 2500 BC) is the replacement of earlier lanceolate-shaped projectile points by stemmed and corner-notched types. These styles include Bell, Andice, Early Triangular, and Early Expanding Stemmed points such as Bandy, Martindale, Uvalde, and related forms (Turner and Hester 1999). Other diagnostic artifacts include Clear Fork tools and large, thin, triangular bifaces with concave bases. The beginning of the Early Archaic period marks the onset of the modern Holocene era, during which the periglacial climate of the late Pleistocene began to grow warmer. Available evidence from the

Gulf Coastal Plain suggests that population densities remained low through the beginning of the Archaic period in South Texas, reflecting a continuation of the highly mobile adaptations of the PaleoIndian period.

The Middle Archaic period (2500 to 400 BC) in South Texas is defined by the presence of Pedernales, Langtry, Kinney, Bulverde, and Tortugas projectile point styles (Bell 1958; Turner and Hester 1999). Distally beveled tools are also common during this period, and ground stone tools, such as tubular grinding stones and manos, appear for the first time (Black 1989:49). Site densities in South Texas increase markedly during the Middle Archaic, possibly reflecting a decrease in group mobility and/or an increase in territoriality among groups (Black 1989:51). A heavier reliance on vegetal foods may be indicated by the introduction of ground stone technology and the appearance of large burned rock middens throughout Central Texas.

Late Archaic (400 BC to AD 800) occupations in South Texas are defined by small corner- and side-notched dart points, including Ensor, Frio, Marcos, Fairland, and Ellis types (Bell 1958, 1960; Turner and Hester 1999). Site densities continue to increase throughout the Late Archaic period, possibly indicating that population densities continued to rise. Cultural deposits on Late Archaic sites also tend to be deeper than during preceding periods, suggesting that occupations were either more extended in duration or that reoccupation of the same locations was more frequent (Black 1989:51). Cemeteries appear during this period, possibly indicating higher levels of social organization and increasing territoriality (Black 1989:51). During the Late Archaic, the exploitation of different ecological niches continued to intensify, becoming increasingly oriented toward the exploitation of seasonal food sources. This kind of adaptation is best illustrated by the frequent occurrence of shell middens along the coast and burned rock middens farther inland. Data collected from inland sites indicate that the economy was based primarily on vegetal resources supplemented with the hunting of small game such as rodents and rabbits (Black 1989:51).

3.3 LATE PREHISTORIC PERIOD (CA. AD 800–1600)

The onset of the Late Prehistoric period (AD 800 to 1600) is defined by the appearance of pottery and the bow and arrow. The small dart points of the Late Archaic period were largely replaced by arrow points (Black 1989:52). The Late Prehistoric period in South Texas has been divided into 2 distinct time horizons, the Austin (AD 800 to 1350) and Toyah (AD 1350 to 1600) phases (Black 1986). The Austin phase is characterized by the presence of Scallorn arrow points, while the Toyah phase is defined by the presence of Perdiz arrow points. Faunal resources became increasingly important during this period, especially large mammals such as bison and deer. Lithic tool kits seem to have been manufactured for the processing of large mammals (Black 1989:51-57). Late Prehistoric sites are relatively common throughout South Texas, which might be interpreted as the result of population increases. The movement of bison from Central to South Texas may coincide with a movement of peoples and/or technology from both the Austin and Toyah phases of Central Texas (Black 1989:51-57).

3.4 HISTORIC PERIOD (CA. AD 1600–PRESENT)

The first European incursion into what is now known as Texas was in 1519, when Álvarez de Pineda explored the northern shores of the Gulf of Mexico. In 1528, Cabeza de Vaca crossed South Texas after being shipwrecked along the Texas Coast near Galveston Bay. However, European settlement did not seriously disrupt native ways of life until after 1700. The first half of the 18th century was the period in which the fur trade and mission system, as well as the first effects of epidemic diseases, began to seriously disrupt the native culture and social systems. This process is clearly discernable at the Mitchell Ridge site, where burial data suggest population declines and group mergers (Ricklis 1994) as well as increased participation on the part of the Native American population in the fur trade. By the time that heavy settlement of Texas began in the early 1800s by Anglo-Americans, the indigenous Indian population was greatly diminished.

The earliest Europeans to reach the area of the future Nueces County may have been the party of Alonzo Álvarez de Pineda, who reputedly reached Corpus Christi Bay on the feast of Corpus Christi, 1519.¹ Conclusive evidence is lacking, however, because the records of his expedition are lost. Nine years later, Álvaro Núñez Cabeza de Vaca and his crew were shipwrecked on the Texas coast. Although Cabeza de Vaca's exact route is unknown, historians believe that some members of his party skirted Corpus Christi Bay. The Spanish, however, largely ignored Texas until the French, under René Robert Cavelier, Sieur de La Salle, established a colony in the region in 1685. Spanish authorities dispatched an expedition to the region in 1689 under Alonso De León, the governor of Coahuila. Corpus Christi Bay, however, remained unknown and unexplored until 1747, when Joaquín Prudencio de Orobio y Basterra, captain of the presidio at La Bahía, led an expedition down the Nueces River to its mouth, where he arrived on February 26. After his return, José de Escandón, governor and captain general of Nuevo Santander, proposed to found a settlement called Villa de Vedoya at the mouth of the Nueces. Indians living in the area were to be served by a mission named Nuestra Señora del Soto. In the summer of 1749, 50 families accompanied by a squadron of soldiers and 2 priests set out, but because of drought and poor provisions they never reached their goal. Several other attempts were made to found a colony at the mouth of the Nueces, but not until the 1760s, when ranchers from Camargo, Nuevo Santander (now Tamaulipas), pushed northward in search of new grazing lands, did the first Spanish settlers reach the area. The first settlement was founded by Blas María de la Garza Falcón, captain of Camargo, who in 1766 established a ranch called Santa Petronila on Petronila Creek. In 1787, Manuel de Escandón, the son of José de Escandón, proposed another settlement at the mouth of the Nueces, but the project never advanced beyond the planning stages. In the late 1780s and early 1790s, Spanish authorities also considered moving Nuestra Señora del Refugio Mission to the mouth of the Nueces, but abandoned the idea because of continuing friction with the Lipan Apaches. At the end of the 18th century, ranchers from the Rio Grande valley began applying for and receiving land grants in the lower Nueces valley. By 1794, a large ranch belonging to Juan Barrera and known as Rancho de Santa Gertrudis was in operation on the north side of Corpus

¹ The following historical summary is adapted from TSHA (2014).

Christi Bay. Between 1800 and the end of Spanish dominion, much of what is now Nueces County was granted to ranching families, most of whom were related by marriage. In 1812, after an Indian uprising, the colonists abandoned the area and sought refuge in the Rio Grande valley. The colonists returned, but repeated skirmishes with the Indians continued until about 1824, when peace was made with the Comanches and Lipans. After Mexican independence, the region became part of Tamaulipas. During the period from 1829 to 1836, most of the land in the lower Nueces valley that had not been granted under Spanish rule was deeded to individuals by the Tamaulipan government.

In 1830, new attempts were made to establish colonies in the area. Gen. Manuel de Mier y Terán proposed founding 2 towns near the mouth of the Nueces. One settlement was to be located at the site of present-day Corpus Christi, but it was never realized. The other settlement, however, a military post known as Fort Lipantitlán, was established in 1831 in the northwestern part of the future county at the point where the road from Matamoros to Goliad crossed the river. During the remaining years of Mexican rule, no other towns were established on the west bank of the Nueces; however, in the 1820s, 2 Irish colonies were founded on the east side of the river under contracts issued to James Power and James Hewetson by the state of Coahuila and Texas. In 1828, John McMullen and James McGloin obtained a grant to settle a tract of land along the east side of the Nueces 10 leagues west of the coast. Later, some of these colonists and their descendents moved west of the river.

During the 1830s, 2 further unsuccessful attempts were made to establish colonies at the mouth of the Nueces. German nobleman Baron Johan von Raiknitz attempted to found a German settlement on the west bank of the Nueces, but the ship carrying the colonists was prevented from landing by the French during the so-called “Pastry War” between France and Mexico. A second ship transporting colonists from Germany was shipwrecked. Around the same time, abolitionist Benjamin Lundy proposed to established a colony for freed slaves, but the plans were abandoned after the outbreak of the Texas Revolution. During the revolution, Texans under Ira Westover captured the Indian village of Lipantitlán, which was later occupied by Francis W. Johnson and the New Orleans Greys. After the revolution, the area south and west of the Nueces River was a no-man’s-land. Texas claimed the territory, but Mexico said it was part of Tamaulipas. Neither exercised effective control. Both Texan and Mexican raiding parties made periodic forays into the region between 1838 and 1841. Mexican Federalist forces twice sought sanctuary at Fort Lipantitlán in the late 1830s, and, in 1838, Gen. Antonio Canales organized his army for the Republic of the Rio Grande nearby.

During this period, both Mexican and Texan merchants engaged in illegal trading in the Nueces valley. Among the most prominent of these was Henry Lawrence Kinney, who established a trading post and fort on Corpus Christi Bay in 1839. The land belonged to Capt. Enrique Villareal, a rancher from Matamoros, who had obtained it in 1832. Villareal led a force of 300 men to confront Kinney in 1841. Kinney, however, managed to negotiate an agreement and purchase the land from him. The small settlement soon became the focus of trade in the area. Repeated attacks by Mexican bands forced Kinney to abandon the post in 1842, but he returned a short time later and reestablished his trading business. A post office opened in 1842 with William P. Aubrey as its postmaster. The population of the small settlement, now known as

Corpus Christi, boomed briefly when Gen. Zachary Taylor's army arrived there in September 1845, but it quickly shrank again after the Mexican War.

Nueces County, including the entire area south of Bexar County west to the Rio Grande and east to the Gulf of Mexico, was formed from San Patricio County in 1846 and organized the same year. Corpus Christi, which was incorporated in 1846, became the county seat. The population of the county, however, remained small. Although large numbers of fortune seekers passed through Corpus Christi to join wagon trains heading west during the California gold rush of 1849, few settlers put down roots. Continuous Indian attacks and the relative isolation of the region kept away most would-be settlers. The first census of the county in 1850 showed a population of 689. Between 1850 and 1861, the Nueces County area was further divided to form several new counties.

Kinney, who continued to promote Corpus Christi, organized a major fair in the town in 1852, reportedly the first state fair in Texas. Despite extensive preparations, however, it proved to be a failure. Two years later, yellow fever decimated the population. Nonetheless, the early 1850s saw the construction of a county courthouse and jail and the beginnings of regular county government.

The mainstay of the local economy in late antebellum Texas remained ranching. Between the Texas Revolution and the late 1840s, the area's ranches had been virtually abandoned. After the Mexican War, the land grants of Mexican ranchers in the region were gradually acquired by Anglos who reestablished the cattle and horse industries. Tax rolls in 1848 reported only 647 cattle and 19 horses. By 1860, however, records showed 56,454 cattle and 8,554 horses and mules worth an estimated \$489,520. Farming was not extensive and was only for subsistence.

During the early years of the Civil War, Corpus Christi was an important center for Confederate commerce. In 1859, no fewer than 45 small vessels carried trade between Corpus Christi and Indianola. Small boats sailing inside the barrier islands transported goods from the Brazos River to the Rio Grande, while inland cotton was moved along the Cotton Road through Banquete to Matamoros and the mills of England. In an effort to halt the trade, Union forces seized control of Mustang Island in the fall of 1863. Corpus Christi was twice bombarded by federal gunboats, but the overland trade continued without interruption until the end of the war.

Although Nueces County escaped the destruction that devastated other parts of the South, the war years were difficult for the county's citizens, who were thwarted by the lack of markets and the wild fluctuations in Confederate currency, as well as by concern for combatants. After the war, Nueces County residents experienced a protracted period of lawlessness and violence. Although the black population before the war had been very small and no Ku Klux Klan chapter was organized in the county during Reconstruction, political violence was commonplace, as Republicans and former Confederates struggled for control. Turmoil continued along the Mexican border, and cattle rustling and raids by bandits were frequent problems. In the end, however, because of its relatively small population, Nueces County was spared much of the fighting that other Texas counties experienced, and order was generally restored by the early 1870s.

The war and its aftermath also had a less serious effect on the county's economy than was the case in much of Texas. Land prices fell significantly, from 50 cents per acre in 1860 to 28 cents per acre in 1869. The boom in the cattle industry in the early 1870s helped Nueces County to overcome the postwar economic depression. In 1871, local tax rolls showed 218,969 cattle worth more than \$942,000, more than 4 times the number from 1860. The cattle were shipped to market by 2 main routes—by water to New Orleans and Havana, or overland to Kansas, where they were shipped by rail to the East. During the early 1870s, some 10 meat-packing plants operated in Nueces County, but most were closed by the middle of the decade because the cattle drives proved to be more profitable.

Mustangs and other horses also contributed to the county's new prosperity; in 1871, there were 34,077 horses and mules in the county. The greatest competition to the cattle industry came from sheep ranching. Before the ranges were fenced, Nueces County was an important center for wool production. During the late antebellum period, the number of sheep had been relatively small, with some 35,000 reported in 1860. By 1871, 363,835 sheep were counted, and by 1876 the number of sheep topped 650,000. In 1875 and 1876, the assessed value of sheep in the county actually exceeded that of cattle. Falling wool prices in the 1880s, however, and the advent of fencing eventually caused the sheep industry to decline. For a number of years between the mid-1870s and early 1880s, Nueces County led all Texas counties in the number of sheep and cattle.

During the latter half of the 19th and the early 20th centuries, the population of Nueces County grew markedly, particularly in the decade after the turn of the century. In 1860, the county had only 2,906 residents, but the number increased rapidly in the post-Civil War years, to 3,975 in 1870, 7,673 in 1880, 8,093 in 1890, 10,439 in 1900, and 21,955 in 1910. Much of the population was centered in and around Corpus Christi, which gradually emerged as the commercial hub of the region. As the city grew in importance as a shipping center, efforts were made to improve access to the ocean. In 1874, the main sea channel was dredged to a depth of 8 feet to allow large steamers to navigate. During the mid-1870s, construction also began on the county's first railroad, a narrow-gauge line from Corpus Christi to Laredo. After its completion in 1881, a second line was begun, the San Antonio and Aransas Pass, which was completed in 1886 and extended from Corpus Christi to San Antonio.

The mid-1880s also witnessed the beginnings of cash-crop agriculture in Nueces County. During the late 1870s and early 1880s, livestock raising in some areas of the county began to be supplanted by more traditional farming, particularly of cotton and vegetables. The growth of such farms began the breakup of the huge expanses of pastureland in the county and spelled the beginning of the end of the old cattle-ranching life. In 1889, 1,010 bales of cotton were produced; by 1910, the figure had grown to 8,566, and by 1930 Nueces County was among the leading cotton-producing counties in the state, with 148,442 bales.

Although cotton was the dominant crop during the early decades of the 20th century, Nueces County farmers also produced large quantities of vegetables, including cabbage, onions, spinach, carrots, cucumbers, and turnips. The transition to cash-crop farming brought dramatic changes in land tenure. While large ranchers had predominated during the antebellum and early postwar period, by the turn of the century the land was increasingly worked by tenant

farmers. In 1910, when agriculture was still developing in the county, only 35.3% of farmers were tenants, below the statewide average of 52.6%. By 1925, however, 76.4% of all Nueces County farmers were tenants. The majority of the leaseholders were Anglos, but much of the labor was performed by Mexican Americans who were poorly paid and frequently lived in poverty.

During the 1920s, agricultural mechanization began in the county. Tractors and other machines appeared in increasing numbers, and by the eve of World War II Nueces County farms were among the most mechanized in the state. The onset of the Great Depression, falling cotton prices, and the arrival of the boll weevil brought new hardships for county farmers. Many were forced to move to the cities. The total number of farms in the county fell from a high of 1,969 in 1930 to 1,306 in 1950. Cotton production, which had peaked during the mid-1920s at more than 100,000 bales per year, fell markedly during the 1930s and early 1940s. In 1945, only 46,000 bales were ginned. Cotton farming rebounded in the late 1940s, and in 1949 production once again topped the 100,000-bale mark. Since that time cotton production has declined, though it remains a significant part of the county's agricultural receipts. Truck farming flourished in the 1950s, but was afterward increasingly replaced by sorghum, which in the 1980s and 1990s was the county's largest crop. The decline in cotton and truck farming in the post-World War II era also forced many tenant farmers to leave the land or to hire out as agricultural workers. In the 1980s, the economic base of the county outside of the Corpus Christi area was still overwhelmingly agricultural. In 1982, 85% of the county was in farms and ranches, with 77% of the land under cultivation and 1% irrigated. Nueces County ranked 29th in the state in agricultural receipts, with some 87% coming from crops.

Another important sector of the Nueces County economy in the 20th century has been oil and natural gas. In 1922, natural gas was discovered in Nueces County, and a few years later several major oilfields were developed. Gas-recycling plants and carbon black plants, as well as oil refineries, are located in the county. Total oil production in the county from 1930 to January 1, 1989, was 533,831,701 barrels. Soda and salts of several varieties are produced from raw materials chiefly from Duval County. Other industries include a Celanese chemical plant and copper and lead refineries.

In 1926, the port of Corpus Christi was opened. The legislature made the port a state project by allocating the taxes from 7 adjacent counties for the construction of breakwaters, jetties, and other ancillary improvements. The channel from the Gulf of Mexico to the turning basin is a part of the Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, which connects the port with cities of the Mississippi valley as well as with foreign markets and makes it potentially one of the chief ports in America. In 1935, the depth of the channel was increased to 35 feet so that large ships could be accommodated. The 1930s and 1940s also brought improvements in the transportation network of the county. By 1940, most of the major roads in the county were paved, and US Highway (US) 77 and State Highways (SH) 44 and 286 had given farmers better access to markets.

The military importance of the area has been recognized since the time of the Mexican War, when Fort Marcy, the first federal post activated on Texas soil, was established. At one time, Nueces County had 5 federal forts; Corpus Christi was a supply depot until 1857. On

March 12, 1941, with the establishment of the Naval Air Station in Corpus Christi, the town became the home of the so-called “University of the Air.”

Since World War I, Nueces County has shown a remarkable growth in population, increasing from 22,807 residents in 1920 to 165,471 in 1950 and to 237,544 in 1970. In 1991, the reported population of the county was 296,527. Hispanics were about 50.5% of the population, non-Hispanic whites 44.1%, and African Americans 4.4%. The largest towns were Corpus Christi, Robstown, Port Aransas, and North San Pedro. During the early 1980s, the county had 13 school districts with 60 elementary, 20 middle, and 15 high schools, as well as 6 special-education schools.

4.0 RESEARCH OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

In April 2014, Horizon conducted a cultural resources background study of the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property within which improvements would be undertaken. The background review examined an area extending 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) from the boundaries of the proposed project site. Based on background archival research conducted via the Internet on the THC's online *Texas Archeological Sites Atlas* (Atlas) restricted-access database and the National Park Service's (NPS) NRHP Google Earth map layer, no known cultural resources are located within the boundaries of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property. Eight previously recorded archeological sites are present within a 1.6-kilometer (1.0-mile) radius of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station complex (Figure 4; Table 2) (NPS 2014; THC 2014). Each of these sites is detailed below.

Originally recorded in 1975 during a cultural resources survey for the South Texas Power Line Project, site 41NU154 was described as a scatter of lithic flakes, modern pottery sherds, and oyster and *Rangia* shells on a terrace overlooking the Nueces River. Cultural materials were observed in brown sand sediments extending to a depth of 0.5 meters (1.5 feet) below surface, and artifacts were described as extending along the terrace edge and base for a distance of 80 to 100 meters (262 to 328 feet). Much of main site area was described as disturbed by modern structures. Based on the limited investigations, no recommendations were offered by the original recorder regarding the eligibility of the site for inclusion in the NRHP; as such, the eligibility of the site remains undetermined.

No site form is on file on the THC's Atlas for site 41NU173. No information regarding the nature, age, or eligibility of this site for inclusion in the NRHP is available; as such, the eligibility of the site remains undetermined.

One of a cluster of prehistoric sites recorded in 1979 by the University of Texas at Austin (UT) during a cultural resources survey for the proposed Woodland Creek residential subdivision, site 41NU178 was described as an aboriginal campsite with a *Rangia* and oyster shell midden, baked clay nodules, lithic flakes, unifacially worked flakes, a core, a perforated *Rangia* shell, a modified *Busycon columella* shell, ceramic sherds, a Perdiz arrow point preform, a side scraper, a triangular biface (possibly an arrow point), and mammal bone (burned and unburned). A Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric occupation was inferred based on the temporally diagnostic artifacts. Artifacts were associated with a gray to black sandy loam sediment

Table 2. Previously Recorded Archeological Sites Within 1.0 Mile of APE

Site Trinomial, Cemetery, or Historic Property	Site Type	NRHP Eligibility Status	Distance/Direction from Project Area	Potential for Direct Impacts?
41NU154	Aboriginal campsite and mussel shell midden (undetermined prehistoric)	Undetermined	1.0 mile northeast	No
41NU173	<i>No information available</i>	Undetermined	0.9 mile east	No
41NU178	Aboriginal campsite and mussel shell midden (Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric)	Undetermined	1.0 mile east	No
41NU180	Aboriginal lithic artifact and mussel shell scatter (possibly Archaic)	Ineligible	1.0 mile east	No
41NU181	Aboriginal lithic artifact scatter (possibly Archaic)	Undetermined	0.9 mile east	No
41NU182	Aboriginal lithic artifact scatter (undetermined prehistoric)	Ineligible	1.0 mile east	No
41NU212	Aboriginal lithic artifact and mussel shell scatter (Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric)	Undetermined	0.8 mile northwest	No
41NU259	Aboriginal lithic artifact scatter and mussel shell midden (Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric)/ Nueces Town School House (19th century)	Undetermined	1.0 mile northeast	No

NRHP National Register of Historic Places

SAL State Archeological Landmark

extending to a depth of 0.6 meters (2.0 feet) below surface underlain by tan clay. The site was recommended for further testing, though no further investigations have been performed on the site. Based on the limited investigations performed in connection with the recording of the site, the site is considered to be undetermined eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP.

Another member of a cluster of prehistoric sites recorded in 1979 by UT during a cultural resources survey for the proposed Woodland Creek residential subdivision, site 41NU180 was described as a scatter of lithic debris and a preform exposed on the surface of a dirt roadway with occasional *Rangia* shells and a possible sandstone abrader. The artifact scatter covered a 30- to 50-meter- (98- to 164-foot-) diameter area, though no depth was attributed to the archeological deposits. The site form suggests a possible Archaic period association, though it is unclear what evidence suggested this as no temporally diagnostic artifacts were mentioned. The site was initially recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP; however, a recent survey conducted by Archeology Consultants, Inc. (ACI), was unable to locate any cultural resources associated with this site, leading the investigators to conclude the site had been

destroyed by prior construction (Moore and Warren 2004). As such, the site is currently listed as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Another of the cluster of prehistoric sites recorded in 1979 by UT during a cultural resources survey for the proposed Woodland Creek residential subdivision, site 41NU181 was described as a scatter of lithic debitage with occasional *Rangia* shells. The site covered an elongated area measuring approximately 30 by 50 meters (98 by 164 feet), and archeological deposits appear to have been observed only on the ground surface. An Archaic period date was suggested based on a report from a local artifact collector who mentioned having found an Ensor-like biface on the site. Based on the limited investigations performed during the recording of the site, the site is considered to be undetermined eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP.

Also recorded in 1979 by UT during a cultural resources survey for the proposed Woodland Creek residential subdivision, site 41NU182 was described as a scatter of lithic debitage, a biface preform, and a biface of undetermined prehistoric origin. The site covered an area of 20 by 30 meters (66 by 98 feet) extending along a drainage channel, and the site area had been partially landscaped. The site was initially recommended as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP; however, a recent survey conducted by ACI was unable to locate any cultural resources associated with this site, leading the investigators to conclude the site had been destroyed by prior construction (Moore and Warren 2004). As such, the site is currently listed as ineligible for inclusion in the NRHP.

Recorded in 1983 by a local artifact collector, site 41NU212 was described as a scatter of aboriginal lithic artifacts, including a Frio dart point, a Perdiz arrow point, several broken triangular points, and oyster and *Rangia* shells found in surficial contexts. No depth is attributed to the archeological deposits. The site was described as being only partially disturbed at the time, though the NRHP eligibility of the site has never been assessed; as such, the site is considered to be of undetermined eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP.

Recorded in 1988 by the Coastal Bend Archaeological Society, site 41NU259 is a multiple component aboriginal and historic-era site. The historic-era component consists of the remains of the Nueces Town School House, the former site of a school house dating from the 1800s along with a mid-1900s house site. Apparently, the structures were no longer standing when the site was recorded as the site is described only as a scatter of desk parts, bottles, tools, machinery parts, cartridges, buttons, tokens, and other debris. The aboriginal component consisted of a scatter of *Rangia* and oyster shells and a Matamoros dart point (suggesting a Late Archaic to Late Prehistoric association). Pottery is also mentioned as being present on the site form, though it is not clear if the ceramic materials were of aboriginal or historic-era derivation. Some construction-related disturbances were noted, but the site was recommended for further investigations. The eligibility of the site for inclusion in the NRHP has not been formally assessed; as such, the site is considered to be of undetermined eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP.

All 8 of the previously recorded sites are located well beyond the boundaries of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and none of the sites would be disturbed as a result

of the proposed undertaking. No cemeteries or historic properties listed on the NRHP were identified within a 1.6-kilometer (1.0-mile) radius of the project site.

As many as 8 prior cultural resources surveys have been conducted within 1.6 kilometers (1.0 mile) of the project site (Table 3; see Figure 4). One of the previous surveys, a linear utility survey conducted in 2013 by Tierras Antiguas Archaeological Investigations for the Y-Grade to Equistar Pipeline Project, ran adjacent to part of the northern boundary of the Lon C. Hill Power Station (Nickels 2013), but no portion of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station complex has been previously surveyed for cultural resources. In November 2008, URS Corporation (URS) prepared a cultural resources background study similar to that presented in the current report for proposed improvements to the Lon C. Hill Power Station (Handly 2008). Based on extensive levels of previous land-altering disturbances within the property and the lack of known historic properties located in close proximity to the project site, URS recommended a finding of “No Historic Properties Affected” with regard to proposed upgrades to the existing industrial facility. The THC concurred with URS’s recommendations and cleared the prior proposed upgrades to proceed.

Table 3. Previous Cultural Resource Surveys Conducted within 1 Mile of Project Area

Survey Name	Acres Surveyed	Survey Date	No. Sites Recorded within APE	Site Nos. Recorded within 1 Mile of APE	Reference
South Texas Power Line Survey	Unknown	1975	0	41NU154	Not Available
TDHPT IH 37 & US 77 Survey	Unknown	1983	0	N/A	Not Available
“FHD” Survey	Unknown	1984	0	41NU212	Not Available
FHWA US 77 Survey (1985)	Unknown	1985	0	N/A	Not Available
USACE Corpus Christi Stevens Plant Survey	Unknown	1998		N/A	Not Available
USACE Survey of Area North of IH 37 (1998)	Unknown	1998	0	N/A	Not Available
Hilltop Nature Area and Oilbelt Recreational Complex Survey (2004)	32	2004	0	41NU178, 41NU180, 41NU181, 41NU182	Moore and Warren 2004
Y-Grade to Equistar Pipeline Survey (2013)	17	2013	0	N/A	Nickels 2013

APE Area of Potential Effect (of current project)

FHWA Federal Highway Administration

IH Interstate Highway

N/A Not Applicable

TDHPT Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation (former name of Texas Department of Transportation)

“FHD” Likely a shortened acronym intended to be TDHPT

US US Highway

USACE US Army Corps of Engineers

The APE associated with the current proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station would be contained entirely within the existing industrial facility. Based on the extent of existing disturbances within the proposed project site resulting from prior construction, use, and ongoing maintenance of the industrial plant, there is a low probability that intact cultural resources are present that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. No known cultural resources were identified within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) project site based on desktop archival research, and there is a low probability that any unrecorded, intact cultural resources are present that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. It is Horizon's opinion that the proposed project site does not require an intensive cultural resources survey, and no known archeological or historic properties that are listed on, eligible for, or potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP would be adversely affected. Horizon recommends a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" with regard to the proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station. However, it should be noted that human burials are protected under the Texas Health and Safety Code. In the unlikely event that any human remains or burial objects are inadvertently discovered at any point during construction, use, or ongoing maintenance in the project area, all work should cease in the vicinity of the inadvertent discovery and the THC should be notified immediately.

5.0 RESULTS OF INVESTIGATIONS

5.1 ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA FOR INCLUSION IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES

Determinations of eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP are based on the criteria presented in 36 CFR §60.4(a-d). The 4 criteria of eligibility are applied following the identification of relevant historical themes and related research questions:

The quality of significance in American history, architecture, archeology, and culture is present in districts, sites, buildings, structures, and objects that possess integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association, and:

- a. That are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history; or,
- b. That are associated with the lives of persons significant in our past; or,
- c. That embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; or,
- d. That have yielded, or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

The first step in the evaluation process is to define the significance of the property by identifying the particular aspect of history or prehistory to be addressed and the reasons why information on that topic is important. The second step is to define the kinds of evidence or the data requirements that the property must exhibit to provide significant information. These data requirements in turn indicate the kind of integrity that the site must possess to be significant. This concept of integrity relates both to the contextual integrity of such entities as structures, districts, or archeological deposits and to the applicability of the potential database to pertinent research questions. Without such integrity, the significance of a resource is very limited.

For an archeological resource to be eligible for inclusion in the NRHP, it must meet legal standards of eligibility that are determined by 3 requirements: (1) properties must possess significance, (2) the significance must satisfy at least 1 of the 4 criteria for eligibility listed above, and (3) significance should be derived from an understanding of historic context. As discussed here, historic context refers to the organization of information concerning prehistory and history

according to various periods of development in various times and at various places. Thus, the significance of a property can best be understood through knowledge of historic development and the relationship of the resource to other, similar properties within a particular period of development. Most prehistoric sites are usually only eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion D, which considers their potential to contribute data important to an understanding of prehistory. All 4 criteria employed for determining NRHP eligibility potentially can be brought to bear for historic sites.

Criterion A—Events

To be considered for listing under Criterion A, a property must be associated with 1 or more events important in the defined historic context. Criterion A recognizes resources associated with single events, such as the founding of a town, or with a pattern of events, repeated activities, or historic trends, such as the gradual rise of a port city's prominence in trade and commerce. The event or trends, however, must clearly be important within the associated context of settlement, in the case of the town, or development of a maritime economy, in the case of the port city. Moreover, the property must have an important association with the event or historic trends, and it must retain historic integrity.

Criterion B—Persons

Criterion B applies to resources associated with individuals whose specific contributions to history can be identified and documented. Persons “significant in our past” refers to individuals whose activities are demonstrably important within a local, state, or national historic context. The criterion is generally restricted to those resources that illustrate (rather than commemorate) a person's important achievements.

Criterion C—Design or Construction

This criterion applies to resources significant for their physical design or construction, including such elements as architecture, landscape architecture, engineering, and artwork. To be eligible under this criterion, a property must meet *at least one* of the following requirements—embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction; represent the work of a master; possess high artistic value; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction.

Criterion D—Information Potential

Certain important research questions about human history can only be answered by the actual physical material of cultural resources. Criterion D encompasses the resources that have the potential to answer, in whole or in part, those types of research questions. The most common type of property nominated under this Criterion is the archeological site (or a district composed of archeological sites). Buildings, objects, and structures (or districts composed of these property types), however, can also be eligible for their information potential. Criterion D has 2 requirements, which must *both* be met for a property to qualify—the property must have, or have had, information to contribute to our understanding of human history or prehistory, and the information must be considered important.

5.2 SUMMARY AND RECOMMENDATIONS

In April 2014, Horizon conducted a cultural resources background study of the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property within which improvements would be undertaken. The cultural resources assessment consisted of a desktop review of potential project impacts on historic properties or other culturally significant features or landscapes within the APE. No field investigations were undertaken as a part of the cultural resources assessment. Based on the results of desktop archival research, no known cultural resources are located within the boundaries of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property. Eight previously recorded archeological sites are present within a 1.6-kilometer (1.0-mile) radius of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station complex. All 8 previously recorded sites are located well beyond the boundaries of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station property, and none of the sites would be disturbed as a result of the proposed undertaking. No cemeteries or historic properties listed on the NRHP were identified within a 1.6-kilometer (1.0-mile) radius of the project site.

The APE associated with the current proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station would be contained entirely within the existing industrial facility. Based on the extent of existing disturbances within the proposed project site resulting from prior construction, use, and ongoing maintenance of the industrial plant, there is a low probability that intact cultural resources are present that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. No known cultural resources were identified within the 18.4-hectare (45.4-acre) project site based on desktop archival research, and there is a low probability that any unrecorded, intact cultural resources are present that would be eligible for listing on the NRHP. It is Horizon's opinion that the proposed project site does not require an intensive cultural resources survey, and no known archeological or historic properties that are listed on, eligible for, or potentially eligible for inclusion in the NRHP would be adversely affected. Horizon recommends a finding of "No Historic Properties Affected" with regard to the proposed improvements to the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station. However, it should be noted that human burials are protected under the Texas Health and Safety Code. In the unlikely event that any human remains or burial objects are inadvertently discovered at any point during construction, use, or ongoing maintenance in the project area, all work should cease in the vicinity of the inadvertent discovery and the THC should be notified immediately.

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APPENDIX A:

Principal Investigator's Resume

EXPERTISE

- Prehistoric Archeology
- Historic Archeology

RESEARCH AREAS

- Eastern North America (esp. Midwest, Southeast)
- Great Plains
- American Southwest

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Project Management
- Archival and Historical Research
- Archeological Survey, Testing, and Data Recovery
- National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) Evaluations
- Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)
- Antiquities Code of Texas (ACT)
- Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)
- Lithic and Ceramic Analysis
- Technical Writing and Editing
- Quality Assurance/Quality Control

EDUCATION

- A.B.D., Anthropology, Southern Methodist University, 1997
- M.A., Anthropology, New York University, 1995
- B.A., Anthropology, New York University, 1991

Mr. Owens is an accomplished cultural resources professional with more than 23 years of experience in archeological fieldwork, research and analysis, and cultural resources management (CRM). He is an adept principal investigator and project manager, proficient at managing suites of turnkey, fast-turnaround projects as well as long-term, multidisciplinary research projects. He is fully versed in historic and environmental preservation laws, assessing the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) eligibility of cultural resources, and developing management plans for historic properties that ensure compliance with applicable federal, state, and local laws while ensuring projects meet construction schedules and adhere to budgetary constraints.

Mr. Owens has planned, implemented, and successfully completed cultural resources survey, testing, and data recovery projects in Arizona, Arkansas, Illinois, Louisiana, Mississippi, Missouri, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oklahoma, Pennsylvania, and Texas. He has completed hundreds of projects for a broad range of clients in the public and private sectors, including oil and gas exploration, development, and transportation; ethanol and petrochemical production; coastal and inland residential, commercial, and industrial land development; solid waste landfills; dredging activities; municipal planning; reservoir development; coastal port and channel improvements; transportation infrastructure; water and wastewater transportation and treatment; electricity generation and transportation; military reservations; and university research.

Mr. Owens also regularly contributes cultural resources oversight to the preparation of environmental regulatory documents, including Environmental Assessments (EA), Environmental Impact Statements (EIS), Biological Assessments (BA), and Categorical Exclusions (CE) for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance projects.

Mr. Owens' project management style incorporates innovative leadership skills, resourcefulness, versatility, swift adaptability, and attention to the bottom line. His success is due in part to his thorough familiarity with federal, state, and local historic preservation laws and long-standing personal relationships with regulatory agency reviewers.

CERTIFICATIONS/QUALIFICATIONS

- Meets all Secretary of the Interior's standards for performing cultural resources investigations
- Permittable to perform cultural resource investigations on federal and state projects
- Listed on qualified cultural resource consultant lists in numerous states
- Pre-certified by TxDOT for Service 2.10.1 (Archeological Surveys, Documentation, Excavations, Testing, Reports, and Data Recovery Plans) and Service 2.11.1 (Historical and Archival Research)

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

- Register of Professional Archaeologists (RPA)
- Council of Texas Archeologists (CTA)
- Texas Archeological Society (TAS)

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Project Archaeologist/Managing Editor TRC Environmental Corporation 505 East Huntland Drive, Suite 250 Austin, Texas 78752 (512) 454-8716	Mar 2002 – Jan 2005
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Project Archaeologist Geo-Marine, Inc. 2201 K Avenue, Suite A2 Plano, Texas 75074 (972) 423-5480	Aug 1997 – Oct 1999
Departmental/Teaching Assistant Southern Methodist University Department of Anthropology 3225 Daniel Avenue, Room 208 Dallas, Texas 75205 (214) 768-2684	Sep 1995 – Jun 1997
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TECHNICAL PUBLICATIONS

- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 1.2-Mile-Long Cottonwood Creek Water Transmission Main Pipeline, San Marcos, Hays County, Texas.* HJN 140064. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Magellan Terminals Holdings, L.P., Corpus Christi Terminal Expansion Project, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas.* HJN 110012.42. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas—Cultural Resources Review.* HJN 110012.40. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of USACE Jurisdictional Areas on a 35.0-Acre Tract in Harris County, Texas.* HJN 140051. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 77-Acre Pinecrest Energy Center Tract, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas. Addendum—Linear Facilities.* HJN 080122.40. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.

- 2014 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the County Road 60 Realignment Project, San Patricio, San Patricio County, Texas.* HJN 140028. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Eagle Mountain Stream Electric Station, Tarrant County, Texas.* HJN 080122.80. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Tradinghouse Power Plant Tract, McLennan County, Texas.* HJN 080122.79. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed DeCordova II Power Plant Tract, Hood County, Texas.* HJN 080122.78. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Cultural Resources Survey Report: Proposed Prue Road at French Creek (LC-6) Improvements, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.* HJN 130025. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Cultural Resources Survey and Construction Monitoring for the Proposed Kansas City Southern K478.0 Bridge Construction and Railroad Alignment Project, Bowie County, Texas.* HJN 130023. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Alpha Olefin Chemical Company, LLC, Alpha Olefins Plant, Freeport, Brazoria County, Texas—Cultural Resources Assessment.* HJN 110012.21. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 0.67-acre Lindshire Lane Wastewater System Improvements Project, Austin, Travis County, Texas.* HJN 130138. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Archeological and Geoarcheological Investigations, M&G Resins USA, LLC/ChemTex International, Inc., Proposed Jumbo Project, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas (with Charles D. Frederick).* HJN 080122.56. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed Enterprise Mont Belvieu Complex Fractionation Units 9 and 10 Project, Chambers County, Texas.* HJN 110012.17. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of 5.9 Miles of Proposed Subsurface Utility Relocations, FM 1637 Expansion Project, Waco, McLennan County, Texas.* HJN 130031. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Victoria Power Station Expansion Project, Victoria, Victoria County, Texas—Cultural Resources Review.* HJN 110012.11. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed INVENERGY Energy Center, Ector County, Texas.* HJN 080122.54. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Kansas City Southern K478.0 Bridge Construction and Railroad Alignment Project, Little River County, Arkansas.* HJN 130023. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey for the Proposed Southern Company Natural Gas Plant, Trinidad, Henderson County, Texas.* HJN 080122.53. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.

- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of Proposed Yoakum Cryogenic Gas Processing Plant Expansion Areas, Lavaca County, Texas.* HJN 110012.15. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Assessment of Proposed INVISTA Victoria Plant Improvements, Victoria County, Texas.* HJN 130035. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Equistar Chemicals, L.P., Corpus Christi Complex Expansion Project, Corpus Christi, Nueces County, Texas—Cultural Resources Assessment.* HJN 110012.13. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 78-Acre La Paloma Energy Center Tract, Harlingen, Cameron County, Texas.* HJN 080122.31. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Clinker Production Increase at the CEMEX Construction Materials South, LLC, Balcones Cement Plant, Comal County, Texas—Cultural Resources Review.* HJN 080122.39. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 77-Acre Pinecrest Energy Center Tract, Lufkin, Angelina County, Texas.* HJN 080122.40. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Proposed Guadalupe Generating Station Expansion Project, Marion, Guadalupe County, Texas—Cultural Resources Review.* HJN 130016. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 181-Acre Enterprise Mont Belvieu Complex Propane Dehydrogenation Unit Project, Chambers County, Texas.* HJN 110012.12. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- n.d. *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed 20-Acre Expansion Tract Adjacent to an Existing PL Propylene, LLC, Facility, Houston, Harris County, Texas.* HJN 080122.30. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2014 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the 119.0-Acre Northpark Tract, Porter, Montgomery County, Texas.* HJN 130216. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2014 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the County Road 60 Realignment Project, San Patricio, San Patricio County, Texas.* HJN 140028. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2014 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the 42.2-Acre Saltgrass Tract, La Marque, Galveston County, Texas.* HJN 140047. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2014 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed 121.0-Acre Beaumont Polyethylene Plant Area, Beaumont, Jefferson County, Texas.* HJN 140020. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2014 *Results of Cultural Resources Survey: ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant, Areas 17 & 75, Baytown, Harris County, Texas.* Letter report dated March 14, 2014. HJN 130264. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2014 *Archeological and Historical Investigations for the Proposed Dell Medical School Phase 1 Project, Austin, Travis County, Texas.* HJN 130112. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.

- 2013 *Results of Cultural Resources Survey: ExxonMobil Baytown Olefins Plant Natural Gas Odorizer Area, Baytown, Harris County, Texas.* Letter report dated December 13, 2013. HJN 130264. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources of a Proposed 12.6-acre Apartment Complex Development, Belton, Bell County, Texas.* HJN 130212. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed University Boulevard and Parcel 150 Pipeline Rights-of-Way, Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas.* HJN 130118. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of a Proposed 171.0-Acre Residential Development, Conroe, Montgomery County, Texas.* HJN 130162. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of Segments of Browder Loop Road, Eldridge Lane, and North Butch Arthur Road, San Jacinto County, Texas.* HJN 130103. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of 4 USACE Jurisdictional Areas on Chesapeake Energy Corporation's Proposed JEA West Lateral Pipeline Right-of-Way, Dimmit County, Texas (with R.K. Brownlow).* HJN 130087.04. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of Chesapeake Energy Corporation's Proposed Sugarland DIM H Well Pad and Access Road, Dimmit County, Texas (with R.K. Brownlow).* HJN 130087.03. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *A Cultural Resources Assessment of the USACE Jurisdictional Areas along BridgeTex Pipeline Company, LLC's, Proposed BridgeTex North Pipeline ROW (with R.K. Brownlow and J.L. Cochran).* HJN 120166. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the Proposed 545-Acre Kansas City Southern Railroad Wylie Intermodal Facility, Wylie, Collin County, Texas.* HJN 130042. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of a USACE Jurisdictional Area on a Proposed 4.6-Acre HEB Grocery Store Expansion Tract, Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.* HJN 120085. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Cultural Resources Investigations along the Proposed Lone Star Competitive Renewable Energy Zone (CREZ) 345-kV Transmission Line Right-of-Way in North-Central Texas, Vols. I and II (with Jennifer L. Cochran, Russell K. Brownlow, and Raymundo Chapa).* HJN 100137. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2013 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the San Antonio River Outfall Project, San Antonio, Bexar County, Texas.* HJN 120150. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2012 *Intensive Archeological Survey for the Proposed Brushy Creek Regional Trail Gap Project, Round Rock, Williamson County, Texas.* HJN 080151. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2012 *Intensive Archeological Survey for the Proposed San Gabriel River Trail Extension Project, Georgetown, Williamson County, Texas.* HJN 120057. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.

- 2012 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of the 1,102-Acre Creekside Park West Tract, Harris County, Texas* (with Raymundo Chapa). HJN 100142. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
- 2012 *Intensive Cultural Resources Survey of Two 0.9-Acre HDD Locations on the Trinity River, Madison and Houston Counties, Texas*. HJN 120009.14. Horizon Environmental Services, Inc., Austin, Texas.
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- 1994 *A Cultural Resources Survey of Miller Road at the Roosevelt Canal, Valencia, Maricopa County, Arizona.* Soil Systems Technical Report No. 94-45. Soil Systems, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.
- 1994 *A Cultural Resources Survey of 5.9 Miles of Residential Streets in Queen Creek, Maricopa County, Arizona.* Soil Systems Technical Report No. 94-44. Soil Systems, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.
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- 1994 *A Cultural Resources Survey of Lindsay Road Between Germann and Williams Field Roads, Chandler, Maricopa County, Arizona* (with Caroline P. Davies). Soil Systems Technical Report No. 94-41. Soil Systems, Inc., Phoenix, Arizona.

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- n.d. "Dimensions of Variability at Baehr-Gust: Framing Hypotheses of Site Structure, Chronology, and Function." In *Papers in Memory of Howard Dalton Winters*, edited by Anne-Marie Cantwell and Lawrence A. Conrad. Center for American Archeology, Kampsville, Illinois (in press).
- 1995 *Activity Organization and Site Function at a Late Middle Woodland Regional Center in the Lower Illinois Valley: Preliminary Investigations of Variability in Surface Scatters at the Baehr-Gust Site.* M.A. Thesis, Department of Anthropology, New York University

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- 2003 "The Toyah of Southwestern Texas: The View from the Varga Site (41ED28)." Paper presented at the 74th Annual Meeting of the Texas Archeological Society, Fort Worth, Texas, October 24-26, 2003.

Jeffrey D. Owens, M.A., R.P.A.

- 1997 "Alternate Hypotheses of Intrasite Chronology at the Baehr-Gust Site: A Factor Analysis of Surface Collections." Paper presented at the 62nd Annual Meeting of the Society for American Archaeology, Nashville, Tennessee, April 2-6, 1997.
- 1993 "Excavations at the Trinity Church Cemetery Site, Newark, New Jersey." Lecture presented at the 8th Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Society of New Jersey. September 1993.

APPENDIX C
PHOTOGRAPHIC LOG

Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: Northwest view of main process area (power station) within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche and concrete.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: Southeast view of the proposed laydown area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: Southeast view of the proposed laydown area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche and concrete.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: North view of the proposed pipeline replacement area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche and clay.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: South view of the proposed warehouse area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche and concrete.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: Northeast view of the proposed cooling tower and laydown area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche and concrete.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: Northeast view of the proposed cooling tower and laydown area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche and concrete.



Lon C. Hill Power Station Expansion Project

3/28/2014

Nueces County, Texas

View: East view of the proposed laydown area within the Project Area. Substrate is currently roadbase/caliche.

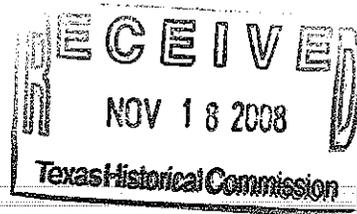


APPENDIX D

URS – REQUEST FOR DETERMINATION OF EFFECT (2008)



November 13, 2008



Mr. F. Lawrence Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone: 512-463-6100 Fax: 512-463-8222

**NO HISTORIC
PROPERTIES AFFECTED
PROJECT MAY PROCEED**

By *M. Lawrence Oaks*
for F. Lawrence Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Date 12-16-08
Track# 200902290

Reference: Request for a Determination of Effect for the Existing Lon C. Hill Power Station, Calallen, Nueces County

Dear Mr. Oaks:

Lon C. Hill, LP is proposing to construct a new combined cycle electric generating unit at the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station near Calallen, Nueces County, Texas (Figure 1). The site is bound by Callicoatte Road to the east, Union Pacific (UP) Railroad to the west, an electrical substation (not part of the Power Station) to the south and a residential area to the north. Hearn Road bisects the facility. The proposed facility will consist of a gas turbine and a heat recovery steam generator with supplemental duct firing. The construction of the new unit will require coverage under the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) General Permit Number TXR150000 authorizing discharges of stormwater associated with construction activities. A Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan has been prepared for these construction activities in order to satisfy the requirements of the General Permit Number TXR150000.

The existing Lon C. Hill Power Station occupies ca. 37 acres (15 hectares) of land; within this area, several laydown areas (Areas B to D, and F through J), one spoil location (Area E), and a parking lot (Area A), representing approximately 13 acres (5.3 hectares), are associated with the current project (Figure 2). Site excavation, grading, and construction stabilization activities will be restricted to only the laydown areas, spoil area, and parking lot. URS Corporation (URS) has been retained by Lon C. Hill, LP to conduct a review of known cultural resources in proximity to the Lon C. Hill Power Station near Calallen, Nueces County (Figure 1). The site is bounded by Callicoatte Road to the east and Hearn Road to the north and east; an existing railroad grade is located to the northwest.

The site consists of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station and its associated infrastructure (Figure 2). Extensive areas of graded and leveled landscape, mowed grass, paved and gravel roads, and existing powerline corridors are represented throughout the currently proposed project area. The three largest laydown areas (Areas B, C, and D; Figure 2) are characterized by native soils capped by an impermeable plastic membrane; a caliche fill was placed overtop of these laydown areas (Figures 3 and 4). The remaining required site work will consist of site clearing and grading within the previously disturbed project area. The remaining laydown areas are proposed to have the soils graded and removed to a depth of approximately 6 to 8 inches (15 to 20 cm). The removed soil will be

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Houston, TX 77042
Tel: 713 914-6699
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November 13, 2008

Mr. F. Lawrence Oaks
State Historic Preservation Officer
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276
Phone: 512-463-6100 Fax: 512-463-8222

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placed in a spoil location (Area E) along a previously constructed berm (Figure 5). The parking lot is already paved, so no additional impacts are anticipated (Figure 6).

As the project will affect more than five acres (2 hectares) of state lands, it is being presented to the Texas Historical Commission for the agency's review of its potential to adversely affect significant cultural resource concerns, as required by the Antiquities Code of Texas (Title 9, Chapter 191 [Section 191.0525(d)] of the Texas Natural Resources Code). In particular, this assessment included historic properties, defined by 36 CFR § 800.16(l)(1) as "any prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places maintained by the Secretary of the Interior".

The online records of the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas (<http://nueces.thc.state.tx.us/>) and of the National Register of Historic Places (<http://www.nps.gov/nr/>) were used for this records review (Figure 1). The Texas Archeological Sites Atlas map indicates that seven cultural resources investigations have been completed within a 1 mile (1.6 kilometer) radius of the Lon C. Hill Power Station. These surveys were conducted between 1983 and 2003 and consisted of three studies for the Federal Highways Administration (S2, S6, and S8) and two studies respectively for the Corps of Engineers (S1 and S5) and Texas Department of Transportation (S3 and S7); a single study was also completed for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (S4; Figure 1). None of these cultural resources surveys are associated with the current project area; however, the two Corps of Engineers reports were positioned just outside the northern boundary of the project area and no cultural resources were identified as a result of those investigations.

A total of eight (8) cultural resources have been identified within 1 miles (1.6 km) of the proposed project area; these include archaeological sites 41NU154, 41NU173, 41NU178, 41NU180, 41NU181, 41NU182, 41NU212, and 41NU259 (Figure 1). The nearest archaeological site (41NU181) is positioned approximately 0.9 miles (1.44 kilometers) to the east-southeast of the project area. No site information was recorded on the Texas Archeological Sites Atlas for site 41NU173; however, the remaining seven sites were classified as lithic scatters (n=5), a shell midden (n=1; 41NU178), and a single multicomponent site comprised of a ca. 1800s school house and associated shell midden and lithic/ceramic scatter (41NU259). In general, these sites are located along the draw and terrace margins (n=6) draining towards the Nueces River to the east or on elevated ridges and knolls (Sites 41NU212 and 41NU259). Six of the sites were considered not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The remaining two sites (41NU178 and 41NU259) were considered eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and further evaluative testing was recommended.

A brief review of the soils data for the project area indicated that two-thirds of the project area (east and south of Hearn Road) was characterized by flat terrain associated with the Raymondville complex and Orelia soils (<http://websoilsurvey.nrcs.usda.gov/>); these soils are moderately to poorly drained, clay loams (Raymondville) to fine sandy loams (Orelia). West and north of Hearn Road are the Comitas, Miguel, and Willacy soils. The Comitas fine sands are well draining sand sheets, while the Miguel and Willacy fine sandy loams are located on terraces and terrace margins. With regard to the project area, these terrace soils are only situated along the extreme western and northwestern margin of the project area (north of Hearn Road and east of the railroad tracks; Figure 2). Although

this area immediately to the west of the storage tanks and associated berm could be considered to display high archaeological site potential, the degree of prior land disturbance associated with this area, including leveling, grading, and powerline installation, would indicate a lower archaeological site potential. This portion of the property highlighted in yellow on Figure 2, containing terrace landforms, is prone to flooding and is not scheduled to be utilized for the currently proposed project (personal communication, Al Espinosa [Compliance Manager, Lon C. Hill, LP], October 24, 2008).

Given the extensive levels of previous land-altering disturbance represented with the property, current design plans which exclude the western and northwestern margins of the area from development, and as no known historic properties are located in close proximity to the project area, we respectfully request that your office review the attached maps and provide a finding of No Historic Properties Affected with regard to the upgrading of the existing Lon C. Hill Power Station near Calallen, Nueces County, Texas.

If you have any questions regarding the records review, or require additional information for your review, please do not hesitate to contact Senior Project Manager Bill Goode at (713) 914-6318 or Project Archaeologist Martin Handly at (225) 231-6328.

Sincerely,
URS Corporation

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'M. Handly', with a large, stylized flourish extending from the end of the signature.

Martin Handly, M.A.
Project Archaeologist

Figure 2: Aerial imagery of Lon C. Hill Power Station, Calallen, Nueces County, Texas identifying proposed laydown areas, spoil areas, and parking areas.



Figure 3: Laydown Area with Caliche Cover, Lon C. Hill Power Station, Calallen, Nueces County (looking southwest).



Figure 4: Laydown Area with Caliche Cover, Lon C. Hill Power Station, Calallen, Nueces County (looking northwest).

