

Muskegon River - Archaeology

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Mannik & Smith Group, Inc. (MSG) conducted Phase II investigations at eight sites in Mecosta and Newaygo counties. These sites are located on the reservoir shorelines of three hydroelectric dams operated by Consumers Energy. Due to the fact that Consumers Energy receives its federal operating license through the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the project was necessary to clarify the eligibility of the eight sites.

This project involved Phase II evaluative testing of two historic period farmsteads and six prehistoric period sites located on Croton, Rogers and Hardy Ponds. MSG used GPS technology and previous site mapping to identify the sites, completed shovel test surveys to define site boundaries and conducted small unit excavations to investigate artifact concentrations and features. The data gathered from the sites was then used to make recommendations regarding each site's eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

While six of the sites did not meeting the eligibility criteria, two sites appeared to possess the integrity and information potential necessary for listing. One was a prehistoric site associated with mound features. The other site was a prehistoric inland camp dating to the Late Archaic period (2500-500 B.C.). Since these sites have not been disturbed by modern activities and have the potential to yield information important to the understanding of regional prehistory, they meet the NRHP eligibility criteria.



LOCATION

Mecosta and Newaygo Counties, Michigan

CLIENT

Consumers Energy

SERVICES PROVIDED

- ◆ Section 106 Compliance
- ◆ Phase II Archaeological Site Evaluation
- ◆ GIS, GPS Computer Mapping



*Phase II Archaeological Investigation
on Muskegon River*



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