Phase II and Phase III Project Cover Sheet

All information contained within the individual site database and inventory sheets is solely the work of the researchers and authors noted below. The data provided has been culled from the original site reports noted below and in many cases has been lifted directly from them with little or no editing. The database and inventory sheets are meant to serve as a synopsis of the report findings and a finding aid and are not intended to replace or republish the research of the authors noted below.

REPORT INFORMATION:

2011 Sara, T.R., P. Walters, and J. Mundt
Phase II Archaeological Evaluations Sites 18QU740 and 18QU998 of the Proposed Photovoltaic Solar Site, Queen Anne's County, Maryland.
Submitted to NextERA Energy Resources, LLC

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Research Firm/Institutution:

TRC Environmental, Inc.
4425 Forbes Boulevard
Lanham, MD 20706

Sites examined:

18QU740
NRHP Eligible: [N]

18QU998
NRHP Eligible: [N]
Justification

Project Details:

Phase I
Phase II [X]
Phase III

Project Justification:
This report presents the findings of a Phase II archeological investigation of two archeological sites (18QU740 and 18QU998) located on a 77 acre parcel proposed for construction of a ground-mounted photovoltaic (Pv) solar facility in Queen Anne's County. The two sites are among 4 identified during a previous Phase I survey: the two recommended for Phase II testing to assess their integrity and significance. The Phase II work was required to meet State review requirements for issuance of a permit from the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE).

Project Objectives:
Prehistoric/18QU998 -Identify (if possible) different functional activities related to subsistence pursuits, lithic material procurement, and stone tool processing. -Determine the chronology of occupation at 18QU998. -Assess whether artifact concentrations represent discrete activity areas such as lithic reduction workshops, hearth, and cooking, storage, and habitation features. -Determine if fire-cracked rock is present in sufficient quantities to indicate the presence of hearths, cooking pits, or fires used for heating. -Locate any other features present. -Compare 18QU998 to other contemporaneous sites in the region. -Determine if sufficient data is present to address questions regarding the organization and function of sites as applicable to the overall subsistence and settlement themes outline in the Maryland State Preservation Plan. Historic/18QU740 -Determine if data from the site can identify the specific consumer behavior of the residents of Queen Anne's County during the 19th century. -If possible, use Mean Ceramic Date (MCD) analysis to provide a more precise chronology for the historic occupation of these sites. -Determine if the landscape of the Queen Anne's Pv Solar project area and surrounding vicinity provide insight into the early European settlement patterns of Queen Anne's County. -Ascertain whether subsurface architectural features relate to domestic house sites documented to be present.

Research Potential:

The cultural material and features identified at 18QU740 correspond to a 19th to 20th century domestic site. Historic map research revealed a structure present on the property in 1866 and extant through at least 1905. Both of the features identified in Locus 1 at the site yielded artifacts, but the majority of cultural material was recovered from the plowzone. The features in Locus 2 did not yield any artifacts. Due to the relative low-frequency of artifacts within intact cultural features, the absence of a formal domestic dwelling feature, and overall poor integrity of site deposits, it is recommended that further archeological investigation would contribute little to the understanding of the local or regional history. The site should not be considered a significant archeological resource.

Prehistoric artifacts recovered at site 18QU998 correspond to an Archaic-period lithic scatter. While the extant documentation from the site can provided some insight to our understanding of Archaic-period settlement patterns and lithic technology, further investigations of the site are not likely to enhance our understanding of regional prehistory. No subsurface features or deeply buried cultural deposits were recorded during Phase I and Phase II investigations. Due to lack of subsurface features and poor site integrity, site 18QU998 is considered to have limited research value and, as such, it should not be considered a significant cultural resource.