

First Nations Liaison/Field Monitor Report

Completed by: Austin Paul

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Activities Conducted:

A shoreline archaeological survey of the Point Lepreau Nuclear Generating Station was conducted on May 25th, 2017 to respond to interests expressed by the Maliseet Nation of New Brunswick. The study was conducted by Anne Hamilton of Archaeological Services New Brunswick. I (Austin Paul) monitored and guided the survey along with Rick Gautier (NB Power PLNGS), Alexandra Woodworth (NB Power PLNGS), Ed Genova (NB Power First Nations Specialist) and Tony Crawford (NB Power Photographer).

Pertinent Tasks

- We arrived on-site and discussed the various safety concerns and associated protocols.
- As the tide was rising, we decided to walk the beaches in search of cultural material that had potentially eroded out of the shoreline.
- The roundness of the beach cobble-stones was very telling: the beach is highly dynamic and the surf is powerful. Delicate artifacts would not preserve well on the beach and no traces were found.
- Special focus was paid to the active erosion faces of the shoreline. We carefully examined every section of erosion along the shoreline and to my surprise; no traces of cultural material were present. Furthermore, we paid a great deal of attention to the beach called "Indian Cove" as there is recorded First Nations land use in the area during the 1800's (Barnes and Stephenson 2003 pg. 482). No cultural material was found in the area after a thorough investigation of the erosion faces and beaches surrounding Indian Cove. It is quite possible that whatever sites were present have eroded away in the distant past. If there are sites located further inland, they are not currently eroding and the area is not going to be developed further in the near future.
- From Indian Cove, we drove to Duck Cove and carried out a similar survey of the beaches and active erosion faces, once again, no cultural material was found. The area surrounding Duck Cove is beautifully situated and would have been a great place to live, but much like Indian cove, the sites are either already eroded or are safety situated deeper inland. As this area is not planned for development, any potential sites that may exist inland will not be disturbed by operations.

The last area that was surveyed was Point Lepreau proper. The area is host to a historic lighthouse and a small station for observing monarch butterflies. The lighthouse was in operation by 1831 and by 1874 housed a telegraph line to provide weather updates to Saint John. In 1898 a fire consumed the original lighthouse and a replacement was constructed during the following year. The replacement lighthouse

stood on-site until 1958 when it was destroyed by a lightning strike, after this incident a concrete structure was built and stands to this day (<http://www.lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=1217>).

- While surveying the shoreline of Point Lepreau, we identified shards of historic period pearl-ware (ceramics) exposed by the erosion face. In close proximity to the pearl-ware fragments we found an iron nail and some unidentified vitrified (glassy) material. All of which was recorded and collected by Anne Hamilton for further study and curation.
- A remarkably flat area exists on the tip of Point Lepreau and I believe that the area would have been suitable for habitation although a small watercourse runs through the center of the feature. The area is exposed to high winds although the area would have been forested in the past. I feel that a site may exist on the flat although due to the nature of the study, no subsurface testing was carried out. The area surrounding the light house will be recorded in the Canada-wide Borden system which will ensure that the site will need to be formally assessed for archaeological material if any site alterations are to take place.
- Animal trails are present throughout the area; we identified the tracks of deer, moose and coyote. Coyote scat contained the remains of rabbit, deer and waterfowl.

Interests from a First Nations Perspective

Although no sites specific to First Nations land use were identified during our shoreline survey, that is not to say they are not present inland. The purpose in mind for this study was to assess whether or not sites are currently being threatened by coastal erosion. We found that no sites are currently eroding in Indian Cove: 45° 4'1.64"N 66°27'41.07"W, Duck Cove: 45° 4'22.75"N 66°26'42.72"W and Point Lepreau: 45° 3'29.78"N 66°27'32.28"W.

The point itself is beautifully situated and would have offered a strategic vantage point. Due to the rough ocean swell present at the point, I felt that a paddler would choose to land their watercraft in either Indian Cove or Duck Cove depending on the direction of wind and tides. Considering the rocky shoreline and rough water, boat repairs may have been necessary. This activity would involve the formation of archaeological deposits. For the aforementioned reasons I felt that the 2 coves and point itself should be thoroughly inspected.

From a modern land-use perspective, the point would be a great place to conduct ceremonies, especially when the monarch butterflies are preparing to migrate. Although the security is appropriately high at Point Lepreau, access for ceremonial purposes can be coordinated if the interest is expressed.

No new development of previously unaltered terrain is planned for the Point Lepreau facility. I am confident that with ongoing engagement between NB Power and the First Nations people, any potential sites that have not yet been identified will remain safe from human induced impacts.

Photographs



Above: Aerial view of Point Lepreau, the yellow line indicates the areas investigated during the May 25th, 2017 survey.



Above: The view from Indian Cove while looking northwest.



Above: Fragments of pearl-ware from Point Lepreau, as historic artifacts are outside of my area of expertise, the technical information associated with the artifacts will be captured in Anne Hamilton's report.



Above: The view from Duck Cove while looking south-west.

References:

- Barnes and Stephenson 2003. Point Lepreau Solid Radioactive Waste Management Facility Modifications Environmental Assessment Study Report. Jacques Whitford Environment Ltd
- lighthousefriends.com/light.asp?ID=1217