

Cultural Resources Impacts & Renewable Energy Development

EDR is developing proactive, project-specific strategies for identifying and mitigating impacts to archaeological and historic sites

Addressing cultural resources early in the permitting and development process can help manage risks and reduce the likelihood of agency or stakeholder interventions.



Approaches to Managing Potential Risks

Outreach and Consultation

Stakeholder engagement typically focuses on State Historic Preservation Offices, Indigenous Nations, and local historic preservation advocates/organizations.

Relationships with such groups provide a basis for positive community relations and help to identify viable cultural resources mitigation projects.

Managing the Scope and Cost of Cultural Resources Surveys

Digital field data collection and the use of GIS-based archaeological sensitivity models and viewshed analyses have created more efficient scopes for cultural resources surveys.

Proactively determining project limits and parameters early in the process can make the resulting surveys more efficient and result in cost and schedule savings. Proactively determining project limits and parameters early in the process can make the resulting surveys more efficient and result in cost and schedule savings.

Mitigation and Opportunities for Community Benefits

Renewable projects are often sited in rural areas with rich histories, where local heritage is valued, but often need more economic base to support historic preservation.

Providing funds for historic preservation is a valuable opportunity for renewable developers to provide tangible community benefits and improve stakeholder relationships.



TOP: EDR Project Manager Andrea Zlotucha Kozub consults with field staff about Phase II archaeological discoveries.

ABOVE: Shovel testing the location for a potential solar panel array.

BELOW: EDR Project Manager Kristen Olsen conducts a Historic Resources Survey, to determine the National Register of Historic Places eligibility for extant properties within a project viewshed.



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