

Cultural Resources Assessment: In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and amendments thereto, an analysis for archaeological and historic resources was conducted. Terra Xplorations conducted a Phase I cultural resources survey for the Keystone, Adirondack, and TIAA tracts and summarized findings in three separate reports. These reports will be coordinated with the State Historic Preservation Office.

The Corps has NOT made a determination of no effect, no adverse effect, or adverse effect to archaeological or historical resources listed or eligible for listing in the NRHP.

Endangered Species: Threatened and Endangered species surveys were conducted for the project area, and consultation with the US Fish and Wildlife service will be required. The application states that the gopher tortoise and gopher frog will be impacted by the project due to construction of facilities and mining activities.

Pursuant to Section 7(c) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. § 1531 et seq.), we request information from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Fish and Wildlife Service, the U.S. Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, National Marine Fisheries Service; or, any other interested party, on whether any species listed or proposed for listing may be present in the area and the potential effects this project may have on those species.

Public Interest Review: The decision whether to issue a permit will be based on an evaluation of the probable impact including cumulative impacts of the proposed activity on the public interest. That decision will reflect the national concern for both protection and utilization of important resources. The benefit, which reasonably may be expected to accrue from the proposal, must be balanced against its reasonably foreseeable detriments. All factors, which may be relevant to the proposal will be considered including the cumulative effects thereof; among those are conservation, economics, aesthetics, general environmental concerns, wetlands, historic properties, fish and wildlife values, flood hazards, flood plain values, land use, navigation, shoreline erosion and accretion, recreation, water supply and conservation, water quality, energy needs, safety, food and fiber production, mineral needs, considerations of property ownership and in general, the needs and welfare of the people.

Consideration of Public Comments: The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; federal, state, and local agencies and officials; Native American Tribes; and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of this proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by the Corps to determine whether to issue, modify, condition or deny a permit for this proposal. To make this decision, comments are used to assess impacts on endangered species, historic properties, water quality, general environmental effects, and the other public interest factors listed above. Comments are used in the preparation of an Environmental Assessment and/or an Environmental Impact Statement pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act.