



**Resource Report 4**

**Cultural Resources**

**Permian Basin Expansion Project**

**FERC Docket No. CP26-\_\_\_\_-000**

**May 2026**

| <b>RESOURCE REPORT 4 - CULTURAL RESOURCES</b>   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>MINIMUM FILING REQUIREMENTS</b>  |  |
| <b>INFORMATION</b>  | <b>DATA SOURCE</b>   |
| 1. Initial cultural resources consultation and documentation, and documentation of consultation with Native Americans – 18 CFR § 380.12(f)(1)(i) & (2)  | Resource Report 1, Appendix 1C   |
| 2. Overview/Survey Report(s) – 18 CFR § 380.12(f)(1)(ii) & (2)  | Appendix 4A (filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE)  |
| <b>ADDITIONAL INFORMATION OFTEN MISSING AND RESULTING IN DATA REQUESTS</b>  |  |
| Identify the project APE in terms of direct or indirect effects to known cultural resources.  | Section 4.3.2; Appendix 4B (filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE)                                     |
| Provide a project map with mileposts, clearly showing boundaries of all areas surveyed (ROW, extra work areas, access roads, etc.) and to be surveyed with corridor widths clearly specified. | Appendix 4A (filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE); Appendix 4B (filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE) |
| Provide documentation of consultation with SHPOs, THPOs and applicable landmanaging agencies regarding the need for and required extent of cultural resource surveys.                         | Sections 4.4 and 4.5; Resource Report 1, Appendix 1C   |
| Provide a narrative summary of overview results, cultural resource surveys completed, identified cultural resources and any cultural resource issues.   | Section 4.3  |
| Provide a project specific Ethnographic Analysis (can be part of Overview/Survey Report).   | Appendix 4A (filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE)  |
| Identify by mileposts any areas requiring survey for which the landowner denied access.   | Not applicable   |
| Provide written comments on the Overview and Survey Reports, if available, from the SHPOs or THPOs, as appropriate, and applicable land-managing agencies.                                    | Resource Report 1, Appendix 1C   |
| Provide a Summary Table of completion status of cultural resource surveys, and SHPO or THPO and land-managing agency comments on the reports.   | Sections 4.4 and 4.5   |
| Provide a Summary Table of identified cultural resources, and SHPO or THPO and landmanaging agency comments on the eligibility recommendations for those resources.                           | Table 4.3.2-1  |
| Provide a brief summary of the status of Native American consultation, including copies of all related correspondence and records of verbal communications.                                   | Section 4.5, Table 4.5-1, Resource Report 1, Appendix 1C   |
| Provide a schedule for completing any outstanding cultural resource studies.  | Not applicable   |
| Provide an Unanticipated Discoveries Plan for the project area, referencing appropriate state statutes.   | Appendix 4C  |

## Contents

|            |   |            |
|------------|---|------------|
| <b>4.0</b> | <b>CULTURAL RESOURCES.....</b>                  | <b>4-1</b> |
| 4.1        | INTRODUCTION .....                              | 4-1        |
| 4.2        | AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT .....                  | 4-2        |
| 4.3        | CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION .....          | 4-2        |
|            | 4.3.1 Background Research Results.....          | 4-2        |
|            | 4.3.2 Cultural Resources Inventory Results..... | 4-3        |
|            | 4.3.3 Outstanding Surveys .....                 | 4-7        |
| 4.4        | STATUS OF SHPO CONSULTATIONS .....              | 4-7        |
| 4.5        | STATUS OF TRIBAL COMMUNICATIONS.....            | 4-7        |
| 4.6        | UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY PLAN .....              | 4-8        |
| 4.7        | REFERENCES .....                                | 4-9        |

## List of Tables

|               |  |     |
|---------------|--|-----|
| Table 4.3.1-1 | Previously Reported Cultural Resources in New Mexico .....       | 4-3 |
| Table 4.3.2-1 | Culture Resources Documented in the APE .....                    | 4-5 |
| Table 4.5-1   | Federally Recognized Native American Tribal Communications ..... | 4-8 |

## List of Appendices

|             |   |
|-------------|---|
| Appendix 4A | Map of the Project APE, Cultural Resources, and Project Activities<br>(Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE) |
| Appendix 4B | Cultural Resources Reports (Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT<br>RELEASE)   |
| Appendix 4C | Unanticipated Discoveries Plan  |

## Abbreviations and Acronyms

|           |                                       |
|-----------|---------------------------------------|
| APE       | Area of Potential Effect              |
| CFR       | Code of Federal Regulations           |
| Chronicle | Chronicle Heritage                    |
| ESB       | environmental survey boundary         |
| FERC      | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  |
| HDD       | horizontal directional drilling       |
| HPD       | Historic Preservation Division        |
| NHPA      | National Historic Preservation Act    |
| Northern  | Northern Natural Gas                  |
| NRHP      | National Register of Historic Places  |
| Project   | Permian Basin Expansion Project       |
| SHPO      | State Historic Preservation Office    |
| THC       | Texas Historical Commission           |
| THPO      | Tribal Historic Preservation Officers |
| U.S.C.    | U.S. Code                             |
| UDP       | Unanticipated Discovery Plans         |

## 4.0 CULTURAL RESOURCES

Northern Natural Gas Company (Northern) owns and operates a natural gas transmission pipeline system and associated aboveground facilities in New Mexico and Texas. Northern is seeking a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) under Section 7(c) of the Natural Gas Act, as amended, for its Permian Basin Expansion Project (Project).

The Project includes constructing approximately 15.1 miles of 24-inch-diameter and 1.1 miles of new 16-inch-diameter pipelines, a new International Organization for Standardization-rated 7,700 horsepower compressor station, one interconnect with Transwestern Pipeline Company, LLC within the existing Phillips 66 Linam Ranch Plant, one bi-directional receiver within Northern's existing launcher facility, replacing a recycle valve at Northern's Plains compressor station, and one new delivery point for the customer at the Gaines County Generating Station.

In accordance with the FERC regulations at 18 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 380.12(f), *Resource Report 4 – Cultural Resources* describes initial cultural resources consultation, including consultations with Native Americans and other interested persons, overview and survey reports, evaluation report, as appropriate, treatment plan, as appropriate, and written comments from State Historic Preservation Officer(s) (SHPO), Tribal Historic Preservation Officers (THPO), as appropriate, and applicable land-managing agencies on the reports.

### 4.1 INTRODUCTION

Cultural resources are places, sites, buildings, and intangible values that connect people with each other and the past. They reflect how events and places help shape a community's physical appearance, regional context, and history. Cultural resources provide a community's residents with an identity. They also contribute to the educational, recreational, aesthetic, and spiritual values of a community. Most importantly, cultural resources are unique and irreplaceable.

Because the Project will be authorized by the FERC, it is a federal undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. Part 470 et seq.), as amended. Section 106 requires federal agencies to consider the effects of projects on historic properties. A historic property is defined as any "prehistoric or historic district, site, building, structure, or object included in, or eligible for inclusion on, the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and material remains related to such a property or resource" (54 U.S. Code [U.S.C.] 300308).

Regulations for the protection of historic properties (36 CFR Part 800) describe the process for compliance with Section 106, including defining the Area of Potential Effect (APE), steps to identify resources and evaluate effects, and consultation with interested parties, including the Texas Historical Commission (THC), acting as the SHPO, and the New Mexico SHPO.

Northern, as a non-federal party, is assisting FERC in meeting its obligations under Section 106 of the NHPA, as amended (16 U.S.C. Part 470[f]) and the implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 by following the procedures at 18 CFR 380.12(f). Section 106 requires FERC to consider the effect of the Project on historic properties.

## 4.2 AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECT

Northern has refined an environmental survey boundary (ESB), which is the presumptive APE for the Project. A map of the Project APE is provided as Appendix 4A. The APE encompasses and buffers all Project activities and includes all pipeline corridors, construction workspaces, access routes, and other facilities and appurtenances. The ESB is in Lea County, New Mexico, and Gaines and Yoakum counties, Texas. The New Mexico ESB is a single block measuring 3,078.1 acres, and the ESB in Texas is two blocks, one east of Hobbs, New Mexico (188.3 acres), and the other near Denver City, Texas (27.3 acres).

The Project ESB is the APE for direct and indirect effects. An expanded indirect APE was considered for the Project but was not warranted. The undertaking is characterized by installation of below-grade pipelines, expansion of existing facilities, or installation of minor pipeline appurtenances. There will be no appreciable changes to the local viewshed or landscape. There will be no notable changes to the character of the aboveground environment, and temporary workspaces will be restored to pre-construction conditions following construction.

## 4.3 CULTURAL RESOURCES INVESTIGATION

### 4.3.1 Background Research Results

The initial phase of the cultural resources investigation involved background research to gather information regarding previous cultural resources projects and previously recorded archaeological sites and historic-period architectural properties in and near the Project.

To complete the background research, Northern:

- Identified previously recorded archaeological sites and historical architectural properties through an inventory of cultural resources records for New Mexico and Texas. Data sources included the New Mexico Cultural Resources Information System, the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division (HPD) Archaeological Records Management Section, and the THC Historic Sites Atlas.
- Compiled and reviewed previous cultural resources surveys conducted in and near the Project; and
- Reviewed primary and secondary historical information (e.g., maps, atlases, and aerial imagery) to identify areas where sites, architectural properties, and landscapes could potentially be located.

Copies of the New Mexico and Texas survey reports are provided as Appendix 4B.

#### 4.3.1.1 New Mexico

New Mexico cultural resources records indicate there has been a modest amount of survey in the Project and a 1-mile study area, and a minimal number of cultural resources have been reported. Sixty-one previous survey projects are documented in the study area, and about half of these intersect the actual Project area. About 18 percent of the New Mexico Project area has been

previously surveyed, and 8 percent of the entire New Mexico study area has been evaluated. Previous survey coverage is typified by linear infrastructure projects for oil and gas pipelines, electric transmission lines, communications lines, and larger block survey coverage is minimal.

The density of reported cultural resources is low in the region, and previous work has documented 13 cultural resources in the New Mexico study area, with three of these are in the Project area (see Table 4.3.1.1). The pool of study area sites includes 12 archaeological sites and one historic-period structural property, and the Project area sample is two sites and the structural property (recorded as both an archaeological site and historic cultural property). The local sites are characterized by small, precontact and historic period artifact scatters, and the structural property is the in-use Texas and New Mexico Railway. Details of the New Mexico cultural resources records review are available in Appendix 4B (Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE) with the current New Mexico survey report (O’Connell et al., 2026).

| <b>ID</b>                | <b>Resource Type</b>                             | <b>NRHP Status <sup>1</sup></b> |
|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| LA 19990                 | Precontact Native American artifact scatter      | Unevaluated                     |
| LA205549                 | Historical EuroAmerican artifact scatter         | Determined Not Eligible         |
| HCPI31099/LA174628       | Historical Railroad-Texas and New Mexico Railway | Determined Eligible (A, D)      |
| <sup>1</sup> 36 CFR 60.4 |  |                                 |

#### **4.3.1.2 Texas**

The Texas records review compiled cultural resources data for the Project and a 1-mile study area buffer. The state records inventory indicates there have been few previously conducted cultural resources projects in the Texas portion of the Project, and no cultural resources have been reported. There has been no previous survey within 1 mile of the western, Gaines County segment of the Project southeast of Hobbs, New Mexico. The eastern study area near Denver City, Yoakum County, Texas, has been intersected by nine survey projects with one crossing the actual Project area. These are all legacy oil and gas surveys that are at least 30 years old and detailed information is not available for these projects. Details of the Texas cultural resources records review are available in Appendix 4B (Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE) with the current Texas survey report (Kraai et al., 2026).

#### **4.3.2 Cultural Resources Inventory Results**

The entire Project ESB has been evaluated for cultural resources (archaeological sites and architectural properties) using Class III survey methods. On behalf of Northern, the New Mexico and Texas cultural resources surveys were performed by Chronicle Heritage (Chronicle) (Kraai et al., 2026; Seltzer-Rogers and O’Connell, 2025; O’Connell et al., 2026). These surveys meet federal standards and New Mexico and Texas state standards for the identification, recording, and evaluation of cultural resources.

Chronicle used intensive pedestrian survey, combined with shovel test probes as needed, to evaluate the Project for the presence of cultural resources. Chronicle surveyed the Texas project APE in January 2026, and this investigation resulted in negative findings—no cultural resources were detected (Kraai et al., 2026). The Texas survey inventoried 215.6 acres in Gaines and

Yoakum counties, Texas. Chronicle’s survey of the New Mexico APE was conducted in two phases. Chronicle initially evaluated work areas and access routes for proposed geotechnical investigations on state and private land in New Mexico (Seltzer-Rogers and O’Connell, 2025), and no cultural resources were detected. This survey for geotechnical testing evaluated 59.4 acres in Lea County, New Mexico at nine discrete locations. The remaining APE acreage in New Mexico was evaluated between November 2025 and January 2026 (O’Connell et al., 2026). This mobilization inventoried 3,018.7 acres and detected 11 cultural resources in the Lea County, New Mexico APE.

Combined, Chronicle’s cultural resources surveys detected 11 cultural resources in the Project ESB (see Table 4.3.2-1). All the Project cultural resources are in New Mexico, and none were identified in Texas. The Project surveys relocated the three previously reported cultural resources and detected eight additional archaeological sites. The Project’s 11 cultural resources include three precontact-period Native American archaeological sites, five historic-period Euromerican archaeological sites, two multicomponent sites with precontact and historical components, and one historic period railroad. The railroad, the in-use Texas and New Mexico Railway, is co-recorded as both a historic-period archaeological site and a historic cultural property.

Six cultural resources in the APE are determined or recommended as meeting eligibility requirements of the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP), four are not eligible for the NRHP, and one is unevaluated (see Appendix 4B [Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE]). Project activities are not proposed at or near seven of the cultural resources, and there will be no direct or indirect effect. There are ground disturbing activities proposed at two cultural resources that are recommended or determined as not eligible for the NRHP. The proposed project activities will not affect the historic significance of these archaeological sites.

Located outside of the documented cultural resources, there are proposed Project activities near two cultural resources—HCPI31099/LA174628 and LA19990. The in-use Texas and New Mexico railway corridor will be crossed by the proposed pipeline, and this resource has been determined as eligible for the NRHP as both an archaeological site and a historic cultural property. With Project activities located at least 100 feet outside the corridor, horizontal directional drilling (HDD) will be used to install the pipeline at a depth of 60 feet below the railroad crossing, and the historic significance and integrity of this cultural resource will not be affected. At LA19990, an NRHP-eligible precontact-period site, potential Project activities are at least 40 feet outside of the site boundary. Proposed Project activities will not affect the significance or integrity of LA19990, and to ensure there will be no incidental effect on the site, Northern will install exclusionary fencing at the limits of their work areas to prevent access to the site.

Based on the findings of the cultural resources surveys of the ESB, and in the context of the Project designs, findings of no historic properties affected were recommended for the Project in New Mexico and Texas. The Project cultural resource reports (Kraai et al., 2026; Seltzer-Rogers and O’Connell, 2025; O’Connell et al., 2026) are included in Appendix 4B (Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE).

**Table 4.3.2-1 Culture Resources Documented in the APE**

| ID                     | Class         | Age-Culture  | Precontact Type  | Historical Type                     | NRHP Status <sup>1</sup>       | Proposed Activity                        | Project Effect   |
|------------------------|---------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|--|
| LA19990                | Site          | Precontact Native American                         | Campsite with features and multiclass artifact scatter | Isolated artifacts                  | Recommended Eligible (D)       | Nearby open-trench pipeline installation | None, site buffered by 40 feet and exclusion fence established           |
| LA205549               | Site          | Historical EuroAmerican                            | --   | Artifact scatter                    | Determined Not Eligible        | HDD pipeline crossing; staging area      | None   |
| LA208140               | Site          | Precontact Native American/Historical EuroAmerican | Lithic and ground stone scatter                        | Feature-wood post                   | Unevaluated                    | None                                     | None, site buffered by 100 feet  |
| LA208141               | Site          | Historical EuroAmerican                            | --   | Artifact scatter                    | Recommended Not Eligible       | None                                     | None   |
| LA208142               | Site          | Historical EuroAmerican                            | --   | Habitation-Linam Ranch              | Recommended Eligible (A, B, C) | None                                     | None, site buffered by 100 feet  |
| LA208143               | Site          | Precontact Native American/Historical EuroAmerican | Campsite with features and multiclass artifact scatter | Artifact scatter                    | Recommended Eligible (D)       | None                                     | None, site buffered by 100 feet  |
| LA208144               | Site          | Historical EuroAmerican                            | --   | Artifact scatter                    | Recommended Not Eligible       | None                                     | None   |
| LA208145               | Site          | Precontact Native American                         | Campsite with feature and multiclass artifact scatter  | Isolated artifacts                  | Recommended Eligible (D)       | None                                     | None, site buffered by 100 feet  |
| LA208146               | Site          | Precontact Native American                         | Multiclass artifact scatter                            | --                                  | Recommended Eligible (D)       | None                                     | None, site buffered by 100 feet  |
| LA208147               | Site          | Historical EuroAmerican                            | Isolated artifacts                                     | Artifact scatter                    | Recommended Not Eligible       | Open-trench pipeline installation        | None   |
| HCPI31099/<br>LA174628 | HCPI<br>/Site | Historical EuroAmerican                            | --   | Railroad (in-use TX and NM Railway) | Determined Eligible (A, D)     | HDD pipeline crossing                    | None, site buffered by 100 feet and effect avoided with 60-foot-deep HDD |

<sup>1</sup> 36 CFR 60.4

#### 4.3.2.1 New Mexico

On behalf of Northern, Chronicle evaluated the New Mexico 3,078.1-acre APE between November 2025 and January 2026 (Seltzer-Rogers and O’Connell, 2025). This field assessment conforms to federal and New Mexico standards for cultural resources surveys. Inventorying private and New Mexico State Lands, the New Mexico cultural resources survey was conducted in two mobilizations. Chronicle initially evaluated work areas and access routes for proposed geotechnical investigations on state and private land in New Mexico (Seltzer-Rogers and O’Connell, 2025), and no cultural resources were detected. This survey for geotechnical testing evaluated 59.4 acres in Lea County, New Mexico at nine discrete locations. The remaining APE acreage in New Mexico was evaluated between November 2025 and January 2026 (O’Connell et al., 2026). This mobilization inventoried 3,018.7 acres and detected 11 cultural resources in the Lea County, New Mexico APE (see Table 4.3.2-1).

The New Mexico APE is a mix of undeveloped desert lands and properties that have been affected by historical and contemporary land use. Located on the Llano Estacado of the High Plains, the Project area is an elevated plain with few established stream channels, and the landscape is arid and often internally drained. Usually derived from Quaternary-age eolian sediments, typical surface soils in the Project area are shallow and underlain by petrocalcic horizons. These geomorphic conditions provide little mechanism for burial and are ideal for surface survey. Much of the APE has been locally disturbed by oil and gas-related facilities and pipelines, road development and use, livestock and ranching improvements, and particularly in the east, mechanized agriculture.

Chronicle’s surveys of the New Mexico APE detected a very low density of cultural resources. They reported 10 archaeological sites, 1 historic cultural property, and 114 isolated occurrences that do not meet the New Mexico minimum standards as an archaeological site or historic cultural property. The cultural resources represent a mix of precontact-period Native American sites and historical EuroAmerican resources. Native American components, often with thermal features, are commonly interpreted as small, Jornada Mogollon campsites dating between CE 200 and 1400. Historical resources are consistently artifact scatters but include a ranch and an in-use railroad. These resources date between the historic New Mexico Statehood period and the recent. Both the Native American sites and historical resources are typical for the region, and with the precontact period sites, this large block Project survey has supplemented and expanded the known local archaeology.

#### 4.3.2.2 Texas

Sponsored by Northern, Chronicle conducted an intensive cultural resources survey of the Texas ESB in January 2026 (Kraai et al., 2026), and this survey meets all federal standards and current guidelines of the Council of Texas Archeologists and the THC. Approximately 215.6 acres of private property in Texas were evaluated for the Project. The survey methodology used systematic, closely-spaced pedestrian transects supplemented with shovel test probes to systematically evaluate the subsurface potential. Sixty excavated shovel test probes were concentrated in areas with a higher probability for shallowly buried cultural deposits.

The survey determined that all of the Texas APE has been subject to surface and at least shallow subsurface disturbance with deep disturbances associated with existing underground pipelines and other natural gas infrastructure. The western, Gaines County area is actively cultivated farm ground. At the area near Denver City, Yoakum County, the survey block is crossed by at least four major underground pipelines, and the northern 40 percent is within the Plains compressor station area. This facility is characterized by grading, developed surface and underground infrastructure and appurtenances, pipelines, and improved surfaces and roadways. The southern 60 percent of the Denver City survey block is an actively cultivated field with multiple aboveground natural gas-related appurtenances.

Survey of the Texas APE resulted in negative findings. No cultural resources were detected either from surface evaluation or subsurface testing. There were no previously known cultural resources in the area, and Chronicle did not identify any new archaeological sites, buildings, structures, or architectural features. Because of extensive disturbances within the Texas Project area, it is unlikely that cultural resources would be preserved and retain sufficient integrity to support NRHP eligibility.

### **4.3.3 Outstanding Surveys**

The Project APE has been completely assessed with Class III cultural resources surveys that meet federal and state standards. There are no outstanding surveys or cultural resources investigations that need to be completed.

## **4.4 STATUS OF SHPO CONSULTATIONS**

Northern has submitted the Project’s cultural resources survey reports to the New Mexico SHPO, the New Mexico State Land Office, and the THC for Section 106 review. The New Mexico survey reports were submitted to the New Mexico State Land Office on April 1, 2026, for their internal review and approval, and New Mexico SHPO on May 5, 2026 (HPD Log No. 128016). It is anticipated that New Mexico will issue findings of *no historic properties affected* for the Project. The Texas survey report was submitted to THC on April 1, 2026 (THC Track No. 202608584) and concurred with a determination of *no historic properties affected* in the State of Texas on April 23, 2026. Section 106 consultation request letters, correspondence with THC and New Mexico SHPO, and agency responses are included in Resource Report 1, Appendix 1C.

## **4.5 STATUS OF TRIBAL COMMUNICATIONS**

Northern contacted tribal executives and/or THPO for six federally recognized Native American tribes that have expressed interest in the Project counties in New Mexico and Texas. Northern’s list of federally recognized tribes was derived from the Tribal Directory Assessment Tool which is a database for identifying tribes with traditional or historical ties to Project locations (U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2026).

Tribal contacts were notified by letter, dated January 21, 2026, to introduce the proposed Project and request comments regarding the potential for the Project to affect resources of tribal concern (see Table 4.5-1). The introductory letter included a description of the Project, a map depicting the Project location, and a request for tribal comment. The Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma responded via email on February 17, 2026, that the Tribe had no known specially designated

historical or cultural sites in the Project area, but requested to be notified if any human remains, funerary objects, or any other evidence of historical or cultural significance is inadvertently discovered. Follow-up notification letters were sent to the remaining Native American tribes on February 25, 2026. To date, no other responses have been received from the Native American tribes. Copies of correspondence with the federally recognized tribes are included in Resource Report 1, Appendix 1C.

| <b>Native American Tribe</b>  | <b>Initial Project Notification Letter Submitted</b> | <b>Follow-Up Project Notification Letter Submitted</b> | <b>Comments Received</b>  |
|---|--|--|---|
| Apache Tribe of Oklahoma  | January 21, 2026                                     | February 25, 2026                                      | None to date  |
| Comanche Nation, Oklahoma   | January 21, 2026                                     | February 25, 2026                                      | None to date  |
| Jicarilla Apache Nation, New Mexico   | January 21, 2026                                     | February 25, 2026                                      | None to date  |
| Mescalero Apache Tribe of the Mescalero Reservation, New Mexico             | January 21, 2026                                     | February 25, 2026                                      | None to date  |
| Tonkawa Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma  | January 21, 2026                                     | Not applicable   | No known cultural properties; requests notification of unanticipated discoveries and consulting party under NAGPRA; February 17, 2026 |
| Wichita and Affiliated Tribes (Wichita, Keechi, Waco & Tawakonie), Oklahoma | January 21, 2026                                     | February 25, 2026                                      | None to date  |

#### **4.6 UNANTICIPATED DISCOVERY PLAN**

Northern developed Project-specific Unanticipated Discovery Plans (UDP) for Lea County, New Mexico, and Gaines and Yoakum counties, Texas. The UDPs specify protocols and contact information for notifying the appropriate FERC project manager and other interested parties in the event of an unanticipated discovery of cultural resources or human remains during construction. If human remains are detected during construction, local law enforcement will be contacted and Northern will follow additional protocols to provide protection and proper treatment of the discovery.

The New Mexico UDP was submitted to New Mexico SHPO on May 5, 2026 with the cultural resources survey report for Section 106 review. The Texas UDP was submitted to THC on April 1, 2026, for their review and comment, and the THC had no comments. Copies of the UDPs will be on site during construction, and construction field management and the Project EI will be trained on its contents. The UDPs are provided in Appendix 4C.

## 4.7 REFERENCES

- Kraai, D. J., Phoebe Fairbairn, John Gorczyk. 2026. Intensive Archaeological Survey for the Northern Natural Gas Permian Basin Expansion Project, Gaines and Yoakum Counties, Texas. Technical Report No. 26-041. Chronicle Heritage, Phoenix.
- O’Connell Michael, Erin Pavlis, Michelle Groth, and Evan Sternberg. 2026. A Class III Inventory for the Northern Natural Gas Permian Basin Expansion Project, Lea County, New Mexico. Technical Report No. 26-062. Chronicle Heritage, Phoenix.
- Seltzer-Rogers, Thatcher and Michael O’Connell. 2025. A Class III Cultural Resources Inventory for Nine Proposed Geotechnical Borehole Locations and Access Paths for the Northern Natural Gas Permian Basin Expansion Project, Lea County, New Mexico. NMCRIS Investigation Abstract Form, Activity No. 160037. Chronicle Heritage, Phoenix.
- U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. 2026. Tribal Directory Assessment Tool (TDAT). Electronic document, <https://egis.hud.gov/TDAT>. Accessed January 2026.

APPENDIX 4A

Map of the Project APE, Cultural Resources, and Project Activities

(Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE)

APPENDIX 4B

Cultural Resources Reports

(Filed as CUI//PRIV – DO NOT RELEASE)

## APPENDIX 4C

### Unanticipated Discoveries Plan

# Unanticipated Discovery Plan for Archaeological Resources and Human Remains

## Lea County, New Mexico

### INTRODUCTION

This Unanticipated Discovery Plan outlines procedures to be followed by Northern Natural Gas (Northern) in the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources or human remains during construction associated with the Permian Basin Expansion Project in the State of New Mexico. Northern contractors, where applicable, shall also follow the procedures outlined in this plan. The procedures differ depending on whether potentially significant cultural materials (Section I) or human remains (Section II) are encountered.

#### I. Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources

1. When previously unidentified archaeological resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities within the project construction area, work will stop immediately to protect the integrity of the discovery, and Northern's on-site Environmental Inspector will be notified of the discovery.
2. Immediately following notification of the discovery, the Environmental Inspector will:
  - i) Inspect the work site to determine the extent of the discovery. No cultural material will be removed from its original location;
  - ii) Halt all construction work within 50 feet of the discovery and in the surrounding area where further subsurface remains can reasonably be expected to occur;
  - iii) Clearly mark the area of the discovery using flagging and fencing, and protect it from the elements if necessary; and
  - iv) Notify Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager. If the discovery is on public land, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will notify the land management agency.

Environmental Compliance Manager: Terry Plucker

Phone Number:

Office (402) 398-7226; Mobile (402) 332-7081

E-Mail:

[terry.plucker@nngco.com](mailto:terry.plucker@nngco.com)

3. Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will direct an archaeological consultant to the project area to determine if the discovery consists of potentially significant materials. All actions involving the identification, evaluation, treatment, and reporting of historic properties, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716, since amended), shall be carried out under the direct supervision of a person(s) meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology, architectural history, or history, as appropriate (36 CFR Part 61) and familiar with implementation of the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act (NM Stat. §§ 18-6-1 through 18-6-17).

4. If the discovery is confirmed as an archaeological site, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will promptly notify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of the find.

Contact: TBD  
Telephone: TBD  
E-mail: TBD

5. Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will promptly notify the New Mexico State Archaeologist (SA) by telephone and E-mail of the discovery.

Contact: Cortney Wands, State Archaeologist  
Telephone: (505) 476-1341  
E-mail: cortney.wands@dca.nm.gov  
Address: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division  
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

6. Any required treatment of the unanticipated discovery site will be completed in consultation with FERC, the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), the New Mexico SA, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO), Indian Tribes, and/or other potential appropriate parties to determine the significance of the discovery using National Register of Historic Places criteria (36 CFR 800.13[c]). The initial reporting and evaluation will be completed within 48 hours of the notification (36 CFR 800.13[b][3]).

- 7a. If it is determined by FERC in consultation with the SHPO and SA, as appropriate, that the discovery is significant and that other significant materials may be damaged by allowing construction to continue, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager would request recommendations from the SHPO, SA, THPO, or other parties regarding appropriate measures to avoid additional damage. The consulting parties shall provide their views on the proposed actions within 48 hours of the notification (36 CFR 800.13[b][3]). These measures must include, but are not limited, to the following:

- i) On-site visits by the SA, SHPO, THPO, or other interested parties to discuss ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects to the newly discovered historic property;
- ii) Preparation and implementation of a historic properties treatment plan by Northern, in consultation with interested parties, subject to approval by the SA, SHPO, FERC, and other interested parties;
- iii) Approval to resume construction following completion of the fieldwork component of the treatment plan; and
- iv) Preparation of a historic properties management plan for all instances where significant archaeological resources are avoided and preserved in place.

- 7b. If the find is determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, then Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will consult with the SHPO and other parties and will request approval to resume construction from FERC.
8. The Contractor is not authorized to restart work until clearance is granted by the on-site Environmental Inspector.

## **II. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains**

When unmarked human burials or suspected human skeletal remains are encountered during construction activities, Northern and contractors shall comply with the New Mexico Cultural Properties Act—Human Burials in Unmarked Burial Grounds (NM Stat. § 18-6-11.2). The following steps are to be taken any time human remains are unearthed, or other artifacts associated with mortuary features are found during project construction or maintenance activities in New Mexico.

1. Upon discovery of suspected human remains during construction, including bone or other remains suspected to be human, work shall immediately cease in the area. The construction contractor or utility inspector will immediately notify Northern's Environmental Inspector. If there is uncertainty as to whether remains are human or of faunal origin, the New Mexico SA shall be contacted to make the determination.

Contact: Cortney Wands, State Archaeologist  
Telephone: (505) 476-1341  
E-mail: cortney.wands@dca.nm.gov  
Address: New Mexico Historic Preservation Division  
407 Galisteo St., Suite 236  
Santa Fe, NM 87501

2. Immediately following notification of the discovery of human remains, including bone or other remains suspected to be human, or other artifacts associated with mortuary features, the Environmental Inspector will:
  - i) Halt all construction activities and refrain from ground disturbing activities within a 100 feet radius from the point of discovery;
  - ii) Implement measures to secure the site and protect the discovery from looting, vandalism, and the elements;
  - iii) Assure all exposed elements are left in place and no photographs of artifacts or human remains will be taken; and
  - iv) Notify the Northern Environmental Compliance Manager (see Section I.2.iv for contact information)
3. Within 48 hours of the discovery, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will notify the SA (see Section II.1 for contact information), the appropriate local law enforcement agency, and the FERC. Local law enforcement is responsible for notifying the New Mexico Office of Medical Investigation (OMI), and the FERC is responsible for notifying the SHPO, Indian tribes, and other interested parties within 24 hours of the discovery.

**Contact Information of Law Enforcement Agencies**

| Contact                                       | Address  | Telephone    | Email                          |
|---|--|--------------|--------------------------------|
| Corey Helton<br>County Sheriff                | 1401 S. Commercial St.<br>Lovington, NM 88260    | 575-396-2531 | chelton@leacounty.net          |
| Heather Jarrell<br>State Medical Investigator | 1101 Camino de Salud NE<br>Albuquerque, NM 87102 | 505-925-6650 | hsc-omi-feedback@salud.unm.edu |

4. Law enforcement will coordinate with the SA and OMI to establish the antiquity and ancestry or cultural affiliation, if possible, of the human remains. If ancestry or cultural affiliation cannot be determined, the remains are assumed to be Native American.
  - i) If the human remains appear to be ancient (i.e. older than 150 years), the SA will have jurisdiction to ensure that the appropriate procedures are followed;
  - ii) If determined to be less than 150 years in age and of medico-legal significance, law enforcement and/or the OMI has jurisdiction;
  - iii) If determined to be ancient and of European American ancestry, representatives of FERC, SA, SHPO, and identifiable descendant communities will confer and determine appropriate measures for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of effect; or
  - iv) If determined to be ancient and of Native American ancestry, representatives of the FERC, SA, SHPO, and appropriate tribes will confer at the site to determine the likely project effects if left in place, and determine the most appropriate avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measure(s) for the discovery to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)(25 USC § 3001 et seq., as appropriate.;
  - v) If determined to be less than 150 years in age and of Native American ancestry but not of medico-legal significance, law enforcement and/or OMI will be requested to confer with FERC, SA, SHPO, and appropriate Tribes concerning compliance with the NAGPRA, as appropriate.
  
5. If it is determined that intact interments are present and may be damaged by continuing construction, then FERC and Northern will consult with the next of kin or descendant communities (if known), SHPO, SA, the appropriate Native American representative, and other parties regarding additional measures to avoid or mitigate further effect. These measures must include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - i) Formal archaeological evaluation of the site;
  - ii) On-site visits by the SA, and other interested parties;
  - iii) Preparation and implementation of a treatment plan by Northern, including procedures for disinterment, repatriation, and reinternment, for approval by the SHPO, SA, FERC, and other parties;
  - iv) Implementation of the treatment plan;
  - v) Approval to resume construction following completion of the fieldwork component of the treatment plan; and
  - vi) Preparation of a burial site management plan for all instances where human remains or funerary materials are avoided and preserved in place.
  
6. Following the investigation and resolution of the unanticipated discovery of human remains, and concurrence from FERC, SA, and SHPO that construction may resume, Northern’s on-site Environmental Inspector will approve clearance to the construction contractor to resume work at the location of the discovery.

# Unanticipated Discovery Plan for Archaeological Resources and Human Remains

## Gaines and Yoakum Counties, Texas

### INTRODUCTION

This Unanticipated Discovery Plan outlines procedures to be followed by Northern Natural Gas (Northern) in the event of an unanticipated discovery of archaeological resources or human remains during construction associated with the Permian Basin Expansion Project in the State of Texas. Northern contractors, where applicable, shall also follow the procedures outlined in this plan. The procedures differ depending on whether potentially significant cultural materials (Section I) or human remains (Section II) are encountered.

#### I. Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources

1. When previously unidentified archaeological resources are discovered during ground disturbing activities within the project construction area, work will stop immediately to protect the integrity of the discovery, and Northern's on-site Environmental Inspector will be notified of the discovery.
2. Immediately following notification of the discovery, the Environmental Inspector will:
  - i) Inspect the work site to determine the extent of the discovery. No cultural material will be removed from its original location;
  - ii) Halt all construction work within 50 feet of the discovery and in the surrounding area where further subsurface remains can reasonably be expected to occur;
  - iii) Clearly mark the area of the discovery using flagging and fencing, and protect it from the elements if necessary; and
  - iv) Notify Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager. If the discovery is on public land, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will notify the land management agency.

Environmental Compliance Manager: Terry Plucker

Phone Number: Office (402) 398-7226; Mobile (402) 332-7081

E-Mail: [terry.plucker@nngco.com](mailto:terry.plucker@nngco.com)

3. Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will direct an archaeological consultant to the project area to determine if the discovery consists of potentially significant materials. All actions involving the identification, evaluation, treatment, and reporting of historic properties, as defined by the Secretary of the Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Archaeology and Historic Preservation (48 FR 44716, since amended), shall be carried out under the direct supervision of a person(s) meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualifications Standards for archaeology, architectural history, or history, as appropriate (36 CFR Part 61) and familiar with implementation of the Texas Antiquities Code (Texas Natural Resources Code § 191.001 et seq).

4. If the discovery is confirmed as an archaeological site, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will promptly notify the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) of the find.

Contact: TBD  
Telephone: TBD  
E-mail: TBD

5. Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will promptly notify the Texas State Archaeologist (SA) by telephone and E-mail of the discovery.

Contact: Brad Jones, State Archaeologist  
Telephone: (512) 463-5865  
E-mail: brad.jones@thc.texas.gov  
Address: Archaeology Division Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
PO Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78701

6. Any required treatment of the unanticipated discovery site will be completed in consultation with FERC, the Texas Historical Commission (THC) (acting as the State Historic Preservation Office), the Texas SA, Tribal Historic Preservation Officer(s) (THPO), Indian Tribes, and/or other potential appropriate parties to determine the significance of the discovery using National Register of Historic Places criteria (36 CFR 800.13[c]). The initial reporting and evaluation will be completed within 48 hours of the notification (36 CFR 800.13[b][3]).

- 7a. If it is determined by FERC in consultation with the THC and SA, as appropriate, that the discovery is significant and that other significant materials may be damaged by allowing construction to continue, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager would request recommendations from the THC, SA, THPO, or other parties regarding appropriate measures to avoid additional damage. The consulting parties shall provide their views on the proposed actions within 48 hours of the notification (36 CFR 800.13[b][3]). These measures must include, but are not limited, to the following:

- i) On-site visits by the SA, THC, THPO, or other interested parties to discuss ways to avoid, minimize, or mitigate the adverse effects to the newly discovered historic property;
- ii) Preparation and implementation of a historic properties treatment plan by Northern, in consultation with interested parties, subject to approval by the SA, THC, FERC, and other interested parties;
- iii) Approval to resume construction following completion of the fieldwork component of the treatment plan; and
- iv) Preparation of a historic properties management plan for all instances where significant archaeological resources are avoided and preserved in place.

- 7b. If the find is determined to be not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, then Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will consult with the THC and other parties and will request approval to resume construction from FERC.

8. The Contractor is not authorized to restart work until clearance is granted by the on-site Environmental Inspector.

## II. Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains

When unmarked human burials or suspected human skeletal remains are encountered during construction activities, Northern and contractors shall comply with the appropriate Texas statutes (Texas Natural Resources Code § 191, Texas Health and Safety Code § 171, and Texas Administrative Code 13 § 22.1). The following steps are to be taken any time human remains are unearthed, or other artifacts associated with mortuary features are found during project construction or maintenance activities in Texas.

1. Upon discovery of suspected human remains during construction, including bone or other remains suspected to be human, work shall immediately cease in the area. The construction contractor or utility inspector will immediately notify Northern's Environmental Inspector. If there is uncertainty as to whether remains are human or of faunal origin, the Texas SA shall be contacted to make the determination.

Contact: Brad Jones, State Archaeologist  
Telephone: (512) 463-5865  
E-mail: brad.jones@thc.texas.gov  
Address: Archaeology Division Director  
Texas Historical Commission  
PO Box 12276  
Austin, TX 78701

2. Immediately following notification of the discovery of human remains, including bone or other remains suspected to be human, or other artifacts associated with mortuary features, the Environmental Inspector will:
  - i) Halt all construction activities and refrain from ground disturbing activities within a 100 feet radius from the point of discovery;
  - ii) Implement measures to secure the site and protect the discovery from looting, vandalism, and the elements;
  - iii) Assure all exposed elements are left in place and no photographs of artifacts or human remains will be taken; and
  - iv) Notify the Northern Environmental Compliance Manager (see Section I.2.iv for contact information).
3. Within 48 hours of the discovery, Northern's Environmental Compliance Manager will notify the SA (see Section II.1 for contact information), the appropriate local law enforcement agency, the county Justice of the Peace (acting as ex-officio county coroner), and the FERC. The FERC is responsible for notifying the THC, Indian tribes, and other interested parties within 24 hours of the discovery.

**Contact Information of Law Enforcement Agencies**

| County | Contact                                 | Address   | Telephone    | Email                       |
|--------|---|---|--------------|-----------------------------|
| Gaines | Joe Vest<br>County Sheriff              | 305 E. Ave. A<br>Seminole, TX 79360               | 432-758-9871 | info@co.gaines.tx.us        |
| Gaines | Patrick Kissick<br>Justice of the Peace | 101 S. Main St.<br>Room 100<br>Seminole, TX 79360 | 432-758-4015 | unlisted                    |
| Yoakum | Robert Whitfield<br>County Sheriff      | 1405 Highway 214<br>Plains, TX 79355              | 806-456-2377 | rwhitfield@yoakumcounty.org |
| Yoakum | Heather Lazos<br>Justice of the Peace   | PO Box 532<br>Plains, TX 79355                    | 806-456-7491 | hlazos@yoakumcounty.org     |

4. Law enforcement will coordinate with the SA and the county coroner to establish the antiquity and ancestry or cultural affiliation, if possible, of the human remains. If ancestry or cultural affiliation cannot be determined, the remains are assumed to be Native American.
  - i) If the human remains appear to be ancient (i.e. older than 150 years), the SA will have jurisdiction to ensure that the appropriate procedures are followed;
  - ii) If determined to be less than 150 years in age and of medico-legal significance, law enforcement and/or the county coroner has jurisdiction;
  - iii) If determined to be ancient and of European American ancestry, representatives of FERC, SA, THC, and identifiable descendant communities will confer and determine appropriate measures for avoidance, minimization, or mitigation of effect; or
  - iv) If determined to be ancient and of Native American ancestry, representatives of the FERC, SA, THC, and appropriate tribes will confer at the site to determine the likely project effects if left in place, and determine the most appropriate avoidance, minimization, or mitigation measure(s) for the discovery to comply with the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA)(25 USC § 3001 et seq.), as appropriate.;
  - v) If determined to be less than 150 years in age and of Native American ancestry but not of medico-legal significance, law enforcement and/or county coroner will be requested to confer with FERC, SA, THC, and appropriate Tribes concerning compliance with the NAGPRA, as appropriate.
  
5. If it is determined that intact interments are present and may be damaged by continuing construction, then FERC and Northern will consult with the next of kin or descendant communities (if known), THC, SA, the appropriate Native American representative, and other parties regarding additional measures to avoid or mitigate further effect. These measures must include, but are not limited to, the following:
  - i) Formal archaeological evaluation of the site;
  - ii) On-site visits by the SA, and other interested parties;
  - iii) Preparation and implementation of a treatment plan by Northern, including procedures for disinterment, repatriation, and reinternment, for approval by the THC, SA, FERC, and other parties;
  - iv) Implementation of the treatment plan;
  - v) Approval to resume construction following completion of the fieldwork component of the treatment plan; and

- vi) Preparation of a burial site management plan for all instances where human remains or funerary materials are avoided and preserved in place.
6. Following the investigation and resolution of the unanticipated discovery of human remains, and concurrence from FERC, SA, and THC that construction may resume, Northern's on-site Environmental Inspector will approve clearance to the construction contractor to resume work at the location of the discovery.