



WEST VIRGINIA
DIVISION OF
CULTURE & HISTORY

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EEO/AA Employer

June 8, 2009

Mr. Jay Ayay
Huntington District, COE
502 Eighth Street
Huntington, WV 25701

RE: Marmet Lock Replacement Project
Burning Spring Branch Site, 46KA142
FR#: 93-1020-KA-40

Dear Mr. Ayay:

We have received and reviewed the report titled "Late Prehistoric, Late Woodland and Late Archaic/Early Woodland Transitional Occupations at the Burning Spring Branch Site on the Kanawha River, West Virginia." As required by Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, and its implementing regulations, 36 CFR 800: "Protection of Historic Properties," we submit our comments.

The above referenced report provides a thorough discussion of the data recovery excavations and analysis for all components identified at the Burning Springs Branch Site (46KA142), Kanawha County, West Virginia. We find that the report is exemplary in its detailed and insightful discussions especially in regard to site patterning and cultural material analysis. The in depth discussion of each research question allows the reader to visualize how the Burning Springs Branch Site has contributed to the understanding of human occupation in the Kanawha Valley from the early Archaic through the late nineteenth century. As a whole, investigations at 46KA142 have yielded new information about the chronology, environment, subsistence base, technology, burial practices and cultural organization at the site. This information will inform future discussions and research within the greater Kanawha Valley as well as within West Virginia, Ohio, Kentucky and Virginia.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. *If you have questions regarding our comments or the Section 106 process, please contact Kristin D. Scarr, Archaeologist, at (304) 558-0240.*

Sincerely,

Susan M. Pierce
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

SMP/KDS