Archaeological Investigations at Site 46MR190
Majorsville Natural Gas Liquids Processing Facility
Marshall County, West Virginia

Expansion of the MarkWest Natural Gas Liquids Processing Facility located along Enlow Fork in Marshall County, West Virginia required a permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for Obstruction and Encroachment of the Waters of the United States under section 404 of the Clean Water Act.

Tetra Tech, Inc. began a Phase I Archeological survey in support of obtaining the permit in June of 2012. The Phase I survey identified an open-occupation prehistoric archaeological site (46MR190) on the floodplain of Enlow Fork.

A Phase-II workplan detailing the research design and methods under which Phase II fieldwork would be conducted was submitted to the West Virginia Division of Culture and History. The plan was approved in August of 2012.

Based on the results of the Phase II investigation, the site was ascribable to the Late Woodland Cultural Period (1,000 - 1,500 years before present) as evidenced by the recovery of hundreds of sherds of cord-marked prehistoric ceramic found concentrated in and around four subsurface thermal features. Several pitted (nutting) stones were also recovered.

Flotation analyses of macrobotanical samples found large amounts of burned hickory and black walnut along with starchy seeds from the Eastern Agricultural Complex preserved in several of the features.

Laboratory analyses continues and the results will be posted as received.