

Chapter 13

Cultural Resources Effects Assessment

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13. Cultural Resources

13.1 Background and Baseline

In 2001, the Authority commissioned Fedirchuk McCullough & Associates Ltd. (FMA) to conduct a Historical Resources Impact Assessment (HRIA) and Cumulative Effects Assessment (CEA) of Calgary International Airport (YYC) lands under the guidelines established under the *Alberta Historical Resources Act* (1980). If an HRIA had not already been performed on the footprint of the PRP, one identical to that conducted by FMA would have been carried out as part of the Comprehensive Study (CS). FMA found that YYC property holds a few archaeological sites and that those that were present were not unique historical resources in a regional context. Only a small proportion of the types of sites commonly found were represented. The report found that YYC sites have, for the most part, already been removed or substantially disturbed, or are of low interpretive potential. The report recommended mitigation measures for two of the sites. In 2006, these mitigation measures were implemented by FMA under the Authority's direction.

The Cultural Resources Baseline Report for this CS can be found in Volume V Chapter 11. It includes the FMA reports in their entirety as appendices.

Baseline conditions for the Parallel Runway Project (PRP) are, therefore, as described in the FMA reports after completion of the recommended mitigation. Based on surveys and inspections accepted by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, there are no historical or paleontological sites requiring protection or mitigation within the airport lands other than those that have already been mitigated.

13.2 Potential Effects and their Significance

As there are no sites requiring further mitigation, it is reasonable to conclude that the PRP can have no significant adverse effects on cultural resources. The conclusion rests on the comprehensiveness of an HRIA that has been found acceptable by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. FMA also considered cumulative effects in their reports. They concluded that, individually or collectively, the historical or paleontological sites within the airport lands were of no significance in a regional context. It is therefore reasonable to conclude that the PRP will have no significant adverse cumulative effects on cultural resources.

Although the FMA reports were accepted by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit as meeting the requirements of the Act, it is possible but improbable that one or more historical or paleontological sites within the airport lands could have been missed in FMA's surveys, particularly in areas where the land has been disturbed by human activity. It is unlikely but possible that such a site could be considered significant by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, in which case mitigation would be necessary.

There is, therefore, a very low probability that the PRP could affect a significant site. If that were to happen mitigation would be required and the Authority would implement the mitigation. The residual effects after mitigation would not be significant.

13.3 Mitigation

As noted above, sites discovered by FMA that required mitigation have been mitigated to the satisfaction of Alberta Culture and Community Spirit. Should there be further sites uncovered during the construction or operation of the PRP, the Authority will be notified immediately and a suitably qualified person will assess the site for its interpretive value and significance and recommend mitigation procedures acceptable to Alberta Culture and Community Spirit.

13.4 Inspection

The Authority has prepared an ECO Plan for the PRP, which is attached to the CS as Vol. V, Chapter 14. The Plan includes a map showing the sites identified by FMA. The ECO Plan will be provided to all contractors grading or excavating on the site. During construction, The Authority will deploy environmental inspectors. The contractors will be directed to report to the environmental inspectors the finding of any evidence of cultural resources anywhere except at the sites described by FMA. The inspectors will examine the evidence and, if appropriate, call in a qualified archaeologist to investigate the site. If it is, in fact, a historical or paleontological site, a report will be made to Alberta Culture and Community Spirit, and the Authority will undertake any mitigation that it recommends.

If human remains are discovered, the Calgary Police Service will be notified immediately.

13.5 Cumulative Effects

As noted in Section 13.2, FMA determined that there would be no cumulative effects on historical and paleontological sites after mitigation. Given the Authority's commitment to undertake any mitigation recommended by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit should a previously unrecorded site be found, it is reasonable to conclude that the PRP would have no significant adverse cumulative effects on cultural resources.

13.6 Sustainability

The mitigation measures that would be undertaken should a new cultural resources site be discovered would ensure that effects on cultural resources will not impair the sustainability of the PRP.

13.7 Follow-Up Program

Given FMA's work and the requirement of contractors to report evidence of cultural resources, the probability of a site being missed is very low. Contractor's personnel in Alberta are generally familiar with the value of cultural resources and have a good record of reporting finds. In addition, if a site is discovered any mitigation recommended by Alberta Culture and Community Spirit will be implemented to its satisfaction. Thus, no follow-up program is necessary.

13.8 Issues Raised During Consultation

No issues have been raised to date.