# APPENDIX D

# PUBLIC INFORMATION HANDOUT

STATE OF DELAWARE
*DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION*
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# ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS NEAR GEORGETOWN

The Delaware Department of Transportation (DelDOT), in conjunction with the Cultural Resource Group of Louis Berger & Associates, Inc., is conducting an archaeological excavation program at a site near Redden. DelDOT plans to improve U.S. Route 113 between Georgetown and Milford by the addition of two additional travel lanes, which will alleviate traffic congestion and safety deficiencies.

DelDOT's planning studies included a survey for prehistoric and historic properties along the Route 113 corridor, and this survey identified seven archaeological sites, in addition to a number of historic buildings. In 1991, preliminary excavations were completed at the seven archaeological sites, and one site, designated 7S-F-68, was determined to merit additional excavation before construction of the new roadway. During March and April 1992, excavations at Site 7S-F-68 focused on recovery of remains associated with a small campsite that was used repeatedly by prehistoric groups, beginning as early as 6500 B.C. and continuing until the period of historic settlement.

During last season's excavations, five historic burials were exposed in the northern portion of the site. Based on the sizes of the burial features, they appear to represent one infant and four adults or subadults. Immediately upon exposure of human remains, a report was filed with the Delaware Bureau of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, and that agency began efforts to identify relatives of the deceased individuals. During this period, the burials were left in place and stabilized, pending efforts to locate any descendants.

The five human burials are probably associated with a family cemetery that was used during the early nineteenth century. A title search indicates that the property was first subdivided as an 85-acre farm sometime prior to 1823 and that it passed through a succession of owners prior to acquisition of the Du Pont road right-of-way in 1911. The property was owned by various members of the Donovan family from 1852 until 1909. It is assumed that the cemetery would have been unmarked and forgotten at the time of the highway right-of-way acquisition in 1911, therefore it is unlikely that the cemetery is associated with the Donovan family. The earliest owners of the property, Jonathan Dickerson, his daughter Elizabeth, and her husband Thomas West did not occupy the property continuously. In 1820, the property was occupied by a tenant household headed by Alexander Kinney, and the occupation of the property during the 1830s and 1840s is uncertain. It is possible that the deceased individuals may have been slaves.

After excavation of the burials, the skeletal material will be transported to the Physical Anthropology Laboratory at the University of Delaware. Skeletal analysis will focus on determination of age, sex, ethnic affiliation, health status, etc., depending on the condition of the remains. After analysis, the skeletal remains will be treated according to the requirements of Delaware's Unmarked Human Remains Act (Chapter 54, Title 57 of the Delaware Code).

If you would like additional information concerning the project or if you have information about the identity of the deceased individuals, please contact Kevin Cunningham, DelDOT Archaeologist, at 739-3826 or Charles LeeDecker at the site.



DelDOT