



April 9, 2020

Ms. Tricia Foster
Senior Scientist
Wood Environment & Infrastructure Solutions, Inc
271 Mill Road, 3rd Floor
Chelmsford, MA 01824

Subject: Phase IB Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey, Amended
20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Project
Parcels 26/67.1, 9/6, and 34/31.1
Candlewood Mountain Road
New Milford, Connecticut
ENV-20-0634

Dear Ms. Foster:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the updated information regarding above-referenced project, dated April 8, 2020. The proposed activities are under the jurisdiction of the Connecticut Siting Council and are subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). The proposed facility is located on portions of three adjacent parcels, totaling 163.5 acres; the solar array will occupy approximately 54.55 acres. Following review of the submitted Phase IB Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey, it was determined that the proposed undertaking would have no adverse effects to historic resources, provided an avoidance and construction management plan was put in place. This was communicated in a letter from our office dated November 28, 2017. Subsequent to the issuing of our letter, a Phase II National Register of Historic Places Testing and Evaluation was submitted for Site 96-166 (Locus 7), as construction impacts could not be avoided. In a letter dated November 14, 2019, our office issued a letter with a finding of no adverse effects, as the majority of Locus 7 was outside the Limit of Work (LOW).

Since that time, it has been determined that a stipulation of the avoidance and management plan cannot be fulfilled. Specifically, Area 4, which was to “not be graded, no additional tree clearance would occur, and no stone walls would be altered,” now requires the partial removal of a wall to provide a 35 foot wide temporary stabilized construction entrance/exit from Candlewood Mountain Road into Area 4. Said wall has an existing opening, which will be widened by 35 feet. Previous investigations indicate that the wall has been previously rebuilt.

State Historic Preservation Office

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The wall is proposed to be photo documented prior to dismantlement, which will be used to reconstruct the wall following completion of the solar facility. Stones from the wall are to be stored on site in a designated location, and be used in the reconstructed wall. No significant archaeological deposits will be impacted by the revised scope.

Based on the information submitted, the revised scope will have no adverse effects to cultural resources. SHPO still suggests that construction matting be used in Area 4 to lessen the potential impact to undisturbed resources.

This office appreciates the cooperation of all interested parties in the professional management of Connecticut's cultural resources. These comments are provided in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2357 or marena.wisniewski@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary B. Dunne". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Mary B. Dunne
State Historic Preservation Officer

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