



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

November 14, 2019

Mr. David R. George  
Heritage Consultants  
PO Box 310249  
Newington, CT 06131

Subject: Phase II National Register of Historic Places Testing and Evaluation  
Site 96-166 (Locus 7)  
Candlewood Solar  
Candlewood Mountain Road  
New Milford, Connecticut  
ENV-19-0259

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the archeological survey report prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated September 2019. 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. The submitted report is well-written, comprehensive, and meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

In response to the Phase IA and IB completed for the undertaking, this office issued a letter dated November 28, 2017 with a finding of no adverse effect, provided that an avoidance and construction management plan was developed to avoid Locus 7, now assigned Site Number 96-166. Since that time, the project sponsor has determined that the site cannot be avoided, and therefore the entirety of the site was subject to Phase II National Register of Historic Places Testing and Evaluation.

Phase II testing consisted of 86 completed out of 87 planned shovel tests and eight units, measuring 1 x 1 meters in size, being excavated throughout Site 96-166. In total, 299 artifacts were recovered from the site, including a collection of lithic debitage, unfinished stone tools, and

State Historic Preservation Office

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.500.2300 | DECD.org

*An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer An Equal Opportunity Lender*



Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

two Late Archaic projectile points. Additionally, a cultural feature, identified as a possible prehistoric hearth, was identified in the northwest corner of Unit 4, extending into the southwest corner of Unit 7, and observed in the northwestern corner of Unit 8.

In sum, Phase II testing indicates that Site 96-166 (Locus 7) retains intact cultural deposits representative of a Late Archaic short-term occupation site, and is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion D for having, “yielded or may be likely to yield, information important in prehistory 36 CFR 60.4 [a-d]). With the exception of two shovel tests, which yielded isolated quartz flakes tangentially associated with the main occupation of Site 96-166, the current construction plans show the Site to be outside the Limit of Work (LOW) for the project. SHPO recommends that Site 96-166 be marked as a sensitive resource on current construction maps. And that its perimeter be demarcated in the field in some way (i.e. fencing) to prevent inadvertent construction-related impacts. With these precautions taken into consideration, the undertaking will have no adverse effects to Site 96-166. However, should construction plans change to include additional areas of this site or any area not already surveyed, this office should be contacted for additional consultation.

SHPO 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](mailto:marena.wisniewski@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary B. Dunne". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Mary B. Dunne  
State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office

450 Columbus Boulevard, Suite 5 | Hartford, CT 06103 | P: 860.500.2300 | [DECD.org](http://DECD.org)

*An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer An Equal Opportunity Lender*