



January 30, 2020

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

Subject: Phase IA Cultural Resource Survey
Proposed Solar Center
223 Elmridge Road
Stonington, Connecticut
ENV-20-0479

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the cultural resource reconnaissance survey prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated January 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 undertaking includes the construction of a solar facility, consisting of two arrays, which is to occupy an approximately 20.7 acre Limit of Work (LOW), within a larger 250 acre parcel known as Elmridge Golf Course. The LOW is bordered to the north by Elmridge Road, North Anquilla Road to the west, wetlands to the east, and a residential area to the south. North Anguilla Road also bisects the LOW. The submitted report is well-written, comprehensive, and meets the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

The Phase IA assessment consisted of a contextual overview of the region's prehistory, history, and natural setting, literature search to identify and discuss any previously completed cultural resources surveys and previously recorded cultural resources in the region and study area, review of available historic maps and aerial imagery depicting the study area, and pedestrian survey and photo documentation of the study area to determine archaeological sensitivity. No previously identified archaeological sites are located within 1 mile of the project area. No properties listed or determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were located within 1 mile of the project area.

The pedestrian survey did not result in the identification of any artifacts or features from either prehistoric or historic periods. Additionally, though the LOW is in close proximity to a fresh

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water source (Anguilla Brook) and characterized as having well-drained, low-sloping soils, the study area has been significantly disturbed, including by substantial grading activities undertaken as part of the construction of the golf course. While the survey did identify a single structure from the historic period (former Randall House), it does not appear to possess sufficient historic integrity to be eligible for listing on either the State or National Register of Historic Places.

As a result of the information submitted, SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that additional archeological investigations of the project areas are not warranted and that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed activities. However, please be advised that if construction plans change to include previously uninvestigated/undisturbed areas, SHPO should be contacted for additional consultation.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 256-2754 or marena.wisniewski@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mary B. Dunne".

Mary B. Dunne
State Historic Preservation Officer

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