

Exhibit I

SHPO Letter



Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

June 2, 2020

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

Subject: Phase IA Cultural Resource Reconnaissance Survey
Sunjet Solar Facility
481 Matthews Street
Bristol, Connecticut
ENV-20-0699

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the cultural resource reconnaissance survey prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated May. 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, which is to occupy an approximately 5.9 acre limit of work (LOW) within a larger 11.8 acre parcel. The parcel, consisting of a meadow with several small stands of trees, is bordered to the north by Matthews Street, to the west by wetlands, to the south by fields, and to the east by an orchard and home located along Hill Street. Access to the facility is to be from the north, via Matthews Street. The submitted report is well-written, comprehensive, and meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

The reconnaissance survey consisted of a contextual overview of the area's prehistory, history, and natural setting, literature to identify previously completed cultural resource surveys and recorded sites, review of historic maps, pedestrian survey of the study area, and preparation of a current archaeological assessment report.

No previously recorded archaeological sites are located within 1 mile of the project area. Two resources listed on the National Register of Historic Places, the Endee Manor Historic District (NR# 96000027) and Rockwell Park (NR# 87000788), are located within 1 mile of the project area; however, neither will be impacted by the proposed project. Nine previously inventoried

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historic structures are located within one mile of the project area; however, none will be impacted by the proposed project due to distance and intervening vegetation/structures. A U-shaped collection of barns, located near the southeast corner of corner of Hill Street and Matthews Street, was identified as part of the 2012 *Connecticut Barns Survey*. An associated house and barn are located west at 125 Hill Street. Following a pedestrian survey, and discussions with the current property owner, it was learned that approximately four to six feet of the uppermost soil had been removed from the project area and therefore, due to extensive recent disturbance, it is unlikely that the project area contains intact archaeological deposits.

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. This office further concurs with the recommendation that the proposed facility utilize screening to minimize visual impacts to the agricultural complex located along Hill Street. With this recommendation taken into consideration, the proposed solar facility will have no adverse effects to historic resources.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. 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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