



December 28, 2020

Mr. A. Peter Mair  
Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.  
26 Main Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860  
(via email only to [pmair@palinc.com](mailto:pmair@palinc.com))

Subject: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey – North Stonington Solar Project  
Providence – New London Turnpike  
North Stonington, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Mair:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the report titled, *Phase I Reconnaissance Archaeological Survey: North Stonington Solar Project* prepared by Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc. (PAL). The proposed ground mounted solar array facility and associated improvements will cover approximately 41.6 acres within a larger 157-acre parcel located on both sides of the Providence – New London Turnpike (Route 184) just west of its intersection with Boom Bridge Road. The survey was completed in consultation with this office in a letter dated July 25, 2019 pursuant to both Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act. The completed fieldwork and submitted report meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. SHPO has received two bound copies of the report; one will be kept for use in the office and the other will be transferred to the Dodd Research Center in Storrs for permanent archiving and accessibility.

A previously submitted archaeological assessment of the project was reviewed by SHPO and this office concurred with the then proposed stratified systematic testing methods. During the current archeological reconnaissance survey, a total of 202 shovel tests measuring 50x50 cm were excavated throughout the areas identified as having either a moderate or high probability for containing significant cultural deposits that could be impacted by the proposed project. During the subsurface survey, no pre-contact artifacts were identified and a diffuse scatter of post-contact artifacts was reported. SHPO concurs that the low-density scatter of common types of historic artifacts is not eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places and that no additional testing of the project area is warranted. Therefore, it is the opinion of this office that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed photovoltaic facility.

This office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. For additional information, please contact Catherine Labadia, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 500-2329 or [catherine.labadia@ct.gov](mailto:catherine.labadia@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

Jonathan Kinney  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office

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