



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

March 3, 2020

TO: Parties and Intervenors

FROM: Melanie Bachman, Executive Director 

RE: **PETITION NO. 1347A** – GRE GACRUX LLC petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed construction, maintenance and operation of a 16.78-megawatt AC solar photovoltaic electric generating facility located at 117 Oil Mill Road and associated electrical interconnection to Eversource Energy's existing substation at 325 Waterford Parkway North in Waterford, Connecticut. Reopening of this petition based on changed conditions pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-181a(b).

Comments have been received from the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office, dated March 3, 2020. A copy of the comments is attached for your review.

MB/RDM/lm

c: Council Members

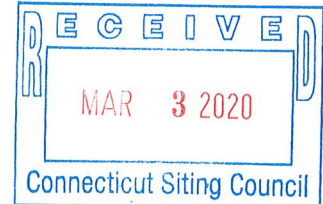


Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

March 3, 2020

Ms. Melanie Bachman
Connecticut Siting Council
Ten Franklin Square
New Britain, CT 06051



Subject: GRE GACRUX LLC Petition No. 1347A, Reopening
117 Oil Mill Road
Waterford, Connecticut.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

SHPO understands that the referenced petition will be reopened for a declaratory ruling by the Connecticut Siting Council (CSC). The proposed project plan consists of constructing, maintaining, and operating a 16.78 MW solar photovoltaic electric generating facility. The project parcel covers approximately 150 acres east of Oil Mill Road and north of Interstate 95. Because the proposed project will require approval by CSC, it is subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA). However, no consultation has been initiated with SHPO regarding this project to date. The following comments are based on materials available on the CSC website for the petition.

Although no archaeological sites or properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places have been reported within the project parcel, a large number of previously recorded archeological sites have been reported in the general vicinity of the proposed project area. Based on the known historic resources in the vicinity and the environmental characteristics of the project site, SHPO concurs with the recommendations made by Heritage Consultants in the posted Phase IA Cultural Resources Assessment Survey that additional Phase IB archaeological investigations are warranted. This office recognizes that portions of the project area have been subjected to previous ground disturbing activities, and subsurface testing should evaluate all areas of anticipated ground disturbance, unless sufficient research or fieldwork documents that this level of effort is unwarranted. All work should be in compliance with our *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources* and no construction or other project-related ground disturbance should be initiated until SHPO has had an opportunity to review and comment upon the requested survey.

State Historic Preservation Office

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This office appreciates your cooperation and we look forward to continuing consultation. For additional information, please contact Marena Wisniewski, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 256-2754 or marena.wisniewski@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Mary B. Dunne
State Historic Preservation Officer

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