



Department of Economic and
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

March 11, 2020

Mr. Dan Watson
Lodestar Energy
40 Tower Lane, Suite 201
Avon, CT 06001

Subject: Solar Energy Facility
450-470 Platt Hill Road
Winchester, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Watson:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the referenced project in response to your request for our comments regarding potential effects to historic properties. SHPO understands that the proposed project plan consists of constructing a ground mounted solar array facility with associated improvements. The project impacts will encompass approximately 16.7 acres of a much larger (100+ acre parcel on the east side of Platt Road. The proposed project requires approval by the Connecticut Siting Council. Therefore, the proposed activities may be subject to review by this office pursuant to the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

No archaeological sites or properties listed on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) have been reported within or adjacent to the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this project. SHPO notes that the majority of the project area consists of rocky soils, there are other environmental characteristics favorable to human land use. Therefore, SHPO requests that a professional archaeological assessment and reconnaissance survey, as needed, be completed prior to construction to ensure no sensitive archaeological deposits are impacted by the proposed project. If subsurface testing is recommended, it should assess all areas of anticipated ground disturbance identified as sensitive and having intact soils. 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. A list of qualified consultants is attached for your convenience.

This office appreciates your cooperation and we look forward to continuing consultation. For additional information, please contact me at (860) 500-2329 or catherine.labadia@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

Catherine Labadia
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

State Historic Preservation Office

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

An Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer An Equal Opportunity Lender