



July 25, 2019

Mr. A. Peter Mair  
Public Archaeology Laboratory, Inc.  
26 Main Street  
Pawtucket, RI 02860

Subject: Litchfield Solar Project – Cultural Resources Assessment Report  
Wilson Road  
Litchfield and Torrington, Connecticut

Dear Mr. Mair:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the potential effects of the referenced project on historic properties. SHPO understands that the proposed project plan consists of constructing a ground mounted solar array facility with associated improvements. The project parcel covers approximately 185 acres on both sides of Wilson Road with additional access from Highland Avenue to the north and Litchfield Town Farm Road to the west. The proposed project will require a Stormwater Discharge permit issued by the Department of Energy and Economic Protection through the delegated authority of the United States Department of Environmental Protection and approval by the Connecticut Siting Council. Therefore, the proposed activities are subject to review by this office pursuant to both Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act (CEPA).

As noted in your submission, although no archaeological sites have been recorded within the project parcel, several sites have been previously recorded in its vicinity. Based on the known historic resources in the vicinity and the environmental characteristics of the project parcel, SHPO concurs that intact and well-drained soils within the project area have an elevated potential to contain significant archaeological resources. An archaeological reconnaissance survey for areas identified as having a low-moderate to high probability for cultural deposits that will be impacted by the proposed project is warranted. SHPO understands that these areas encompass approximately 35 acres. Subsurface testing 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.

During the assessment survey, the historic Jacob Strong, Jr. property also was identified adjacent to the northern extent of the project parcel. The property, listed on the State Register of Historic

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Department of Economic and  
Community Development

State Historic Preservation Office

Places, represents the early settlement of Torrington, as well as association with the 20<sup>th</sup> century artist Paolo Abbate. SHPO requests additional information regarding potential project impacts on this resource because the landscape is identified in the nomination as an important feature and the depicted project boundaries appear to encompass the listed boundaries. In addition, while we understand that there are no planned ground disturbing activities to this property or its immediate vicinity. If construction plans change, our office requests additional consultation regarding the potential need for additional archaeological surveys or evaluation.

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](mailto:catherine.labadia@ct.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Catherine Labadia".

Catherine Labadia  
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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