



STATE OF CONNECTICUT
CONNECTICUT SITING COUNCIL

Ten Franklin Square, New Britain, CT 06051

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VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 16, 2023

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead – Transmission Siting
Eversource Energy
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141
deborah.denfeld@eversource.com

RE: **PETITION NO. 1566** - The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy Declaratory Ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed Card Substation to Wawecus Junction Upgrade Project consisting of the replacement of electric transmission line structures along its existing 12.5-mile electric transmission right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) Nos. 1080/1490 and 1080/1070 Lines between Card Substation in Lebanon, Stockhouse Road Substation in Bozrah and Wawecus Junction in Norwich, Connecticut traversing the municipalities of Lebanon, Franklin, Bozrah and Norwich, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. **Compliance with Condition No. 3.**

Dear Deborah Denfeld:

The Connecticut Siting Council (Council) is in receipt of your correspondence dated October 11, 2023 regarding compliance with Condition No. 3 of the Declaratory Ruling issued by the Council on September 29, 2023 for the above-referenced project. The correspondence includes the State Historic Preservation Office recommended cultural resource protection measures, in accordance with Condition No. 3.

Therefore, the Council acknowledges that Condition No. 3 has been satisfied. This acknowledgment applies only to the condition satisfied by the October 11, 2023 correspondence.

Please be advised that deviations from the standards established by the Council in the Declaratory Ruling are enforceable under the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes §16-50u.

Thank you for your attention and cooperation.

Sincerely,

Melanie A. Bachman
Executive Director

MB/MP

c: Kathleen Shanley, Manager – Transmission Siting, Eversource Energy
(Kathleen.shanley@eversource.com)
Service List dated June 22, 2023



56 Prospect Street
P.O. Box 270
Hartford, CT 06141-0270

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead – Transmission Siting
Tel: 860-728-4654

October 11, 2023

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

Re: PETITION NO. 1566 – The Connecticut Light and Power Company d/b/a Eversource Energy petition for a declaratory ruling, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes §4-176 and §16-50k, for the proposed Card Substation to Wawecus Junction Upgrade Project consisting of the replacement of electric transmission line structures along its existing 12.5-mile electric transmission right-of-way shared by its existing 115-kilovolt (kV) Nos. 1080/1490 and 1080/1070 Lines between Card Substation in Lebanon, Stockhouse Road Substation in Bozrah and Wawecus Junction in Norwich, and related electric transmission line and substation improvements. Compliance with Condition 3 of the Connecticut Siting Council’s Decision.

Dear Ms. Bachman:

Pursuant to Section 16-50j-62(b)(1) of the Regulations of Connecticut State Agencies and in accordance with the Connecticut Siting Council’s ruling for the above referenced Petition, dated September 29, 2023, the Council directed in Condition 3 of its ruling that Eversource submit a copy of any recommended cultural resource protection measures issued by the Connecticut State Historic Preservation Office (“SHPO”), if applicable, prior to commencement of construction.

Attached is a copy of the May 23, 2023 SHPO review of the Project’s cultural resource investigation and recommended protection measures. As timber matting will be utilized throughout the proposed workspace associated with Structure 7753, SHPO has determined that there is no further cultural resource protection measures required or the need for additional consultation.

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me via e-mail at deborah.denfeld@eversource.com or telephone at (860) 728-4654.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Deborah Denfeld".

Deborah Denfeld
Team Lead – Transmission Siting

Attachment: SHPO Response to Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey and Targeted Data Recovery Investigations

May 23, 2023

Mr. David George
Heritage Consultants, LLC
830 Berlin Turnpike
Berlin, CT 06037
(sent via email only to dgeorge@heritage-consultants.com)

Subject: Archaeological Reconnaissance Survey and Targeted Data Recovery Investigations
Eversource Energy Card Street to Wawecus Junction Structure Replacement Project
Lebanon, Connecticut

Dear Mr. George:

The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the memorandum titled, *End of Fieldwork Summary for Phase IB Cultural Resources Survey of the Card Street to Wawecus Structure Replacement Project and the Targeted Data Recovery Excavations at Structure 7753 Along the Card Street to Wawecus Structure Replacement Project in Lebanon, Connecticut* prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage) and dated May 12, 2023. SHPO understands that the archaeological investigation examined 13 project items associated with the Eversource Energy Card Street to Wawecus Structure Replacement Project. The proposed project items include 11 structure replacement locations and two proposed access roads. The archaeological investigation was completed by Heritage in support of a permit application to the United States Army Corps of Engineers. As a result, the project is subject to review by our office pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act. The completed fieldwork meets the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

During the archaeological reconnaissance survey, Heritage completed 31 of 48 planned shovel tests. The 17 planned but unexcavated shovel tests fell within areas of slope, standing water, or previous disturbance. An additional five delineation tests were excavated around shovel tests positive for precontact cultural material. The reconnaissance survey failed to identify cultural material at 12 of the project locations. However, Pre and Post-European Contact cultural material was identified in five shovel tests completed within the Area of Potential Effect (APE) associated with Structure 7753. The field effort resulted in the identification of 16 artifacts from plowzone and subsoil contexts. Recovered cultural material included whiteware, bottle glass, lithic debitage, and a quartzite Brewerton Corner-Notched projectile point. Heritage recommended a targeted data recovery program to mitigate any potential impacts to the identified site at the proposed structure pole replacement locations. While the memorandum concluded that the site may be eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places, a determination of eligibility was not made as part of the subject investigation.

Heritage completed a targeted data recovery within the Structure 7753 APE in March and April of 2023. An excavation block comprised of four one meter square excavation units was placed at each of the three proposed structure pole locations. The field effort resulted in the recovery of 15 Post-European Contact artifacts and 55 Precontact artifacts. Recovered cultural material consisted of insulator fragments, clear glass, ferrous metal scrap, lithic debitage, and two quartz bifaces. The targeted data recovery effort also included the excavation of 27 supplemental shovel tests within the right-of-way. This effort resulted in the recovery of 33 artifacts as well as the identification of a single cultural feature from 15 shovel tests. Recovered artifacts consisted of brick, whiteware, ferrous metal scrap, and lithic debitage.

Project plans indicate that the proposed workspace associated with the replacement of Structure 7753 will be matted during construction. Further, the report notes that impacts to the identified deposits at the locations of the proposed structure pole replacements were mitigated through unit excavation. As a result, Heritage recommended no additional archaeological investigation. SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that no additional archeological investigations are warranted. Based on the information submitted to our office, it is the opinion of SHPO that there will be no adverse effect to historic properties by the project. If project plans change and timber matting will no longer be employed throughout the proposed workspace associated with Structure 7753, SHPO requests additional consultation prior to construction. Comments are conditional upon the submission of two bound copies of the final report to our office for permanent curation and public accessibility.

SHPO appreciates the cooperation of all interested parties in the professional management of Connecticut's archeological resources. Do not hesitate to contact Cory Atkinson, Staff Archaeologist and Environmental Reviewer, for additional information at (860) 500-2458 or cory.atkinson@ct.gov.

Sincerely,



Jonathan Kinney
State Historic Preservation Officer