

September 18, 2017

Connecticut Department of Economic and Community Development
State Historic Preservation Office
450 Columbus Blvd.
Suite 5
Hartford, CT 06103
Attn: Ms. Marena Wisniewski



**Re: Candlewood Solar LLC
20 MW Solar Photovoltaic Project
New Milford Assessor Map parcels 26/67.1, 9/6, and 34/31.1
Candlewood Mountain Road, New Milford, Connecticut**

Dear Ms. Wisniewski:

As requested in the State Historic Preservation Office's (SHPO) letter dated June 21, 2017 regarding review of the above referenced project, a professional cultural resources assessment and reconnaissance survey has been completed by Heritage Consultants LLC (Heritage) for the proposed Project. Enclosed please find two (2) copies of the Phase IA professional cultural resources assessment and reconnaissance survey report (Phase IA Report) which documents the results of the assessment and survey. The following discussion summarizes the findings and recommendations of the Phase IA Report:


- ▶ **Proposed access road.** Based on a review of historic maps and aerial images, files maintained by the SHPO, and pedestrian survey, the proposed access road consists of previously disturbed, sloping, wet, and/or eroded/incised areas. Based on its landscape features and current state, no additional archaeological examination of the proposed access road is recommended
- ▶ **Proposed electric interconnection route.** Similar to the proposed access road, the electric interconnection route consists of a mixture of previously disturbed, steeply sloping, wet, and/or eroded/incised areas and based on its landscape features and current state, no additional archaeological examination of the proposed electric interconnection route is recommended.
- ▶ **Proposed Solar Facility.** The area that will contain the proposed Solar Facility is characterized by a mix of open field and forested areas, and it contains steep slopes on the northern, eastern, and southern margins. The central portion of the proposed Solar Facility area, in contrast, is characterized by level to gentle slopes that contain well drained soils in proximity to the Rocky River and associated wetlands. The steeply sloping areas on the margins of the proposed Solar Facility are unlikely to contain intact cultural deposits and are not recommended for any additional archaeological examination. However, as discussed in more detail in the enclosed Phase IA Report, the central portion of the proposed Facility area, which consists of approximately 35 acres of land along a north-

south axis, can be considered to retain a moderate/high archaeological sensitivity and a Phase IB cultural resources reconnaissance, using subsurface testing techniques, is recommended for those areas that will be impacted by construction, whether it be for the Solar Facility or tree clearing prior to construction (see Figure 17).

Based on the findings of the Phase IA cultural resources assessment and reconnaissance survey, Heritage is proceeding with Phase IB, subsurface testing of areas considered moderate/high sensitivity for significant archeological deposits. Upon completion of the Phase IB, subsurface testing efforts, a Phase IB Report will be submitted to SHPO for review and comment. All work is being conducted in compliance with the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*. Should you have any questions regarding the enclosed Phase IA professional cultural resources assessment and reconnaissance survey report or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Ms. Tricia Foster at (978) 761-2450; tricia.foster@amecfw.com or Mr. Rob Bukowski at (978) 392-5307; rob.bukowski@amecfw.com. Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Amec Foster Wheeler Environment & Infrastructure, Inc.



Tricia Foster
Senior 2 Planner



Rob Bukowski, PE
Project Manager

Attachments

cc: J. Lindsay, Candlewood Solar LLC
D. George, Heritage Consultants LLC