



Department of Economic and
Community Development

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August 17, 2017

Chris Newhall
AECOM
9 Jonathan Bourne Drive
Pocasset, Massachusetts 02559

Subject: GHCCRP Project
Newington and West Hartford, CT

Dear Mr. Newhall:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the information submitted for the above-named property pursuant to the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 and Connecticut Environmental Policy Act.

The undertaking includes the construction of a new 115-kilovolt transmission line within the proposed project corridor between the Newington Substation and the Southwest Hartford substation, which has right-of-way through or within the APE of the Newington Junction Railroad, Newington Junction North, Newington Junction West and Parkville National Register of Historic Places districts. The route will include portions above and below ground. Of particular concern is the approach of the existing switching station on the west side of Willard Avenue, which includes a proposed 3-pole 55-foot tall transition structure. Due to the topography, height of the poles, foliage covering, and distance to the contributing resources within the Newington Junction North Historic District, this portion of the undertaking will not adversely affect historic resources.

Furthermore, SHPO has reviewed the Phase IB Cultural Resources Reconnaissance Survey report prepared by Heritage Consultants, LLC (Heritage), dated February 2017. The fieldwork was completed pursuant to considerations by the Connecticut Siting Council. Based on the information submitted to our office, the report and fieldwork meet the standards set forth in the *Environmental Review Primer for Connecticut's Archaeological Resources*.

State Historic Preservation Office

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A concentration of artifacts was identified between the Newington Substation and Avery Road. This cluster of artifacts has been designated as State of Connecticut Site 94-1 and was described as containing both pre and post contact artifacts. The recovered materials included a Late Archaic style projectile point, a quartz thinning flake, five whiteware ceramic sherds, and three faunal fragments. Despite extensive shovel testing, no additional artifacts were recovered and the area exhibited evidence of prior disturbances. SHPO does not consider this low-density scatter of common types of artifacts eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Based on the information provided to our office, SHPO concurs with the findings of the report that no additional archeological investigations are warranted. This office acknowledges receipt of two bound copies of the final report; one will be kept for use in the office and the other will be transferred to the Thomas J. Dodd Research Center at the University of Connecticut (Storrs) for permanent archiving and public accessibility.

SHPO has determined that the undertaking as proposed will constitute no adverse effect to historic resources.

The State Historic Preservation Office appreciates the opportunity to review and comment upon this project. These comments are provided in accordance with the Connecticut Environmental Policy Act and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. For further information please contact Todd Levine, Environmental Reviewer, at (860) 256-2759 or todd.levine@ct.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Catherine Labadia
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

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