

1 THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
2 BEFORE THE
3 NEW HAMPSHIRE
4 SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE

5
6 DOCKET NO. 2008-
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8 APPLICATION OF GRANITE RELIABLE POWER, LLC
9 FOR CERTIFICATE OF SITE AND FACILITY
10 FOR GRANITE RELIABLE POWER WINDPARK
11 IN COOS COUNTY
12

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14 TESTIMONY OF HOPE LUHMAN
15 ON BEHALF OF
16 GRANITE RELIABLE POWER, LLC

17 July 2008
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20 Qualifications
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22 **Q. Please state your name and business address.**

23 A. My name is Hope Luhman. My business address is: The Louis Berger
24 Group, Inc., 20 Corporate Woods Blvd., Albany, New York 12211.

25 **Q. Who is your current employer and what position do you hold?**

26 A. I am employed by The Louis Berger Group, Inc. ("Berger"), as an
27 Assistant Director for Cultural Resources and Senior Archaeologist.

28 **Q. What are your background and qualifications?**

29 A. I have more than 20 years of experience in historic preservation and
30 cultural resource management. I have a Ph.D. in Anthropology from Bryn Mawr College
31 and am a Registered Professional Archaeologist (RPA).
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2 **Purpose of Testimony and Overview of the Project**

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4 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

5 A. The purpose of my testimony is to address Granite Reliable Power, LLC's
6 ("GRP") Project in Coos County, and more particularly any impact this Project may have
7 on historic sites.

8 **Q. Are you familiar with the Project that is the subject of this**

9 **Application ?**

10 A. Yes, I am. In my role as Project Manager for the cultural resource
11 surveys, I am supervising the work of the Architectural Historian and the Archaeologist
12 who have completed the initial phase of the historic architectural survey and Phase IA
13 archaeological survey, respectively, for purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the
14 National Historic Preservation Act.

15 **Impact on Historic Sites**

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17 **Q. Have you studied the impact this Project will have on historic sites?**

18 A. Yes, we have initiated our survey work.

19 **Q. Please describe your studies.**

20 A. The historic architectural survey has identified those historic properties
21 listed and/or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places ("NRHP") and
22 the New Hampshire State Register of Historic Places within the area of potential effects
23 ("APE") for visual effects or viewshed. For this Project and in consideration of the
24 proposed turbine height, an APE of three (3) miles is being used and is considered to be

1 the study area in which the proposed Project has the potential to insert visual effects that
2 could diminish the setting of an historic property where the property's setting is a central
3 feature of NRHP eligibility. As part of the work, Berger completed a site file check at the
4 New Hampshire Division of Historic Resources ("NH DHR") to research previously
5 identified historic properties listed and/or eligible for listing on the National Register and
6 New Hampshire State Register within the APE. Berger completed a field survey within
7 the APE, and has submitted a Project Area Form to the NH DHR. A copy of the Project
8 Area Form has been included in the Application as Appendix 12a. Berger will complete
9 the individual evaluations of the identified historic resources, and prepare the associated
10 narrative findings and results that will be submitted on the requisite NH DHR forms.

11 The Phase IA archaeological survey provided an initial review of the Project to
12 assess areas of archaeological sensitivity and potential resource management issues. This
13 report has been completed and reviewed by the NH DHR. A copy of this report has been
14 included in the Application as Appendix 12b. Berger's recommendations and proposed
15 strategy for the Phase IB survey has been accepted by NH DHR and fieldwork is
16 anticipated this summer.

17 **Q. Please explain the results of your studies.**

18 A. The initial results of the historic architectural survey reveal that a number
19 of National Register-eligible properties may be located in the Project's APE (defined by
20 the three-mile viewshed). Thus, the nature and extent of potential visual impacts of the
21 proposed Project on historic buildings, structures and/or districts is still under review.
22 The review of any potential visual impacts will continue, in consultation with NH DHR.
23 It is important to note that no buildings or structures will be acquired or physically altered

1 or removed by the Project, and thus impacts, if any, would be limited to those resulting
2 from the visibility of the wind Project from the historic structure.

3 Based on the findings of the Phase IA archaeological survey, Berger
4 recommended that a Phase IB archaeological survey of the area associated with ground
5 disturbance be conducted to identify archaeological resources that could be affected by
6 project construction. This work will be conducted this summer in consultation with the
7 NH DHR and will provide information as to whether archaeological sites are present
8 within the archaeological APE or the area associated with any proposed ground
9 disturbance. Such information will provide the basis for determining the need for further
10 work or mitigation (e.g., Phase II/site evaluation investigation, Phase III/data recovery
11 excavation).

12 **Q. In your opinion will this Project have an unreasonable adverse effect**
13 **on historic sites?**

14 A. Based on the preliminary survey findings and my current understanding of
15 the Project, I do not believe that this Project will have an unreasonable adverse effect on
16 historic sites. Although our investigations are not yet complete, based upon available
17 information, Berger's experience at other projects, and the manner in which similar
18 potential impacts have been addressed by state and federal regulators in the past, it is my
19 opinion that:

20 The proposed Project is unlikely to have an unreasonable adverse effect on any
21 known historic properties. No historic structures will be physically impacted, and at
22 present it appears unlikely that the visibility of the Project would demonstrably diminish
23 any aspects of setting that might contribute to the significance of such historic properties.

1 In addition, the proposed Project is unlikely to have an unreasonable adverse
2 effect on any significant archaeological resources as any potential effects will be
3 mitigated through data recovery excavation designed in consultation with the NH DHR.

4 **Q. What steps has Granite Reliable Power, LLC taken to insure that the**
5 **impact of the Project on historic sites will be mitigated ?**

6 A. Should mitigation be required due to the proposed Project's impact on
7 historic resources, it could be accomplished through vegetative screening around the
8 affected property to limit the extent to which the Project is visible from the resource.
9 Other forms of mitigation may also be employed, as appropriate.

10 Should future studies determine that the Project may adversely affect
11 archaeological resources, data recovery excavations are an accepted mitigation measure.

12 **Q. Are there any other comments you would like to make at this time ?**

13 A. No.

14 **Q. Does this conclude your prefiled testimony?**

15 A. Yes.

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