



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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July 23, 2010

Michael J. Iacopino
Brennan Caron Lenehan & Iacopino
85 Brook Street
Manchester, NH 03104

Re: Application of Laidlaw Berlin BioPower, LLC
Site Evaluation Committee No. 2009-02
Final Report

Dear Mr. Iacopino:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a final report on the Laidlaw Berlin BioPower application for the construction and operation of a 70 MW biomass fuel energy generating facility in Berlin, Coos County, NH. The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has a responsibility to review the project under RSA 227 C:9 as well as under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires consideration of historic preservation in the multitude of Federal actions that take place nationwide. Section 106 requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their actions on historic properties and provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on Federal projects prior to implementation. The US EPA has been designated the Lead Federal Agency for this undertaking.

DHR worked with the project applicant who initiated review and provided a Project Area Form and Effects Assessment for the project. No archaeological studies were required. The Project Area Form identified the remaining buildings on the project site that are fifty years or older as well as surrounding neighborhoods that are in the view shed of the project. The Project Area Form concluded that none of the remaining buildings met eligibility for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and the former paper mill site no longer retained integrity for listing as a historic district. Neighborhoods discussed included the Lower East Side, Napert Village and Liberty Park. In addition, the DHR notes that the Downtown Berlin Historic District also exists within the viewshed of the project.

Section 106 requires the Lead Federal Agency to seek information, as appropriate, from consulting parties, and other individuals and organizations likely to have knowledge of, or concerns with, historic properties in the area, and to identify issues relating to the undertaking's potential effects on historic properties. DHR understands that consultants for Laidlaw BioPower have provided information to the public on behalf of the EPA regarding the consulting party process. To date, no organization has applied for consulting party status.



The Laidlaw Berlin BioPower facility will utilize the existing boiler house and smokestack of the previous paper mill with new construction appended to these features. The boiler house was constructed in the 1990s and is not considered historic. When constructed, it introduced a modern element out of keeping with the surrounding residential neighborhoods and was part of a much larger industrial landscape that is no longer intact. Based on a review of the photo simulations, field visit, and consultant recommendations, the DHR concludes that the proposed Laidlaw Berlin BioPower facility will present no new or additional visual effects to surrounding historic neighborhoods. Therefore, under state and federal regulations, the DHR concurs with the *No Adverse Effect* finding. No mitigation measures are required. If there are any changes in approved plans and specifications, or the need for additional work is identified, the proposed changes and/or work modifications are to be submitted to the DHR for review.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nadine M. Peterson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Nadine Peterson
Preservation Planner

cc: EPA
Jane Murray
Laidlaw BioPower
Elizabeth Durfee Hengen