



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

State of New Hampshire, Department of Cultural Resources
19 Pillsbury Street, Concord, NH 03301-3570
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964
www.nh.gov/nhdhr

603-271-3483
603-271-3558
FAX 603-271-3433
preservation@dcrc.nh.gov

April 25, 2017

Pamela Monroe, Administrator
NH Site Evaluation Committee
21 Fruit South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: Application of Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy ("Eversource") for a Certificate of Site and Facility for the Construction of a New 115 kV Transmission Line from Madbury Substation to Portsmouth Substation SEC Docket No. 2015-04

Dear Ms. Monroe:

I am writing to provide a status on the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources' (DHR) review of the above referenced project prior to the Site Evaluation Committee's hearing on April 26, 2017. Since our last report, the following activities have occurred:

Public Meeting/Portsmouth 1/10/17: The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources held a public meeting in Portsmouth to solicit public comment on the identified historic properties and the potential project impacts. The meeting included both verbal and visual presentations by DHR and by the applicant regarding the historic properties that may be affected by the project. DHR staff answered questions by the public and requested written comments to be sent to the DHR office by the end of January, 2017. Approximately 25 members of the public attended the meeting. Following the meeting, the Town of Newington requested a follow-up meeting in their community and the Durham Historic Association requested a field visit and walkover.

Public Meeting/Newington 2/2/17: DHR staff Edna Feighner and Nadine Miller attended a public meeting held by the Town of Newington in February, 2017. Nadine Miller presented information regarding the identified historic properties and why they are eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. Edna Feighner discussed archaeological resources within the project area. Approximately 30 people attended the meeting. DHR staff requested written comments to be sent to the DHR by February 17, 2017.

Field walkover/Newmarket and Bennett Roads Farm Historic District/Durham 4/10/17 (delayed by snow cover): DHR staff Edna Feighner and Richard Boisvert attended a site visit with the applicant, a representative from the NH Department of Environmental Services, and concerned members of the Durham Historic Association along the project corridor in the Newmarket and Bennett Roads Farm Historic District, Durham. Local advocates requested the walkover in



response to concerns about possible past damage to stone walls and historic foundations in and near the transmission right of way. DHR Archaeologists observed no recent damage; past impacts, likely from the time of original construction, were noted. At the conclusion of the meeting, the applicant requested any additional comments be provided in writing. Information from the field walkover will also assist the DHR in determining impacts to historic properties stemming from the currently proposed project.

Remaining Review Requirements

Archaeology: One below-ground historic site known as the LaRoche Brook site (27-ST-105) was identified during Phase I Archaeological Surveys. All necessary steps to identify below-ground historic sites have been completed as long as the LaRoche Brook site is avoided during project construction. DHR plans to ask the SEC to condition the project certificate, if granted, with a requirement that the site be avoided. If the site cannot be avoided, DHR will require a Phase II Archaeological Survey and possible Phase III Data Recovery if Phase II investigations determine that the site is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places.

Above-ground Properties: In consideration of public comments at the previous public meetings and walkover, DHR is finalizing its assessment of the proposed project's impacts to above-ground properties. Cultural resource consultants working with the applicant provided "Determination of Effect" tables for the 11 properties identified in the project area as either listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. DHR and the US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) will utilize this information along with project plans and public input to complete its findings which are anticipated prior to June 16, 2017.

Memorandum of Agreement: DHR will work with the Corps, the applicant, and Consulting Parties to develop meaningful mitigation for any properties that will be adversely affected by the project. This task will result in the development of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with a list of mitigation stipulations. The DHR plans to ask the SEC to condition the project's certificate, if awarded, with these mitigation stipulations. While this task will have begun by June 16, 2017, it is uncertain whether or not an MOA will be executed by this time due to federal consultative schedules that must be taken into account as part of the Section 106 process.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide an update on the historic review for the Seacoast Reliability Project. Please feel free to be in contact if you have any further questions.

Sincerely,



Nadine Miller
Preservation Project Reviewer

cc: Michael Iacopino
US Army Corps of Engineers