



NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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May 9, 2016

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

Re: Joint Application of New England Power d/b/a National Grid (NEP) & Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy, Merrimack Valley Reliability Project.
Site Evaluation Committee No. 2015-05 (240 Day Comment-Final Decision)

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (DHR) has a responsibility to review the project under NH RSA 227-C:9, as well as under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). NH RSA 227-C:9 directs all state agencies, departments, commissions and institutions to fully cooperate with the DHR in identifying historical resources and addressing adverse effects during state-assisted projects, activities and programs. Section 106 of the 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 them prior to implementation. For the Section 106 review of the Merrimack Valley Reliability project, the US Army Corp of Engineers (ACOE) has been designated the lead federal agency for the review.

Based on a review of the material submitted and consultant recommendations, the DHR concluded that the proposed Merrimack Valley Reliability Project, under state and federal regulations, will have no effects on historic resources. The DHR has provided a *No Historic Properties Affected* finding to the applicant and the federal agency in separate letters dated December 9, 2015 and May 26, 2015 on file at the DHR. However, if there are any changes in approved plans and specifications, or there is a need for additional work, then the proposed changes and/or work modifications are to be submitted to the DHR for review.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the application for the Merrimack Valley Reliability Project. Please feel free to contact the DHR with any further questions.

Sincerely,

Edna Feighner
Review and Compliance Coordinator, Archaeologist

