



## NEW HAMPSHIRE DIVISION OF HISTORICAL RESOURCES

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August 1, 2017

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

Re: Final Report; 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 115kV Transmission Line from Madbury Substation to Portsmouth Substation SEC Docket No. 2015-04 (DHR #6528)

Dear Ms. Monroe:

The New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources/State Historic Preservation Office (DHR/SHPO) has a responsibility to review the Seacoast Reliability Project referenced above under NH RSA 227-C:9 and under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended. NH RSA 227-C:9 directs all state agencies, departments, commissions and institutions to fully cooperate with the DHR/SHPO in identifying historical resources and addressing adverse effects during state-assisted projects, activities and programs. Section 106, as implemented by regulations at 36 CFR 800, *Protection of Historic Properties*, requires federal agencies to work with the State Historic Preservation Officer and the public to consider the effects of agency actions on historic properties and to provide the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) an opportunity to comment on them prior to implementation.

Significant public involvement informed DHR/SHPO's decision making for the Seacoast Reliability Project. DHR/SHPO attended public meetings held in Portsmouth on January 10, 2017 and Newington on February 2, 2017, as well as a field visit with the Durham Historic Association on April 10, 2017. In addition, DHR/SHPO received correspondence from concerned citizens in written form and has reviewed and taken the information into account.

DHR/SHPO staff has reviewed archaeological studies and has determined that no significant archaeological sites will be affected by the Seacoast Reliability Project.



A number of historical properties and districts have been identified within the project area as noted in our November 10, 2016 and November 17, 2016 correspondence to the SEC. The undertaking has the potential to affect eleven (11) properties listed or determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. The DHR/SHPO's assessment of these properties based on 36 CFR 800.5(a)(2), including supporting materials such as photographs of the properties, aerial mapping, and photo-simulations has outlined the following effect findings:

Adams Homestead, 148 Nimble Hill Road, Newington	No Adverse Effect
Alfred Pickering Farm, 339 Little Bay Road, Newington	<b>Adverse Effect</b>
Durham Point Historic District, Durham	<b>Adverse Effect</b>
Gosling Meadows Housing Development Historic District, Portsmouth	No Adverse Effect
Little Bay Underwater Cable Terminal Houses Historic District, Durham/Newington	<b>Adverse Effect</b>
Newington Center Historic District, Newington (including Frink Farm) (*If it is determined that undergrounding will cause environmental Hazards, this finding must be reviewed and updated as appropriate)	No Adverse Effect*
Newmarket & Bennett Roads Farms Historic District, Durham	<b>Adverse Effect</b>
Pickering-Rowe House, 50 Old Post Road, Newington	No Adverse Effect
Stone House Farm, 313-315 Durham Point Road, Newington	No Adverse Effect
University of New Hampshire Historic District, Durham	No Adverse Effect
Eastern Branch Boston and Maine RR	No Historic Properties Affected

This analysis results in a finding of **Adverse Effect** for the Seacoast Reliability Project.

The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) was designated as the Section 106 lead federal agency for this project. In this role, the Corps limited its review in accordance with *Appendix C - Procedures for the Protection of Historic Properties*, its procedures for evaluating effects to historic properties. These procedures differ from the federal regulations at 36 CFR 800 in several ways. Rather than considering potential impacts to historical resources for the entire Project, the Corps only considered potential impacts in their federal permit area. The Corps has identified Little Bay Underwater Cable Terminal Houses Historic District and the Newington Center Historic District as historic resources located within their federal permit area. Therefore, based on the Corp's limited procedures under *Appendix C*, the Little Bay Underwater Cable Terminal Houses Historic District will be adversely affected and requires minimization/mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effect. These mitigation measures will be codified in a Memorandum of Agreement and a condition in the Corp's permit.

DHR/SHPO is also working with the applicant, the communities, and the consulting parties to identify minimization and mitigation measures to resolve the adverse effects to the Newmarket and Bennett Roads Farms Historic District, the Durham Point Historic District, and the Alfred Pickering Farm and codify these stipulations in a Memorandum of Understanding.

The DHR/SHPO anticipates concluding minimization efforts and mitigation agreements with the Applicant and the Corps in the next few months. The Applicant provided additional information to the DHR/SHPO on July 26, 2017 that outlines efforts to minimize stone wall impacts within both the Durham Point Historic District and the Newmarket & Bennett Roads Farms Historic District. The DHR/SHPO is in the process of reviewing this information. A meeting is being scheduled within the next month between the Corps, the Applicant, and Consulting Parties to discuss measures planned to avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects on historic properties. The goal of this meeting is to identify minimization efforts that will lessen the project impact on historic resources as well as to outline efforts to mitigate impacts on historic properties. The DHR/SHPO will notify the SEC when these steps are complete and forward copies of the executed mitigation documents.

If the Site Evaluation Committee approves this project's application for certificate, the DHR/SHPO requests that the following conditions be included:

- 1) Condition the Certificate upon compliance with stipulations in the mitigation documents executed by the DHR/SHPO, the Corps, and the Applicant.
- 2) If the Applicant changes plans for the proposed Project and such changes lead to newly-discovered effects on historic properties, the Applicant shall consult with DHR/SHPO to resolve any adverse effects to such properties.
- 3) If any unanticipated archaeological resources, historic properties or other cultural resources are discovered as a result of project planning or construction, the Applicant shall consult with DHR/SHPO to determine the need for appropriate evaluative studies, determinations of National Register eligibility, and/or mitigation measures, if needed, to resolve adverse effects.
- 4) Authorizing the DHR/SHPO to specify the use of any appropriate technique, methodology, practice of procedure association with archaeological, historical and other cultural resources affected by the Project, however, any action to enforce the conditions must be brought before the Committee.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comment.

Sincerely,



Nadine Miller  
Preservation Project Reviewer