

September 20, 2019

Lindsey Lefebvre  
United States Army Corps of Engineers  
New England District  
696 Virginia Rd  
Concord, MA 01742

Re: Seacoast Reliability Project (NAE-2015-00665) Construction Change in Vicinity of Historic Property

Dear Ms. Lefebvre-

Eversource Energy (Eversource) is proposing a small construction change in the vicinity of a historic property at the request of the landowner as part of the Seacoast Reliability Project (the "Project"). Ms. Lulu Pickering, owner of the Alfred Pickering Farm located at 339 Little Bay Road in Newington, NH, has requested that Structure 105 be moved thirteen feet to the west within the right-of-way on her property. Ms. Pickering believes that views of the structure from her home will be better screened by existing vegetation at the newly proposed location.

The Alfred Pickering Farm was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2015 as an individual property under Criteria A and C in the Areas of Agriculture and Architecture. Ms. Cheryl Widell, owner of Widell Preservation Services, LLC and cultural resources expert witness for the Project, has reviewed the proposed change, which she believes will not cause any additional adverse effect to the historic property nor change or negate the mitigation for the visual adverse effects previously identified during the design review, compliance and permitting processes for the Project (see attached letter).

Additionally, the proposed change will not impact any known archaeological sites, nor is it expected to impact any yet-to-be identified archaeological resources as the area was not considered sensitive for archaeological resources during the Phase IA Archaeological Sensitivity Assessment (Bunker 2015) and no archaeological resources were identified during the Phase IB Intensive Archaeological Investigation in nearby Sensitivity Areas Newington-2 and Newington-3 (Bunker 2018).

If you have any questions, please feel free to call me at 603-717-5198 or email me at [brooke.kenline-nyman@eversource.com](mailto:brooke.kenline-nyman@eversource.com).

Sincerely,



Brooke Kenline-Nyman  
Eversource Energy  
Cultural Resource Specialist

Enclosure

Cc: Pamela Monroe, SEC  
Phil Barthel, Eversource  
Matt Cardin, Eversource

References Cited:

Bunker, Victoria

- 2015 Phase I-A Preliminary Archeological Survey, Seacoast Reliability Project, Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth, NH. Report Prepared for Normandeau Associates, Inc. on File at NH DHR, Concord, NH.
- 2018 Seacoast Reliability Project: Results of Phase I-B Archeological Survey Madbury, Durham, Newington and Portsmouth, NH. Report Prepared for Normandeau Associates, Inc. on File at NH DHR, Concord, NH.

Attachment 1:  
Cherilyn Widell's Letter, Maps, Photo Documentation, and  
Revised Effects Table.



## Widell Preservation Services, LLC

September 12, 2019

Ms. Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer  
New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources  
19 Pillsbury Street  
Concord, NH 03301-3570

Dear Ms. Miller,

As the expert witness for cultural resources for the Eversource Company for the Seacoast Reliability Project, I wanted to inform you of a very small change in the placement of a structure in the right of way of the project in the rear of the Alfred Pickering Farm, 339 Little Bay Road in Newington, NH.

The structure location (Old Structure 105) which is shown on the accompanying maps, will be moved thirteen feet from the original planned location to a new location (New Structure 105). The structure type and size will not be changed. The change in location is most clearly seen in the photo from the location which is attached to this letter. The yellow line was the original proposed location for the structure; the red line shows the new proposed for the structure.

I have reviewed this change to the original project. In my expert opinion, this change in location will not cause any additional adverse effect to the historic property nor change or negate the mitigation for the visual adverse effects previously identified during the design review, compliance and permitting processes for the project. It does not change my testimony presented to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee that " the proposed project will have an adverse effect on the Alfred Pickering Farm as it will alter the setting and feeling of the open agricultural land that is a characteristic qualifying the property for inclusion in the National Register under Criterion A. The change will not cause any addition visual adverse effects to the historic property and no additional mitigation is required.

Should you have any additional questions about this change, please contact me or Ms. Brooke Kenline-Nyman, Cultural Resource Specialist at Eversource Energy at [brooke.kenline-nyman@eversource.com](mailto:brooke.kenline-nyman@eversource.com) or 603-634-2147.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

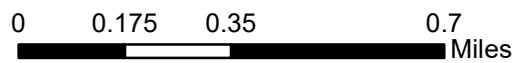
  
Cheryl Widell, Principal  
Widell Preservation Services, LLC

105 North Water Street Suite 3 Chestertown, MD 21620  
[cwidell809@yahoo.com](mailto:cwidell809@yahoo.com)  
443-480-2862



**Seacoast Reliability Project - Structure 105**

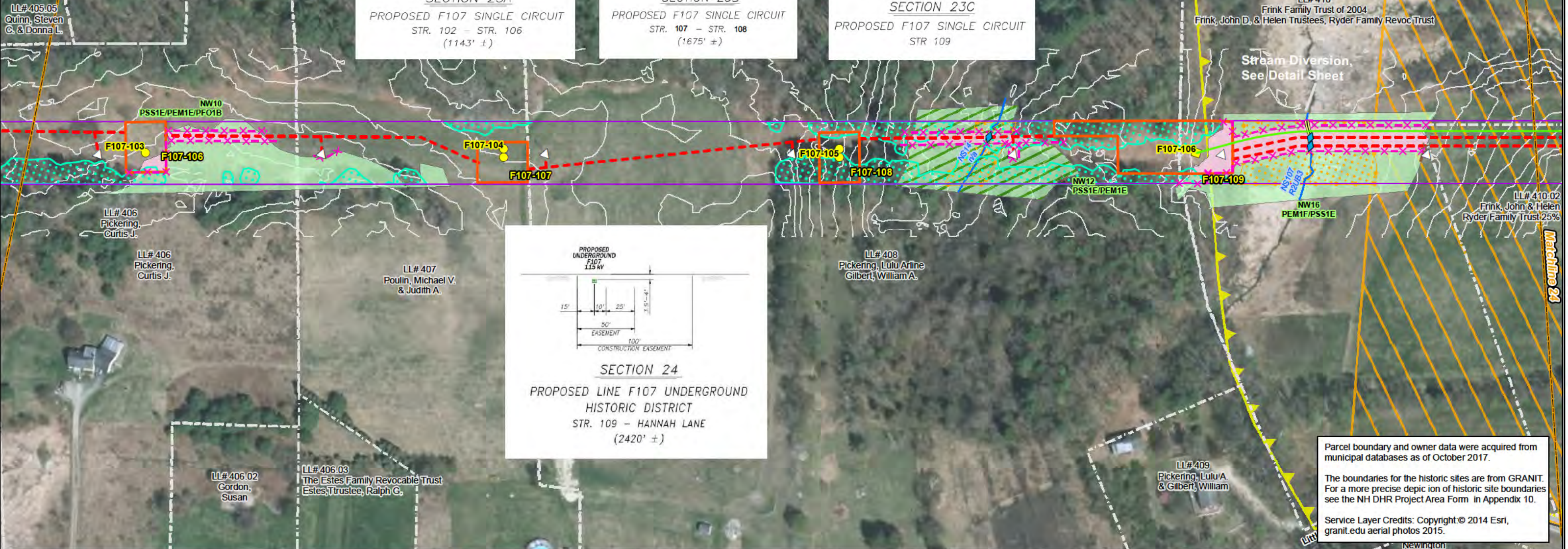
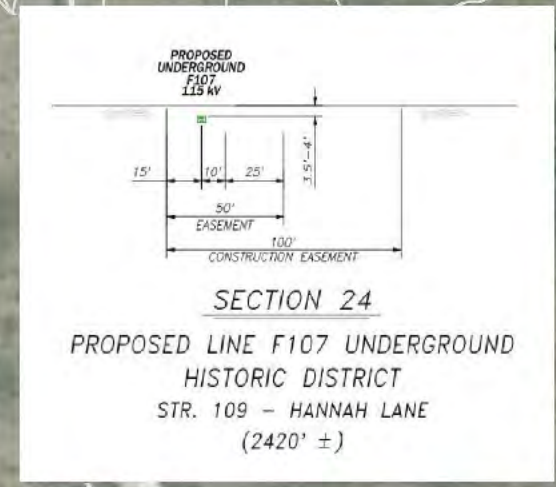
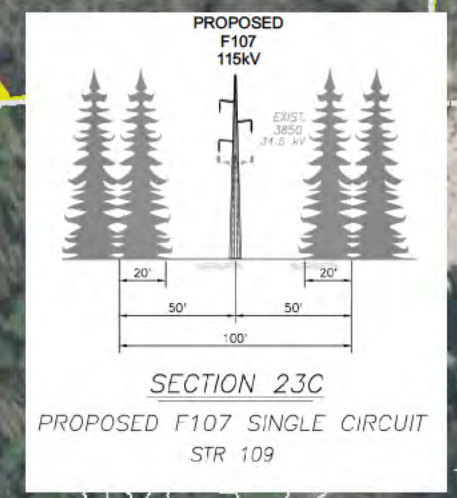
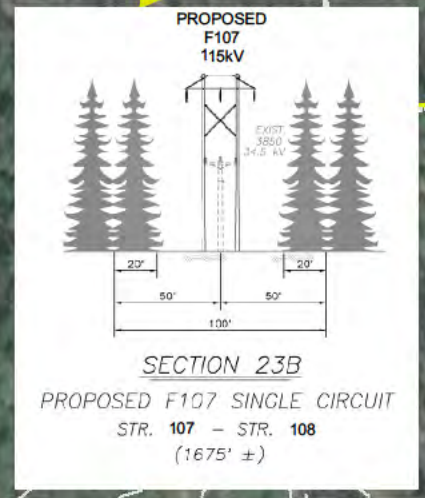
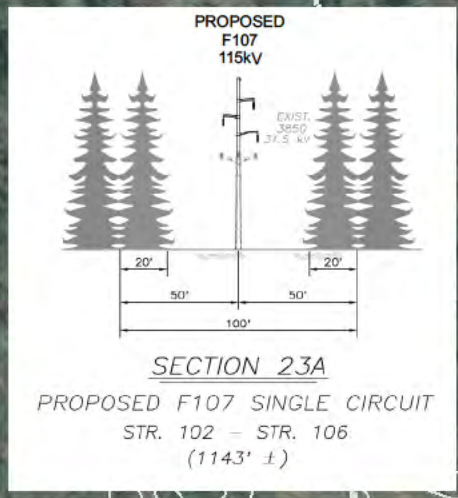
- Structure 105 Location
- Project Route



Service Layer Credits: Copyright:© 2013 National Geographic Society, i-cubed

Figure 1. Structure 105 location on topographic map.

Wetland ID	Impact Type	Area (Sq. Ft.)
NS107 (R2UB3)	Temporary	148
NS14 (n/a)	Temporary	42
NW10 (PSS1E/PEM1E/PFO1B)	Temporary	3507
NW12 (PSS1E/PEM1E)	Temporary	3310
NW16 (PEM1F/PSS1E)	Temporary	16035
NW16 (PEM1F/PSS1E)	Permanent (Str. F107-109)	19

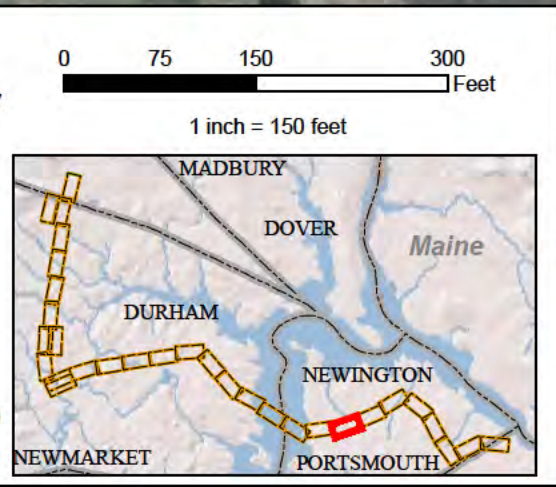


Parcel boundary and owner data were acquired from municipal databases as of October 2017.

The boundaries for the historic sites are from GRANIT. For a more precise depiction of historic site boundaries see the NH DHR Project Area Form in Appendix 10.

Service Layer Credits: Copyright: © 2014 Esri, granit.edu aerial photos 2015.

<p>Drawn By: dpelleiter</p> <p>Date: 7/25/2018</p> <p>Project No: 22860_003</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Approximate Parcel Boundary</li> <li> PSNH Fee Area</li> <li> Project Corridor</li> <li> Work Pad</li> <li><b>Roads</b></li> <li> Local</li> <li> Not Maintained</li> <li> Private</li> <li> State</li> <li> Railroad</li> <li> Access Road</li> <li> Access Rd. Pending Owner Approval</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Existing Str (Remain)</li> <li> Existing Str (Removed/Modified)</li> <li> Underground Cable</li> <li> Silt Curtain</li> <li> Silt Fence, Hay Bale, Erosion Control Mix Berm</li> <li> Straw Wattle</li> <li> Wetland</li> <li> Prime Wetland</li> <li> Wetland Impact (PERM)</li> <li> Wetland Impact (TEMP)</li> <li> Town Boundary</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> Stream Centerline</li> <li> Stream Top of Bank</li> <li> Temporary Culvert</li> <li> Stonewall alignment</li> <li> Temporary Mat Bridge</li> <li> NH DOT Right-of-way</li> <li> Historical Sites</li> <li> Designated River Buffer 250'</li> <li> Conservation Lands</li> <li> 100 Year Floodplain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li> &lt;all other values&gt;</li> <li><b>Structures</b></li> <li> Direct Embed</li> <li> Drilled Pier</li> <li> Relocated Distribution</li> <li> Steep Slope BMPs</li> <li> Tree Clearing</li> <li> Stream Buffer</li> <li> 2ft Contour</li> <li> Tidal Buffer Zone</li> <li> Highest Observable Tide Line/Reference Line (4ft Contour)</li> <li> Mean Lower Low Water</li> </ul>
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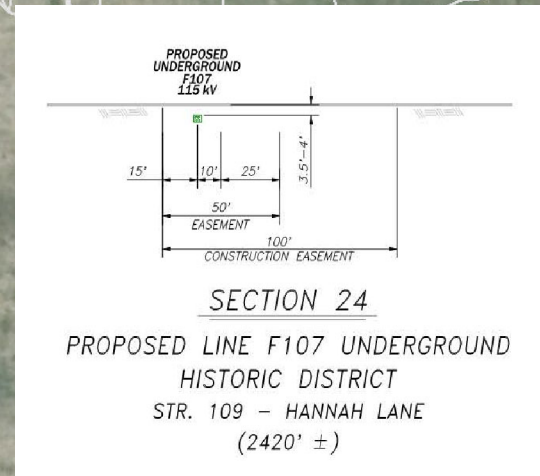
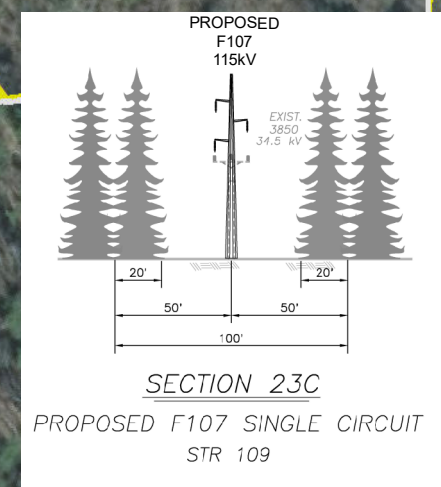
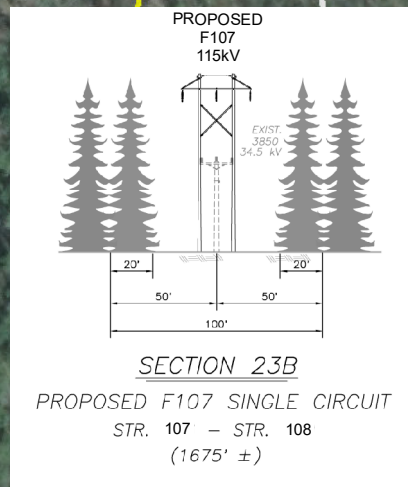
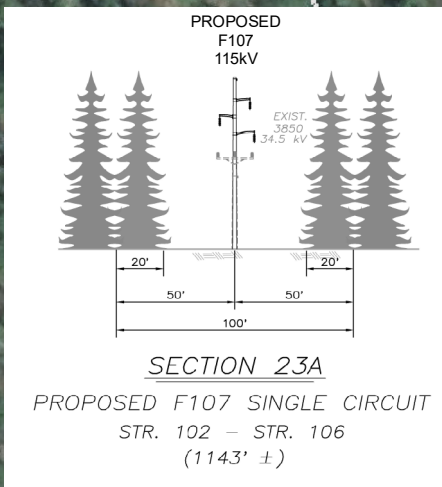
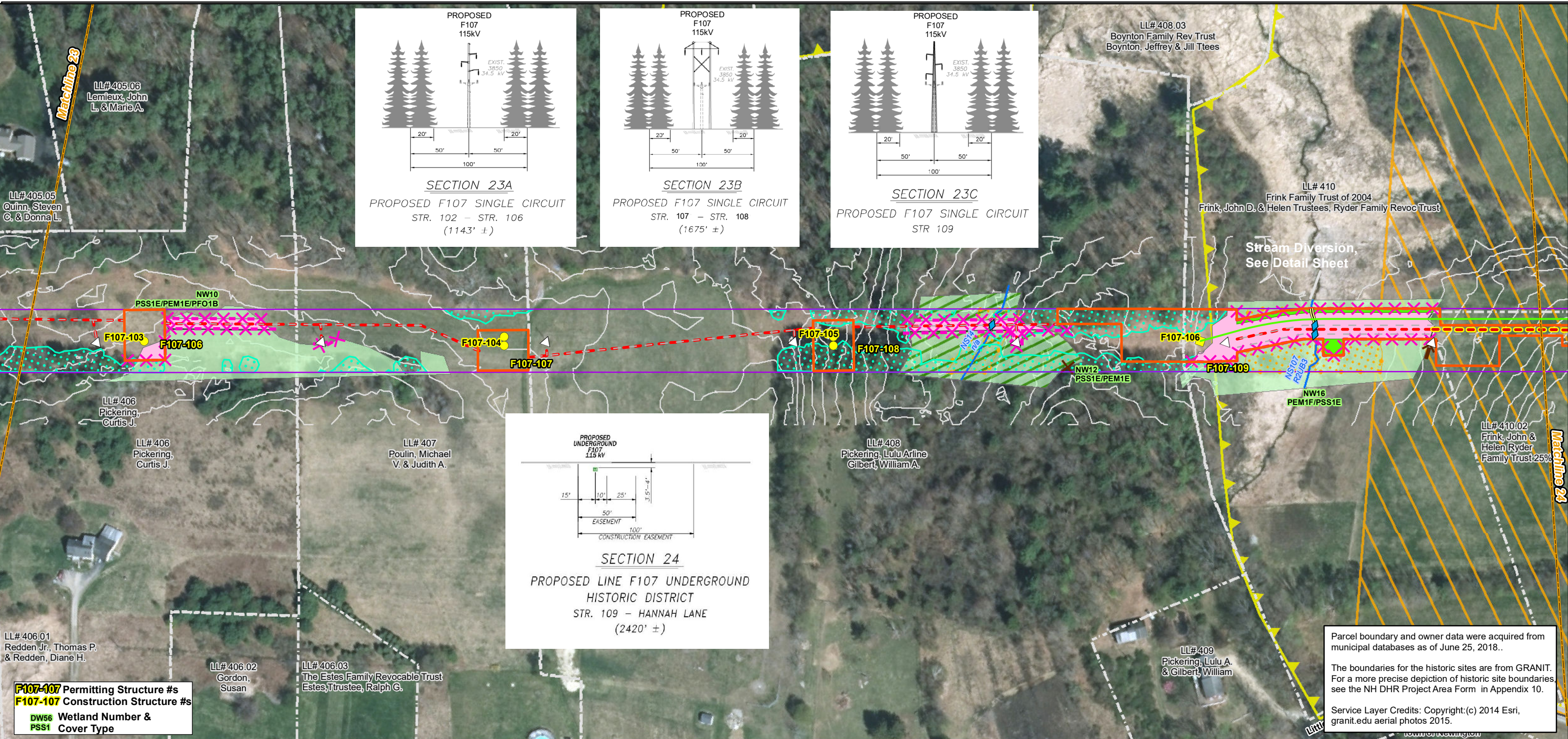
**EVERSOURCE ENERGY**

**NORMANDEAU ASSOCIATES**  
Environmental Consultants

**Seacoast Reliability Project**

**Revised Environmental Maps**

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE  
SARAH D. ALLEN  
No. 083  
CERTIFIED WETLAND SCIENTIST



**F107-107 Permitting Structure #s**  
**F107-107 Construction Structure #s**

DW56 Wetland Number & Cover Type  
PSS1

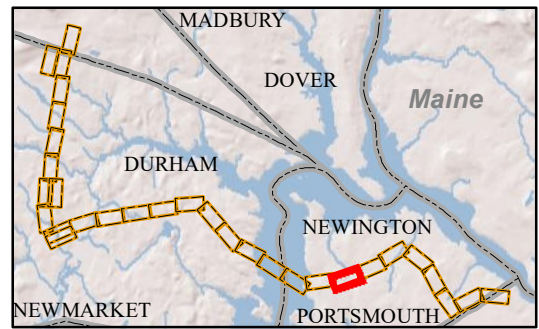
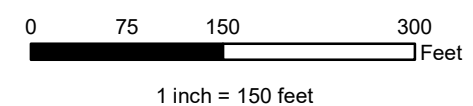
Parcel boundary and owner data were acquired from municipal databases as of June 25, 2018..

The boundaries for the historic sites are from GRANIT. For a more precise depiction of historic site boundaries see the NH DHR Project Area Form in Appendix 10.

Service Layer Credits: Copyright:(c) 2014 Esri, granit.edu aerial photos 2015.

Date : 9/13/2019  
Project No: 22860\_003

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Corridor</li> <li>Work Pad</li> <li>Roads <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Local</li> <li>Not Maintained</li> <li>Private</li> <li>State</li> <li>Access Road Needing Timbermatting</li> <li>Access Road</li> <li>Access Rd. Pending Owner Approval</li> <li>Removed Access Road</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Existing Str (Remain)</li> <li>Existing Str (Removed/Modified)</li> <li>Underground Cable</li> <li>Erosion Control Removed</li> <li>Wetland</li> <li>Prime Wetland</li> <li>Wetland Impact (TEMP)</li> <li>Wetland Impact (PERM)</li> <li>Revised Impact Areas</li> <li>Wetlands Impact Removed</li> <li>Turbidity Barrier</li> <li>Silt Fence, Hay Bale, Erosion Control</li> <li>Mix Berm</li> <li>Silt Sock</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Stream Centerline</li> <li>Stream Top of Bank</li> <li>Temporary Culvert</li> <li>Stonewall alignment</li> <li>Temporary Mat Bridge</li> <li>NH DOT Right-of-way</li> <li>Historical Sites</li> <li>Designated River Buffer 250'</li> <li>Conservation Lands</li> <li>100 Year Floodplain</li> <li>Railroad</li> <li>Approximate Parcel Boundary</li> <li>PSNH Fee Area</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Structures <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Direct Embed</li> <li>Drilled Pier</li> <li>Relocated Distribution</li> <li>Supplemental BMPs</li> <li>Removed BMP</li> <li>Tree Clearing</li> <li>Stream Buffer</li> <li>2ft Contour</li> <li>Tidal Buffer Zone</li> <li>Highest Observable Tide Line/Reference Line (4ft Contour)</li> <li>Mean Lower Low Water</li> <li>Town Boundary</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
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ENERGY

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Environmental Consultants

**Seacoast Reliability Project**  
**Revised Environmental Maps**



Figure 3. New proposed location of structure 105 on project environmental maps

7/16/18



Figure 4. Existing conditions with approximate old (yellow) and new (red) proposed structure 105 locations.



Figure 5. View of SRP transmission corridor from behind Pickering Farm main house, facing north.





Figure 6. View of SRP transmission corridor from behind Pickering Farm main house, facing north.



Figure 7. View of Pickering Farm from Little Bay Road, facing north.



Figure 8. View of Pickering Farm main house from Little Bay Road, facing northeast.



Figure 9. View of SRP transmission corridor from Little Bay Road, facing north.

Appendix A:  
Revised Effects Table for the Alfred Pickering Farm

**HISTORIC PROPERTY/PROPERTIES AFFECTED TABLE**  
**RESULTS OF EFFECT EVALUATION FOR**  
**Alfred Pickering Farm, 339 Little Bay Road, Newington (NWN0001)**  
**Seacoast Reliability Project, 2019**

**Significance (including Criteria):**

The Alfred Pickering Farm was determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places in 2015 under Criteria A and C in the Areas of Agriculture and Architecture. The Georgian-style frame farmhouse was built ca. 1812 for Thomas Pickering by Cyrus Frink who was an engineer and builder of bridges and homes in the Piscataqua Region. The house and surrounding 37+ acres of land are still owned by members of the Pickering Family. The property also retains two early nineteenth century outbuildings; a carriage house and a large barn, with a rare surviving interior silo. The buildings have seen some historic period alteration, and the house has a ca. 2000 addition; however the property retains integrity to demonstrate its significance under both Criteria A and C for its agricultural associations and as an example of an intact functionally-planned New England Farm, as recorded in the Determination of Eligibility. The setting of open field is a character-defining feature. The land remains in agricultural use as hay field and pasture. The character-defining features under Criterion A include the large barn, shed and house, set on a high point surrounded by fields backed by woods. The roadside stone walls, driveway and barnyard contribute to the setting. A baseball diamond was in use for several years but has reverted to grass with little evidence remaining in the landscape. Other historically associated land to the east and west was subdivided in the late twentieth century and the fields became large house lots for new homes. The Pickering family cemetery is located on one of those parcels, not within the eligible historic property. The reduction of the farmland from roughly 88 acres to 37 acres and development of surrounding land have diminished the original setting, association and feeling of the agricultural property. The electric utility right of way dates from near the end of the historic period in the 1950s and is not a contributing element, but rather relates to construction of Pease Air Force Base.

**NR Boundary (description/justification):**

The boundary of the National Register eligible property includes all of the land presently associated with the historic buildings. Identified in Newington tax records as Map-Lot 23-23, it contains 37.4 acres. The historic property includes fields around the buildings and extending to the north where the electric utility right-of-way crosses the property at the edge of the woods. Other land to the east and west was subdivided for new home construction in the late twentieth century and no longer conveys agricultural associations.

**Individual Properties**

NR	SR	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible (district N/A)
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible, also in district
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible, only in district
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed in the NRHP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not evaluated for individual eligibility

**Districts**

NR	SR	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Eligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not eligible
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Listed in the NRHP
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	Not evaluated as a district

**RELATIONSHIP OF PROPOSED ACTION TO HISTORIC RESOURCE**

The Seacoast Reliability Project will cross the Alfred Pickering Farm in the existing electric utility corridor. The 100'-wide right of way runs east-west for about 0.2 miles across the historic property. The existing distribution line will be relocated elsewhere and the proposed transmission line installed in its place. A single pole on the property, Structure 105 will be moved thirteen feet west from its initial proposed location.

**DEFINITION OF EFFECT**

An effect may occur when there is alteration to the characteristics of a historic property qualifying it for inclusion in or eligible for the National Register as defined in Section 800.16(1).

**EVALUATION**

This change in location will not cause any additional adverse effect to the historic property nor change or negate the mitigation for the visual adverse effects previously identified during the design review, compliance and permitting processes for the project.

**RECOMMENDED FINDING**

No historic property affected.

**APPLICATION OF THE CRITERIA OF ADVERSE EFFECT FOR  
Alfred Pickering Farm, 339 Little Bay Road, Newington (NWN0001)  
Seacoast Reliability Project, 2016**

**CRITERIA OF ADVERSE EFFECT**

An adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property's location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling or association. Consideration shall be given to all qualifying characteristics of a historic property, including those that may have been identified subsequent to the original evaluation of the property's eligibility for the National Register. Adverse Effects may include reasonably foreseeable effects caused by the undertaking that may occur late in time, be farther removed in distance or be cumulative.

Example of Adverse Effects, pursuant to Section 800.5(a)(2)	Evaluation
Adverse effects on historic properties include, but are not limited to:	
(i) Physical destruction of or damage to all or part of the property;	None
(ii) Alteration of a property, including restoration, rehabilitation, repair, maintenance, stabilization, hazardous material remediation and provision of handicapped access, that is not consistent with the Secretary's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties (36 CFR§68) and applicable guidelines;	None
(iii) Removal of the property from its historic location;	None
(iv) change of the character of the property's use or of physical features within the property's setting that contribute to its historic features;	None
(v) Introduction of visual, atmospheric, or audible elements that diminish the integrity of the property's significant historic features;	The proposed location change for Structure 105 will not introduce a new visual element that diminishes the setting of the property.

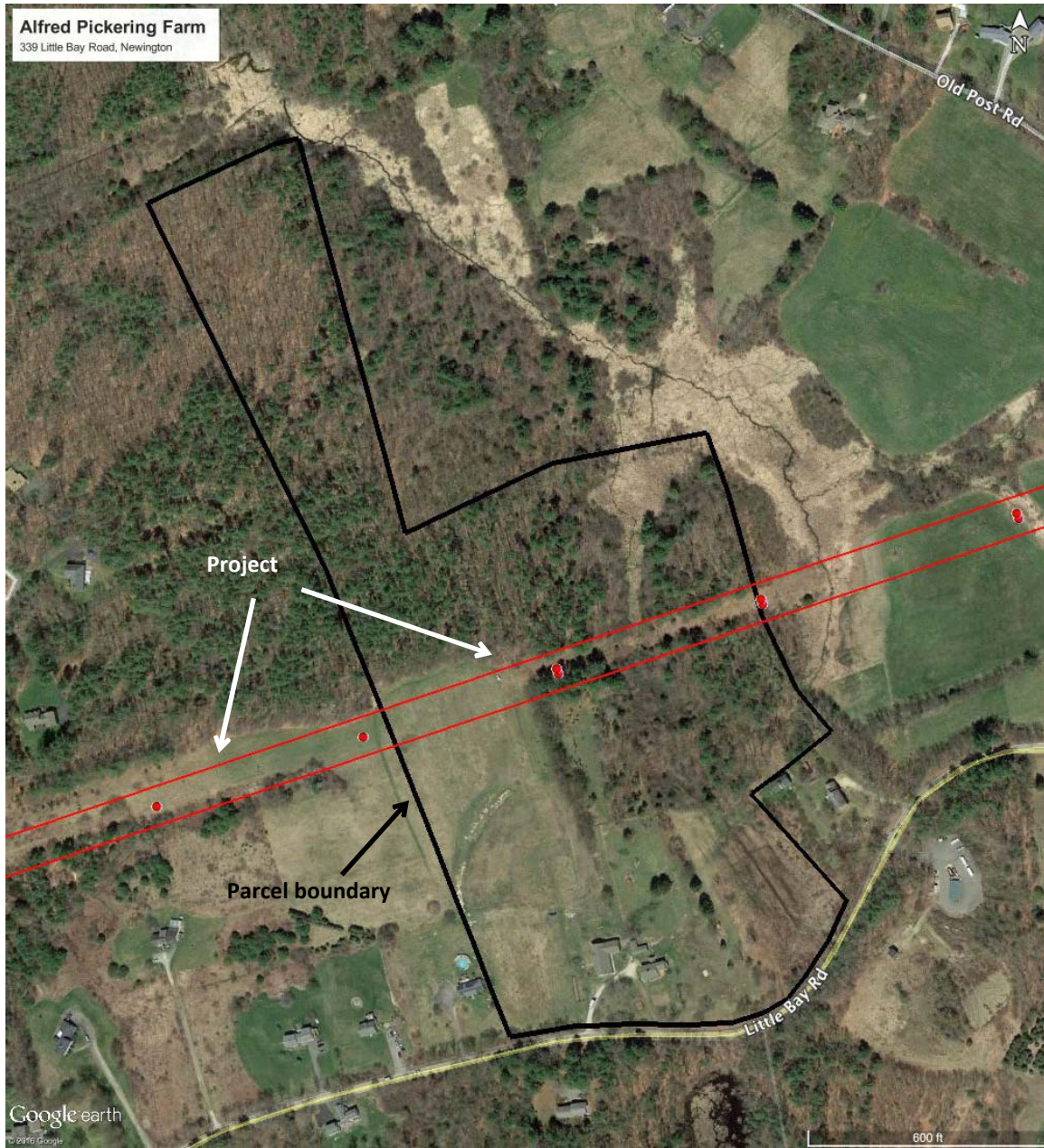
(vi) Neglect of a property which causes its deterioration, except where such neglect and deterioration are recognized qualities of a property or religious and cultural significance to an Indian tribe or Native Hawaiian organization; and	None
(vii) Transfer, lease, or sale of property out of Federal ownership or control without adequate and legally enforceable restrictions or conditions to ensure long-term preservation of the property's historic significance.	Not Applicable
(viii) OTHER:	None
RECOMMENDED FINDING	No Adverse Effect -- The proposed location change will not cause any additional adverse effect on the Alfred Pickering Farm.

**Sources:**

Casella, Richard M.

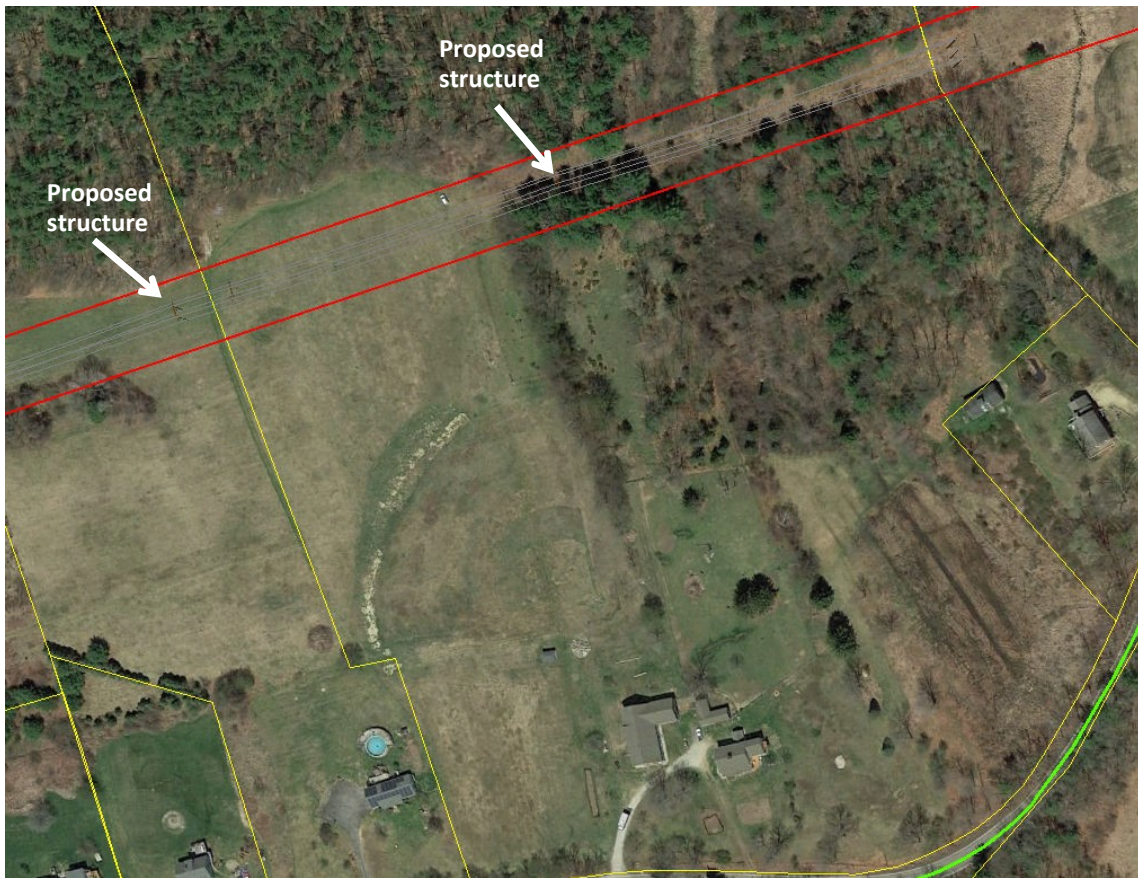
2015 Alfred Pickering Farm NHDHR Inventory Form, NWN0001, on file at New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources, Concord.

# Alfred Pickering Farm, Little Bay Road, Newington



Satellite image from Google Earth of the Alfred Pickering Farm and its boundary (black line), right of way (red lines) and the Project with proposed structures (red dots).





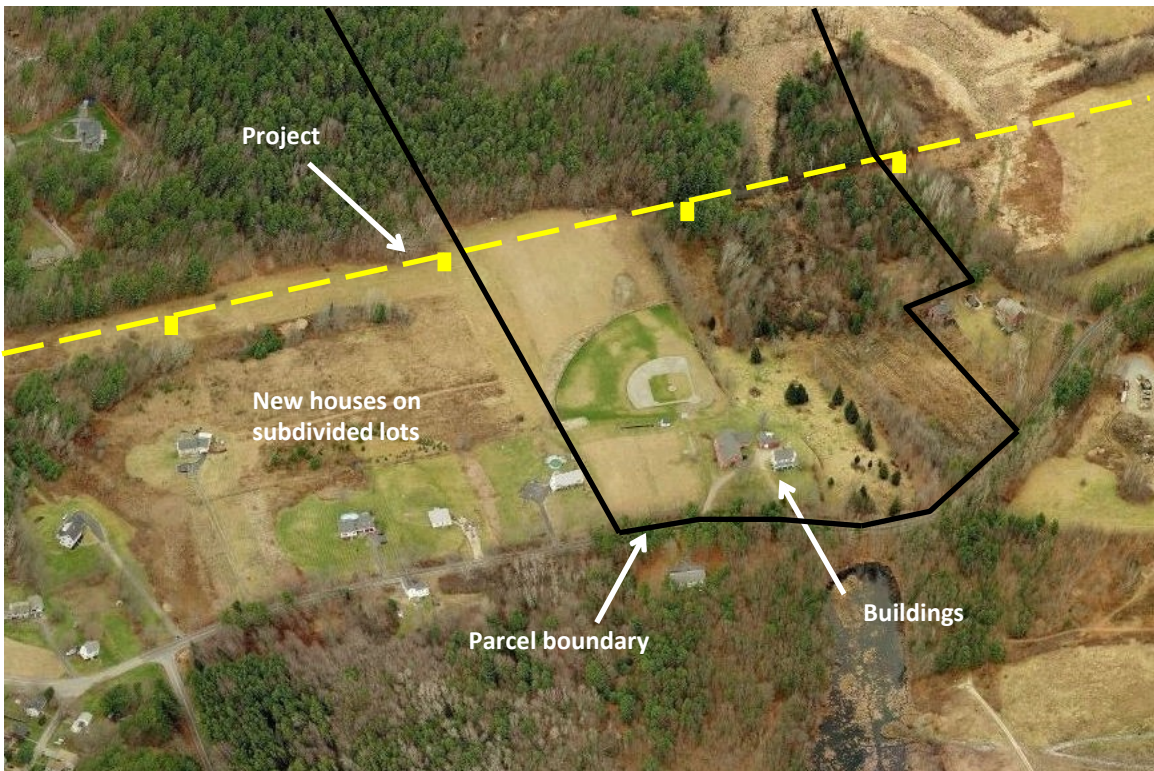
Google Earth satellite detail showing landscape in project corridor, property lines (yellow) and right of way (red)



Panoramic view with project location in back of field at left



View from driveway of existing distribution line behind barn, facing north, showing approximate structure location



Bing Bird's-eye satellite image, showing ballfield, now gone and new houses on subdivided lots, with project and approximate structure locations (yellow dotted line and squares) indicated