

**THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
BEFORE THE
NEW HAMPSHIRE
SITE EVALUATION COMMITTEE**

SEC DOCKET NO. 2019-02

**APPLICATION OF CHINOOK SOLAR, LLC FOR A CERTIFICATE OF SITE
AND FACILITY FOR THE CHINOOK SOLAR PROJECT IN FITZWILLIAM,
NEW HAMPSHIRE**

**PREFILED TESTIMONY OF STEPHEN A. OLAUSEN
ON BEHALF OF
CHINOOK SOLAR, LLC
OCTOBER 14, 2019**

1 Qualifications of Stephen A. Olausen

2 Q. Please state your name and business address.

3 A. My name is Stephen A. Olausen. My business address is Public Archaeology
4 Laboratory, 26 Main Street, Pawtucket, Rhode Island 02860.

5 Q. Who is your current employer and what position do you hold?

6 A. I am employed by Public Archaeology Laboratory (“PAL”) as the firm’s
7 Executive Director and Senior Architectural Historian.

8 Q. Please describe your responsibilities at PAL, including those that relate to the
9 Chinook Solar Project that is the subject of this docket.

10 A. In my role as a Senior Architectural Historian, I conduct cultural resource
11 management projects that require the identification, evaluation, and registration of
12 historical architectural and landscape properties. PAL was engaged by Chinook Solar,
13 LLC (“Chinook Solar”) to conduct a historic architectural properties survey and prepare a
14 New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources (“NHDHR”) Project Area Form
15 (“PAF”) for the proposed 30MW Chinook Solar Project in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire

1 (“the Project”). The PAF has been marked as Appendix 14F to the Application. Based on
2 the findings of the PAF, the NHDHR requested an Effects Evaluation package for one
3 property, the Fitzwilliam Common Historic District (“the District”), which PAL also
4 prepared and has been marked as Appendix 14H to the Application. As the result of these
5 activities, I am very familiar with the proposed Project, the historic property
6 identification effort, and the results of the evaluation of the potential effects of the Project
7 on the District.

8 **Q. What are your background and qualifications?**

9 A. I have been with PAL for 22 years. I have a Bachelor of Arts Degree in History
10 from Roanoke College and a Master of Arts in Applied History and Historic Preservation
11 from the University of South Carolina. I fully meet the Secretary of Interior’s
12 Professional Qualification Standards for history and archaeological history (36 CFR Part
13 61). I have extensive experience in managing projects that require review under state and
14 federal historic preservation laws, including the National Historic Preservation Act of
15 1966, Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act, and the National
16 Environmental Policy Act. I have conducted a vast number of survey, planning,
17 registration, and effects assessment projects for federal, state, and local agencies and
18 private corporations. This work has included services in support of various development
19 projects in the areas of transportation, wind, hydroelectric, solar, and carbon-based
20 electrical generation; electrical and natural gas transmission; military; civil engineering;
21 and private development. I have managed and served as lead author for a large number

1 of National Register of Historic Places (“National Register”) evaluation and
2 documentation projects, including many conducted for the National Park Service at some
3 of the nation’s most historically significant sites. Other areas of expertise include Historic
4 American Buildings Survey/Historic American Engineering Record (“HABS/HAER”)
5 documentation, state-level documentation, cultural resource environmental compliance
6 documentation, cultural resource management plans, expert testimony, and interpretive
7 exhibits and publications. More detail on my background and experience is included in
8 my resume, which is included as Attachment A to this testimony.

9 **Q. Have you previously testified before this Committee and/or any other state**
10 **permitting agencies?**

11 A. Yes, I provided testimony to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee
12 (“SEC” or “Committee”), regarding the effects of the proposed Public Service of New
13 Hampshire (“PSNH”) Merrimac Valley Reliability Project on historic architectural
14 properties (SEC Docket No. 2015-05). I have also provided testimony for proposed
15 electrical and gas transmission projects to the Vermont Public Utilities Commission
16 pursuant to 30 V.S.A. § 248 and Maine Board of Environmental Protection under the
17 state’s Site Location of Development Law (38 M.R.S.A. §§ 481-490).

18 **Purpose of Testimony**

19 **Q. What is the purpose of your testimony?**

20 A. The purpose of my testimony is to provide the Committee with the results of the
21 investigations that PAL conducted to identify historic architectural properties and assess

1 the Project's potential to cause undue adverse effects on properties that are listed or
2 eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places ("National Registers"). I
3 also address the contacts that were made with the Fitzwilliam Historic District
4 Commission ("the District Commission").

5 **Site Information**

6 **Q. Please describe the location and basic characteristics of the proposed Project**
7 **site.**

8 A. The Project is proposed to be located in Fitzwilliam, New Hampshire.
9 Specifically, the Project footprint is proposed to be located on approximately 110 acres of
10 private lands which are currently under either an option to purchase or an option to lease
11 agreement between Chinook Solar and each of five landowners. The total amount of land
12 subject to these agreements is in excess of 500 acres of land, though as noted above the
13 footprint of the proposed Project and thus the amount of land that will be cleared for the
14 Project is a much smaller portion of the land under agreement. The Project is a 30MW
15 electric generating facility, with the electricity to be generated through the use of solar
16 panels. In general, the Project site is one which has been actively forested for a number
17 of years. More information about the location and characteristics of the Project site and
18 surrounding area is contained in the Application. The Project as proposed would be
19 located southeast of the District by about 1.3 miles at its closest point and 2.75 miles at
20 its most distant point.

21 **The Project Area Form**

1 **Q. Did you or other members of PAL’s staff complete the historic architectural**
2 **properties survey and complete the PAF for this Project?**

3 A. Yes, a senior architectural historian and architectural historian conducted the
4 survey and completed the PAF under my direction.

5 **Q. What was the purpose of the PAF?**

6 A. The purpose of the PAF was to provide background on the previously inventoried
7 and listed historic properties, to discuss historical contexts and associated resource types,
8 and to recommend individual properties and/or areas for additional survey.

9 **Q. What was the study area for the PAF?**

10 A. The study area surveyed for the PAF consisted of a 2-mile radius surrounding the
11 Project site and was defined after a review of information about the Project, the physical
12 characteristics of the surrounding area, and a visual analysis prepared by Chinook Solar’s
13 visual consultant. The study area encompassed the Fitzwilliam town center to the
14 northwest and extended into the edges of the adjacent New Hampshire towns of Jaffrey
15 and Rindge. On behalf of Chinook Solar, PAL submitted information about the proposed
16 study area to NHDHR and received concurrence that it was sufficient to account for any
17 direct and indirect effects on historic properties on February 5, 2019. Based on this
18 concurrence, the Project’s Area of Potential Effects (“APE”) was determined to be
19 coterminous with the limits of the study area.

20 **Q. What were the results of the historic architectural survey?**

1 A. The methodology employed in completing the historic architectural survey and
2 the results of that investigation are described in the PAF, which is Appendix 14F to the
3 Application. In summary, the PAL team identified numerous properties within the study
4 area that are at least 50 years of age, which was the basic criterion for inclusion in the
5 survey because it is the minimum age a property must achieve to be considered for listing
6 in the National Register. Most of the properties did not meet any of the four National
7 Register criteria and no further evaluation was recommended for them. Two properties,
8 the District and the Third Fitzwilliam Meetinghouse, which is a contributing property
9 within the District, were previously listed in the National Register. The Fitzwilliam Town
10 Library/Daniel Spaulding House, which is also a contributing resource to the District,
11 was previously inventoried and determined eligible for individual listing the National
12 Register. The Fitzwilliam Village Local Historic District was established through local
13 ordinance in 1992 and encompasses 165 properties in the town center, including the
14 properties in the District. PAL also identified one area and seven individual properties
15 that have not been previously evaluated for further survey to determine whether they
16 meet any of the National Register criteria.

17 **Q. What recommendations did PAL make for additional survey or other**
18 **information that might be required for the Project?**

19 A. PAL recommended that no further survey was necessary because the Project was
20 unlikely to affect any of the properties included or potentially eligible for inclusion in the
21 National Register.

1 **Q. Did the NHDHR respond to the recommendations in PAF?**

2 A. Yes, the NHDHR's Determination of Eligibility Committee ("DOE Committee")
3 reviewed the PAF and transmitted its findings in a letter to PAL dated April 1, 2019. The
4 DOE Committee determined that no further inventory was required for the Project but
5 requested that an Effects Evaluation package be completed for the National Register-
6 listed Fitzwilliam Common Historic District. A copy of this letter is included as
7 Appendix 14G to the Application.

8 **Q. Please describe the Fitzwilliam Common Historic District.**

9 A. The District is located at the crossroads of State Route 119, State Route 12, and
10 Templeton Turnpike. It comprises the historic civic center of the Town of Fitzwilliam
11 and is made up of 23 contributing resources consisting of 20 buildings, three sites and
12 two non-contributing buildings. The buildings are organized around Fitzwilliam
13 Common, which is a one-acre, elongated triangle-shaped open space in the center of the
14 Town. The buildings were constructed in 1795 through 1880 and include a variety of
15 functional types that are associated with the District's history as the civic, social,
16 religious, and commercial center of the Town. The District is listed in the National
17 Register under Criterion C in the areas of architecture and community planning. For a
18 property to be eligible for the National Register, it must meet at least one of the four
19 National Register main criteria. Criterion C concerns the architectural or engineering
20 significance of properties that embody distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or
21 method of construction; are examples of the work of a master; possess high artistic

1 values; or represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack
2 individual distinction.

3 **Evaluation of the Effects of the Project on the District**

4 **Q. Did you conduct the Effects Evaluation requested by NHDHR?**

5 A. Yes.

6 **Q. Please describe how the Effects Evaluation was conducted.**

7 A. The objective was to evaluate whether the Project would cause any direct or
8 indirect effects on the District. Effects on historic properties are assessed by applying the
9 criteria of adverse effect defined in the regulations governing Section 106 of the National
10 Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR Part 800). Under the criteria, “an
11 adverse effect is found when an undertaking may alter, directly or indirectly, any of the
12 characteristics of a historic property that qualify the property for inclusion in the National
13 Register in a manner that would diminish the integrity of the property’s location, design,
14 setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association” (36 CFR 800.5(a)(1)). Due to
15 the nature of the Project and its location more than one mile from the District, there was
16 no likelihood that the Project would cause damage or another other direct physical
17 impacts to the District. Therefore, the Effects Evaluation focused on determining whether
18 views of the Project to or from the District could directly or indirectly affect the District’s
19 setting or other aspect of its integrity.

20 I visited the site on May 15, 2019 to inspect the current condition of the District
21 and potential views to and from the District to the Project site. The evaluation of effects

1 was aided by viewshed analyses and photo simulations supplied by Chinook Solar's
2 visual consultant, T.J. Boyle Associates. The results were presented using the NHDHR's
3 standard effect evaluation table, descriptive text, and supplementary photographs, maps,
4 and photo simulation graphics. Together, the materials formed the Effects Evaluation
5 package requested by NHDHR and reproduced in Appendix 14H to the Application.

6 **Q. What were the findings of the Effects Evaluation?**

7 A. The Project has no potential to cause direct or indirect effects on the District. The
8 Project is located more than one-mile from the District and none of its elements has the
9 potential to cause direct physical damage or alterations that would diminish any
10 characteristic of the District's integrity. The Project will also not be visible from any
11 location in the District, with the possible exception of the belfry tower of the Third
12 Fitzwilliam Meetinghouse, and will therefore have not direct or indirect impacts on the
13 District's setting. The elevations of the highest points in the District and the Project are
14 about equal (1,195 ft.) and the intervening hill, even without factoring in any vegetation,
15 would block most views of the Project from the District. When vegetation and other
16 buildings are taken into account there are no potential views of the Project from any part
17 of the District at ground level. The potential view from the tower of the Third
18 Fitzwilliam Meetinghouse, which is not accessible to the public and was not designed to
19 function as a viewing point, is not a characteristic of the District's significance or
20 integrity. Any view from that vantage point would be limited to an interruption in the tree
21 cover due to clearing for the Project and the solar panels would likely not be visible

1 below the surrounding tree line. Moreover, the view in that vicinity has already been
2 modified by the presence of transmission line structures. Finally, long distance views to
3 or from the District are not character-defining features of significance. The District is
4 listed in the National Register under Criterion C because it contains a highly intact and
5 cohesive collection of historic vernacular architectural resources and function property
6 types organized around and oriented around a central common. Because the setting, as an
7 aspect of its integrity and significance, is limited to the immediate environs, the only
8 important views are those that can be observed from within or approaching the District.
9 Based on these factors, I recommended a finding for the Project of “No Historic
10 Properties Affected,” pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) and in accordance with the
11 guidance for completing NHDHR’s Results of Effect Evaluation form.

12 **Q. Did NHDHR review and comment on the Effects Evaluation package?**

13 Yes. By letter dated July 29, 2019, NHDHR stated that it concurs with the finding of No
14 Historic Properties Affected, as justified in the Effects Evaluation package. A copy of
15 this letter is included as Appendix 14I to the Application.

16 **Contacts with the Fitzwilliam Historic District Commission**

17 **Q. Did Chinook Solar contact the District Commission?**

18 A. Yes, Chinook Solar reached out to the District Commission on August 29, 2019.
19 No response from the District Commission has been received to date.

20 **Conclusion**

1 **Q. In your opinion, will the Project have an unreasonable adverse effect on**
2 **historic sites?**

3 A. No. Based upon the information set forth in the PAF, Effects Evaluation,
4 consultation with NHDHR, and my testimony above, the Project will not have an
5 unreasonable adverse effect upon historic sites.

6 **Q. Does this conclude your testimony?**

7 A. Yes, this concludes my testimony at this time, though I reserve the right to file
8 supplemental testimony in accordance with the Committee's procedural schedule.

ATTACHMENT A

STEPHEN A. OLAUSEN

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR/SENIOR ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

EDUCATION

MA, University of South
Carolina, Applied History and
Historic Preservation, 1988

BA, Roanoke College,
History, 1984

EXPERIENCE

Years with PAL: 22
Years Experience: 32

CERTIFICATION

Basic First Aid - American
Red Cross

Adult CPR -American Red
Cross

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(e)
40-Hour Hazardous
Waste/Emergency Response

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.120(e)
8-Hour Hazardous
Waste/Emergency Response
Supervisor

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Section 106: Working with
the Revised Regulations

Workshop on the New 36
CFR Part 800: Highlights of
Changes

Federal Energy Regulatory
Commission Section 106
Compliance Seminar

New Hampshire Division of
Historical Resources Project
Review (Section 106)
Architectural Historian
Consultant Continuing
Education

As a PAL Senior Architectural Historian and Project Manager, Mr. Olausen conducts cultural resource management projects that require consideration of historic architectural and landscape properties. He also serves as PAL's Executive Director and oversees the administrative operations of the firm, including the information systems, production, and human resources departments. Mr. Olausen has extensive experience in the coordination of projects requiring review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the National Environmental Policy Act, and Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act. His project responsibilities include the preparation of technical proposals; project administration and communication; and supervision of PAL's architectural history staff in conducting project research, fieldwork, and report production. He is fully qualified under the Secretary of Interior's Professional Qualification Standards (36 CFR Part 61 Appendix A).

Mr. Olausen's experience includes the completion of more than 200 historic property survey and evaluation projects, more than 150 successful National Register of Historic Places nominations, and a large number of HABS/HAER and state-level documentation projects. Other areas of expertise include the preparation of cultural resource management plans, Section 106 documentation reports, Section 4(f) statements, architectural design guidelines, historic preservation tax incentive certifications, and the development of interpretive educational materials and displays for the purpose of disseminating information about cultural resources and the work that PAL performs to the general public.

Olausen's compliance work in New Hampshire has included a variety of services and project types. These projects have included work conducted in association with the Manchester Airport Expansion Project in Manchester; Winnicut Dam Removal Project in Greenland; South Concord Redevelopment Area in Concord; and electrical transmission line projects in several areas of the state for National Grid. Since 1997 he has served as the lead CRM consultant for hydroelectric developments on the Connecticut River currently owned by TransCanada Hydro Northeast, Inc. He has conducted numerous surveys, evaluations, and effect assessments for proposed cell tower locations in the state. Work conducted directly for federal agencies in New Hampshire has included a statewide survey of Revolutionary War/War of 1812 Battlefields for the National Park Service, Wiswall Dam Project for the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Services, and a survey and evaluation of Shore Facilities along the New Hampshire coastline for the U.S. Coast Guard.

Olausen's experience in New Hampshire includes managing historic property evaluation surveys and cultural landscape studies for the Northern Pass Transmission Project; preparation of National Register documentation for Saint-Gaudens National Historic Site in Cornish, New Hampshire for the National Park Service; a National Register nomination for the Nansen Ski Jump Historic Site and DHR Historic District Area forms for Crawford Notch State Park and Fort Stark Historic Site for the Division of Parks and Recreation; cultural resource investigations for the relicensing of the Vernon, Bellows Falls, and Wilder Hydroelectric Projects for TransCanada Hydro Northeast; cell tower construction projects in Sutton, Rumney, and Whitefield for Industrial Communications, Inc.; and the Wiswall Falls and Camp Anne Jackson dam removal projects for the U.S. Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.