



November 3, 2010

Ida E. McDonnell
Manager, Air Permits, Toxics and Indoor Programs Unit
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region I
5 Post Office Square, Suite 100
Boston, MA 02109-3912

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
William Francis Galvin, Secretary of the Commonwealth
Massachusetts Historical Commission

Attn: Donald Dahl

RE: Pioneer Valley Energy Center, Ampad Road, Westfield, MA. MHC # RC.43441. EEA#14151.
EPA Permit #052-042-MA14.

Dear Ms. McDonnell:

Thank you for submitting a request for consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800), to the Massachusetts Historical Commission, office of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), received November 8, 2010, for the project referenced above. The proposed project consists of the construction and operation of a 431 MW combined cycle gas turbine facility and associated infrastructure, including water and natural gas line construction within existing utility right-of-ways, off Ampad Road in Westfield. MHC has previously reviewed an Environmental Notification Form (ENF), a draft Environmental Impact Report and final Environmental Impact Report for the project in 2007, 2008 and 2009 under the Massachusetts Environmental Policy Act (MEPA).

Review of project information included in EPA's draft Prevention of Significant Deterioration permit indicates that the project has not substantially changed since MHC's 2009 review. Review of MHC files determined that a reconnaissance archaeological survey was conducted in 1998 for a previously proposed energy generation project within and adjacent to the currently proposed project impact area. Results of the survey indicate that portions of the current project impact area include wetlands and have been subject to previous impacts, included landscaping, earthmovement and grading associated with construction of the current transmission line right-of-way. MHC recommends no archaeological survey for the project as proposed.

The project is proposed within a portion of Westfield that includes substantial industrial development. As construction of the power generation facility is proposed within the existing developed industrial area, in MHC's opinion the project is unlikely to affect significant historic properties. MHC recommends that EPA make a determination of "no historic properties affected" (36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), for the project as proposed.

These comments are provided to assist in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (36 CFR 800). If you have questions please contact Jonathan K. Patton at this office.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Brona Simon".

Brona Simon
State Historic Preservation Officer
Executive Director
State Archaeologist
Massachusetts Historical Commission

xc: Matthew Palmer, PVEC
Dammon M. Frecker, ESS Group, Inc.
Secretary Ian A. Bowles, EEA, Attn: Holly Johnson, MEPA Unit
DEP-WERO, BRP
George Green, Jr. THPO, Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe
Bettina Washington, THPO, WTGH(A)
Westfield Historical Commission

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