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DIRECTOR

April 25, 2011

Department of Conservation
Maine Land Use Regulation Commission
Attn: Frederick W. Todd
22 State House Station
Augusta, ME 04333-0022

Project: MHPC #1325-09 – Bowers Wind Project, Pre-contact, Euro American, and
historic architectural surveys
Town: Carroll Plantation and Kossuth Township, Penobscot and Washington counties, ME

Dear Mr. Todd:

In response to your recent request, I have reviewed the information received March 4, 14, and 15, 2011 to continue consultation on the above referenced project pursuant to the requirements of the Maine Land Use Regulation Commission and Maine law 35-A MRSA §3451 and §3452.

Identification of Historic Properties

The Commission agrees with the conclusion of the Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey that the following resources are either listed in or were previously determined eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historic Places:

- Springfield Congregational Church, Main Road, Springfield, (NR listed)
- Carroll Congregational Church, Main Road/State Route 6, Carroll Plantation, Survey Map No. 080-0013 (previously determined eligible)
- Farmstead, 166 North Road, Carroll Plantation, Survey Map Nos. 080-0029 thru 080-0029b (previously determined eligible)
- House, Lee Road/State Route 6, Springfield, Survey Map No. 406-0004 (previously determined eligible)
- Forest Lodge 148, Park Street/State Route 6, Springfield, Survey Map No. 406-0007 (previously determined eligible)
- Springfield Fair, Park Street/State Route 6, Springfield, Survey Map No. 406-0014 (previously determined eligible)

In addition to the properties noted above, the architectural survey also identified the farmstead at 483 Brown Road, Carroll Plantation (Survey Map Nos. 8-10) as being eligible for listing in the Register. The Commission does not agree with this conclusion, as it appears from the information provided to us that both the house and particularly the barn have been substantially altered. We do not believe that they possess sufficient integrity to merit listing in

the Register.

The Commission believes that the following newly surveyed properties may be eligible for listing in the Register, although further information would be necessary to confirm this preliminary assessment:

- Farmstead, Bottle Lake Road, Lakeville, Survey Map Nos. 23-27. This farmstead appears to be comprised of a wooden frame residence, and at least three detached historic buildings all of which seem, based on the photographs provided, to retain integrity. More information about the history of this farmstead, and better photographs of the several buildings would need to be provided to confirm its eligibility under Criterion A and possibly C.
- Barn, 773 Bottle Lake Road, Lakeville, Survey Map No. 34. We do not agree with the architectural survey report that this barn lacks significance. Of the relatively few barns in the survey area, this example appears to retain integrity and “embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction....” It would be eligible under Criterion C.

The Commission concurs with the survey report that no other above ground historic properties in the APE are eligible for listing in the Register.

We note that field #49 (Farm Acreage) on the farmstead survey forms was not completed. If the applicant provides this information for the newly surveyed farmsteads, we will add this information to the appropriate forms.

Regarding archaeological resources, the archaeological assessment reports (Phase 0 historic archaeology, Wheeler and Kramer; Phase IA prehistoric archaeology, Will) are acceptable as written. We accept their recommendations. Specifically, stream crossings for the express collector corridor at Tolman Brook and Lindsey Brook need further archaeological field checks and/or testpit excavation, once those locations are better specified. This is the only further archaeological work necessary for this project.

Assessment of Project Effects

It is our understanding that 35 M.R.S.A. §3451.9.B. limits LURC’s consideration of a wind project’s effect on historic properties to those that are listed in the National Register of Historic Places. Unlike Federal law, the referenced statute apparently does not allow for the consideration of historic properties that were either previously determined to be eligible for listing in the Register or that were identified during the course of resource investigations. Thus, and unless advised otherwise, our comments to LURC are confined to project effects on the Springfield Congregational Church.

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- Springfield Congregational Church – the Historic Architectural Reconnaissance Survey report states on page 22 that the “proposed turbines would not be visible in views to this property or from the surrounding area.” The Visual Impact Assessment also states that “There will be no visibility of the Project from this location due to intervening topography and surrounding vegetation.” Based on the information provided to use, the Commission concurs with this conclusion.

We look forward to receiving the additional survey information for archaeological resources as requested above.

It is the Commission’s understanding that the Bowers Wind project will be required to obtain a permit from the US Army Corps of Engineers, thus making it an “undertaking” as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.16(y) subject to review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended. That review will examine effects on historic properties in the area of potential effects that are both listed in and eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, including some or all of those listed above.

If you have any questions regarding our comments, please contact Robin Stancampiano of our staff.

Sincerely,



Kirk F. Mohney
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer

Cc: Jay Clement, US Army Corps of Engineers
Joy Prescott, Stantec Consulting