

Preserving America's Heritage

January 13, 2016

Mr. Brian Mills
Senior Planning Advisor
U.S. Department of Energy
Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability
National Electricity Delivery Division
1000 Independence Ave SW (OE-20)
Washington, DC 20585

Ref: *Proposed New England Clean Power Link Project*
State of Vermont

Dear Mr. Mills:

On December 1, 2015, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) received a response from the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) to our inquiry regarding the executed Programmatic Agreement (PA) for the referenced undertaking. It is regrettable that the DOE did not receive our previous correspondence in March 2015 requesting additional information about the project. In this letter, we had concerns about the DOE's procedural compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and its implementing regulations, "Protection of Historic Properties" (36 CFR Part 800).

The DOE's recent correspondence advancing the Section 106 review fails to provide the background information we previously requested, which is consistent with 36 CFR Section 800.11(e), the ACHP's regulations implementing Section 106 of the NHPA. Therefore, we again request that the DOE provide us the following background information to ensure that the requirements of Section 106 are met:

- How did the DOE identify and consult with other consulting parties, such as statewide preservation organizations and representatives of local governments?
- How did the DOE consult with federally recognized tribes which may have properties of religious and cultural significance affected by the undertaking?
- How did the DOE inform the public of the Section 106 review and the undertaking's potential effects to historic properties?
- How did the DOE incorporate comments and concerns expressed by the Vermont State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) into the final PA?

ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HISTORIC PRESERVATION

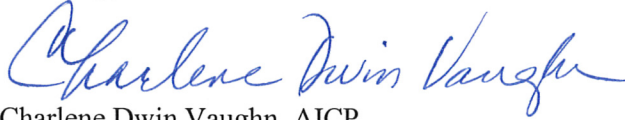
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Until this information is received and clarifies the DOE's measures to comply with Section 106, we cannot consider the PA as having been filed with us. Accordingly, we look forward to your timely response to that we may determine whether or not consultation for this PA should be re-opened.

If you have any questions about our comments, please contact Ms. Jaime Loichinger at (202) 517-0219 or via email at jloichinger@achp.gov.

Sincerely,



Charlene Dwin Vaughn, AICP
Assistant Director
Office of Federal Agency Programs
Federal Permitting, Licensing and Assistance Section