

MEMORANDUM

To: Howard Bergendahl, VELCO

From: Hope Luhman, Berger
N. Rinehart, Berger

Subject: Route Changes, Lamoille

Date: June 24, 2008

CC: File XE-3817

Please find the included assessments of the most recent proposed modifications to the Lamoille County Project (LCP). The Louis Berger Group, Inc. (Berger), has completed a review of available documentary material (Berger 2006 and 2007, Frink 2004), and completed score sheets according to the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation's (VT DHP) *Environmental Predictive Model for Locating Precontact Archaeological Sites* to define the sensitivity of the project area for precontact resources based upon the presence or proximity of a range of environmental factors. The following assessments are designated by their sheet numbers from the *Environmental Compliance Plans: Lamoille County Project, From Duxbury to Stowe, Vermont (revised 6-29-07)*. Berger offers the following synopsis and opinion.

Sheet 1.0

VELCO proposes to alter the proposed right-of-way (ROW), moving it about 50 meters (165 feet) to the northwest where the line crosses River Road. The ROW will therefore cross an existing horse track at roughly 43 meters (140 feet) as opposed to 90 meters (290 feet) to the south of the Winooski River. Interviews with the landowner and a representative from the National Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) indicated that the landform, which the roughly 122 meters (400 feet) of ROW crosses, was subjected to gravel mining and landscaping over the last 10 years (Berger 2006:24; 2007:7). As a result the original terrace overlooking the Winooski is no longer present and the horse track rests on fill put in place after the parcel was mined. For the Phase IB investigation, Berger emplaced nine (9) shovel tests across the ROW, four (4) to test outside to the east of the horse track and five (5) to test within the horse track. Berger excavated these shovel tests at 30-meter (100-foot) intervals with the intention of excavating additional shovel tests at 10-meter (33-foot) intervals if the initial tests did not indicate a consistent presence of fill across the entire landform. All nine (9) shovel tests encountered gravel fill verifying Berger's initial interpretations and no additional tests were excavated. Despite moving the ROW northwest, the ROW remains within the landform tested by Berger during its Phase IB investigation, which continues to the southwest up to the ridge that leads to River Road. As a result, Berger does not recommend additional testing of the proposed ROW shift. The evidence provided by Berger's (2007) Phase IB findings coupled with the observation that the landform encompassing the horse track continues up to River Road does not support the emplacement of additional tests.

Sheet 11.0

VELCO proposes to alter the proposed ROW where it crosses the Little River just east of Moscow, Vermont. The proposed changes will move the ROW about 25 meters (80 feet) to the east, moving the line away from the western shore of the Little River and onto the eastern shore. Testing on both sides of the Little River in Areas U and V uncovered evidence of recent (modern) alluvium, including sandy loam and sand to coarse sand with large amounts of gravel. The water table was encountered in some shovel tests as well as late nineteenth century to modern artifacts at depths of a meter (Berger 2007). The evidence produced by these tests does not support the emplacement of additional tests along the Little River.

References

Frink, Douglas

2004 *Draft, Phase IA Archaeological Site Sensitivity Study of the Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc. (VELCO) Greater Lamoille County 115kV Project between Duxbury, Washington County, and Stowe, Lamoille County, Vermont.* Prepared by the Archaeology Consulting Team, Inc., Essex Junction, Vermont. On file at The Louis Berger Group, Inc., Albany, New York.

The Louis Berger Group, Inc. [Berger]

2006 *Archaeological Resource Assessment and Scope of Work, Lamoille County 115kV Project, Lamoille and Washington Counties, Vermont.* Report submitted to the Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc., 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road. Rutland, Vermont 05701.

2007 *Phase IB Archaeological Investigation, Lamoille County 115kV Project, Lamoille and Washington Counties, Vermont.* Report submitted to the Vermont Electric Power Company, Inc., 366 Pinnacle Ridge Road. Rutland, Vermont 05701.