



MEMO

DATE: August 19, 2021  
TO: Jacob Reed, VELCO  
FROM: WSP USA Inc.  
**SUBJECT: Summary of Findings and Recommendations from Archaeological Resource Assessments, Phase IB Archaeological Survey, and Architectural Surveys at the VELCO Florence Substation**

---

On behalf of Vermont Transco, LLC. and Vermont Electric Power Company (collectively referred to as VELCO), WSP completed two Archaeological Resource Assessments (ARAs), a Phase IB archaeological survey, and two Architectural Surveys in support of VELCO's Florence Substation Expansion Project (Project) in the Town of Pittsford, Rutland County, Vermont.

### **ARAs and Phase IB Archaeological Survey**

In 2015 Louis Berger (now WSP) completed an ARA of a 2.1-hectare (5.1-acre) parcel surrounding the Florence substation and its access road, located off Whipple Hollow Road. Louis Berger concluded that the majority of the project area was not sensitive for precontact or historical archaeological sites but that a small area of 0.17 hectare (0.41 acre) was archaeologically sensitive. In 2016 Louis Berger investigated that sensitive area with a Phase IB survey, which identified no significant archaeological resources. Identified Site VT-RU-685, a modest twentieth-century deposit, was determined not significant and therefore not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

In 2021 WSP conducted an ARA for two subdivision parcels covering a total area of 6.9 hectares (17 acres) surrounding the Florence Substation. The ARA determined that the two parcels consist of either very steep slope, saturated wetland soils, or areas built up over wetland to accommodate the Florence Substation and associated access road. It was WSP's opinion that the two parcels were not sensitive for archaeological resources and that no further archaeological survey was needed for those parcels.

### **Architectural Surveys**

In 2015 WSP completed an architectural resource survey for the Florence Substation to identify architectural resources (properties) in the APE that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP. Historical aerial imagery was used to determine which buildings located within a 0.25-mile radius of the substation are more than 50 years old. United States Geological Survey (USGS) aerial images from 1960 show that at that time four structures were located within the 0.25-mile radius. All of these buildings were marked on current maps, then surveyed and documented. In WSP's opinion none of the four properties surveyed met eligibility criteria for listing in the NRHP, primarily because they lacked integrity of materials and design; some had been altered with new siding materials and roofs, replacement windows, and additions.

WSP completed an updated architectural resource survey in association with the Florence Substation Expansion project in 2021. The updated survey covered an expanded visual area of

potential effect (APE) consisting of the areas within a 0.25-mile radius around the Florence Substation parcel and the two proposed subdivision parcels covered by the 2021 ARA surrounding the substation. Only one property was identified that had not been previously surveyed. That identified property did not meet eligibility criteria for listing in the NRHP, primarily because it lacked integrity of materials and design.

### **Conclusion**

Two Archaeological Resource Assessments (ARAs), a Phase IB archaeological survey, and two Architectural Surveys in support of VELCO's Florence Substation Expansion Project conducted by WSP identified no significant (i.e., eligible for listing in the NRHP) archaeological or architectural resources in areas surrounding the expansion project. These five surveys separately covered a 2.1-hectare (5.1-acre) parcel surrounding the Florence substation and its access road, located off Whipple Hollow Road; two subdivision parcels covering a total area of 6.9 hectares (17 acres) surrounding the Florence Substation; the area within a 0.25-mile radius of the substation; and the area within a 0.25-mile radius of the Florence Substation parcel and two proposed subdivision parcels.