

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Governor

**David A. Paterson** 

Carol Ash Commissioner

Historic Preservation Field Services Bureau -Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

518-237-8643 www.nysparks.com

April 9, 2008

Patrick J. Heaton John Milner Associates, Inc. One Croton Point Ave., Suite B Croton-on-Hudson, New York 10520-3028

Re:

**SEQRA** 

Roaring Brook Wind Farm/39 Turbines/78MW Multiple Locations/MARTINSBURG, Lewis

County 08PR00731

Dear Mr. Heaton:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the Field Services bureau Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation (OPRHP) as part of your SEQRA process. These comments are those of the Field Services Bureau and relate only to Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include potential environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8) and its implementing regulations (6 NYCRR Part 617). Please be advised that if state or federal agency involvement occurs the project will also be evaluated under New York State Historic Preservation Act of 1980 (Section 14.09 of the New York Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation Law) or Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

At this time we have completed our review of the building resource information associated with the survey area for the project as defined in our generic wind farm survey guidance. As of this date we have not received a formal recommendation from potential state or federal agencies that may be involved in this undertaking as to the extent of the project they have determined (if any) to constitute the area of potential effect/impact. If such agency involvement occurs and they determine that their area of impact/effect differs (extends beyond) the area evaluated additional survey work may be required and supplemental comments will be issued by this office.

The evaluated survey area, as defined by our generic survey guidance, was a five-mile ring drawn around each of the individual turbine sites. The outer edges of these circles are connected thus producing a five-mile survey area around the entire project. It was also recommended that for an analysis of potential visual impacts to historic resources that the next step was to determine sight lines based on topographic features and the locations and maximum heights of each turbine. It is expected that any survey of potential visual analysis would also include the guidance established by the New York State Department of Environmental Conservation under their program policy titled: Assessing and Mitigating Visual Impacts.

Based on the survey report titled "Roaring Brook Wind Farm, Historic Architectural Resources Survey" dated December 2007 a total of 5 historic properties were identified by the report as being within the defined project survey area. OPRHP has determined that all 5 resources meet the criteria for inclusion in the New York State and National Register of Historic Places. These resources include:

Report No.	Name	Location
R1	St. Patrick's Cemetery	Martinsburg
R2	6371 Poor Road	Martinsburg
R3	2176 Pitcher Road	Montague
R4	2705 Rector Road	Montague
R5	Gardner Corners Cemetery	Montague

After reviewing the information provided we have determined that the proposed wind farm development will not have an adverse impact on the five identified historic resources. Our decision is based on the sparse nature of resource distribution in the survey area, proximity of the 5 identified resources to the turbine locations, and the existing topographic conditions.

At this point in time we have concluded our evaluation of potential impacts to the *built environment* and are still in the process of evaluating the potential impacts to archaeological resources. Once our review of this information is completed we will issue a final comment on the potential impacts to archaeological resources as well as a final comment on the overall impacts that this project may have to historic/cultural resources.

If you should have questions regarding our evaluation process or the basis for our effect recommendation, please do not hesitate to contact me at 518-237-8643, ext.3263.

Sincerely,

John A. Bonafide

Historic Preservation Services

Coordinator