



The University of Vermont

August 24, 2015

**To:** VGS ARNGP Phase I Project File

**From:** Dr. John G. Crock, Director, UVM Consulting Archaeology Program

**RE:** Archaeological Assessment for Project Changes

Vermont Gas Systems, Inc., Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project- Phase 1 (Docket No. 7970)

The University of Vermont Consulting Archaeology Program (“UVM CAP”) has prepared this memorandum to provide an assessment of the potential impacts to archaeological sites and historic properties by 18 proposed changes to the Vermont Gas Systems, Inc. (“VGS”) Addison Rutland Natural Gas Project Phase 1 (the “Project”). This assessment supplements my previous testimony and exhibits concerning the review of the Project’s impacts to archaeological and historic resources as required under 30 V.S.A. Section 248.

The Project changes reviewed in this assessment are summarized in the Non-Substantial Change Summary Memorandum prepared by Mr. John Stamatov on behalf of VGS dated August 24, 2015, and described in detail in the change summary table provided as Attachment 1A to Mr. Stamatov’s memorandum.

Based on my review, while two of the proposed changes are located in the vicinity of significant archaeological sites, the proposed changes do not have the potential for significant impact on archaeological sites or historic properties. The two proposed changes located in the vicinity of significant archaeological sites include the proposed alignment change PH1-22(2), where the corridor passes through a portion of site VT-CH-103 on the Hazen (LLN 111) property in Hinesburg, and proposed Natural Resources Data Update PH1-NAN2 which includes Project area near site VT-AD-1623 on the Latreille (LLN 138) property in Monkton. Both of these sites were identified within the Project’s Area of Potential Effects (APE) in the course of archaeological Phase I/II studies for the Project and provision already has been made to mitigate the Project’s effects on significant archaeological site deposits at each site through archaeological Phase III Data Recovery. Following established protocol, a detailed plan for archaeological Phase III Data Recovery at these sites was developed in conjunction with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation, consistent with archaeological mitigation that already has been conducted or is planned at other significant archaeological sites within the Project area.

As a result of the review of the other 16 proposed Non-Substantial Changes for the Project, consisting of five alignment changes, four mainline valve changes and seven access road changes, I find that the proposed changes do not require any new or additional archaeological investigation beyond that which was anticipated prior to the proposed non-substantial changes. With regard to historic properties, the proposed non-substantial changes will have no effect.

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