

 ORIGINAL

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FEDERAL ENERGY
REGULATORY COMMISSION

RE: Wilder Project, (FERC NO. 1892-026)

TransCanada Hydro Northeast Inc.'s Cultural and Historic Resources
Study, Study #33, filed with FERC on March 23, 2016

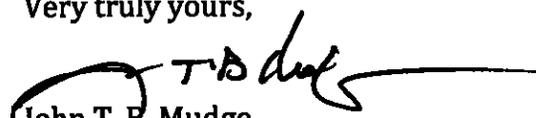
DATE: March 28, 2016

CONTENTS: Landowner's comments, (comment period ends July 15, 2016).

To the reader:

For further information or to visit the Mudge fields and the site of some of the archaeological work referred to on the following pages please contact me at the above address and phone.

Very truly yours,


John T. B. Mudge

Comments: Landowner comments re Study #33, Cultural & Historic Resources Study, Wilder Project, 1892-026

I believe that there are two problems with the Cultural and Historic Resources as filed with FERC on March 23, 2016.

On March 23, 2016 TransCanada released the Phase IB Archaeological Identification Surveys for the Wilder, Bellows Falls, and Vernon Hydroelectric Projects. TransCanada, in its letter of March 23, 2016, has recommended a comment period until July 15, 2016, for study reports filed between March 2 and May 15, 2016. This letter is in response to that study / survey.

The two problems:

- I. The study may be incomplete, what about Phase II?
- II. As the study is classified as "PRIVILEGED," it is not available to parties that may wish to comment about it.

I. The Study May Be Incomplete

The cover letters released on March 23, 2016, all refer only to Phase IB. This includes the following five letters all sent to FERC by TransCanada:

1. March 23, 2016, J. Ragonese, TransCanada, to FERC
2. March 23, 2016, J. Ragonese, TransCanada, to Narragansett Indian Tribe
3. March 23, 2016, J. Ragonese, TransCanada, to The Nolumbeka Project Inc.
4. March 14, 2016, S. Olausen, of the Public Archaeology Laboratory (PAL), to L. Trieschman, State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation
5. October 29, 2015, Deborah Cox, PAL transmittal letter to N. H. Division of Historical Resources

On October 17, 2014, Brandon Kibbe, Land Agent for TransCanada, requested permission for PAL to do archaeological work on the Mudge property in Lyme, New Hampshire, as part of Phase I. Permission was given on October 25, 2014, and different organizations were notified of the planned archaeological work. Richard Boisvert, New Hampshire State Archaeologist, and Jeanie McIntyre, President of the Upper Valley Land Trust that holds a conservation easement on the land, both agreed to this work in their letters of May 13, 2015, and May 29, 2015.

Employees of PAL were on the Mudge property for one week in July 2015.

As a result of the findings in July 2015, PAL and others determined that a “Phase II” archaeological study was warranted. In his letter of October 14, 2015, Brandon Kibbe of TransCanada requested permission for a “Phase II” study, “very similar to the work previously conducted on your property, this time focused in the area where artifacts were previously discovered.” Permission for “Phase II” work was given on October 19, 2015.

The above Phase II work had not yet begun when, on October 29, 2015, PAL sent a “draft” report of its findings to the NH Division of Historical Resources. How could a report that was delivered in October 2015 include any discussion of work that was done in November 2015? Did that draft report indicate that there was to be a Phase II project?

Employees of PAL were on the Mudge property for two weeks in November 2015. During that period Richard Boisvert, New Hampshire State Archaeologist, visited the site.

The cover letters, all listed above, make reference only to Phase IB.

Furthermore, regarding Phase II, Olausen’s letter of March 14, 2016, to the State of Vermont Division for Historic Preservation reads: “We would like to begin the Phase II field investigations as soon as possible.” Obviously there is still work to be done on sites in Vermont.

Therefore, the study report of historic and archaeological sites that has recently been filed may be incomplete if it does not include the following:

- 1) Findings from the Phase II work, that was requested by Kibbe in October 2015 and performed by PAL in November 2015, on the Mudge property in New Hampshire,

and

- 2) Findings from Phase II work not yet begun, as indicated in Olausen’s letter, on unspecified sites in Vermont.

II. The Study / Survey is Classified as "Privileged:"

The March 23, 2016, letter to FERC indicates that the cover letters are "public," but that the "surveys" are "privileged," and only the five letters listed above were released on March 23, 2016.

There is no mention of anything being "privileged" in any of the other correspondence.

None of the cover letters to the Naragansett Indian Tribe, the Nolumbeka Project, the Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, or the New Hampshire Division of Historical Resources uses the word "privileged."

The 2014 and 2015 letters from Kibbe (TransCanada) requesting permission for the work on the Mudge property never suggested that the findings would be "privileged."

The letters from Boisvert and McIntyre never suggest that the work should be or would be "privileged."

Lastly, the landowner, the Mudge family, never requested that this work be "privileged."

Since the surveys/reports are "privileged" and can not be reviewed by many people, including the landowner, how is it possible for anyone to make any comments about them.

I am left asking two questions:

Why is it that I or any other landowner who grants permission for such work on their property is not provided unrestricted access to the findings?

What is the purpose of a "comment period" if nobody has access to the material on which they might want to comment?


John T. B. Mudge

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