



North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources  
State Historic Preservation Office

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary D. Reid Wilson

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary, Darin J. Waters, Ph.D.

February 21, 2022

Susanne Knudsen  
S&ME, Inc.

[sknudsen@smeinc.com](mailto:sknudsen@smeinc.com)

Re: Construct an 80 MW Solar Photovoltaic Electric Generating Facility, 1679 NC Highway 24-27  
East, adjacent to Chicken Farm Road and Coggins Road, Biscoe, Montgomery County, ER 21-1329

Dear Ms. Knudsen:

Thank you for your letter dated December 22, 2021, concerning the above-referenced project. We have reviewed the information provided and offer the following comments.

Two archaeological resources have been previously recorded within the project area, 31MG64 and 31MG65. Neither of these sites have been assessed as to their National Register of Historic Places eligibility. Additionally, sketch maps drawn at the time the archaeological sites were recorded (c. 1955) show several tenant houses were present within the project area that may contain intact archaeological deposits.

Although portions of the project area appear to be excessively sloped and disturbed by erosion or other ground disturbance, other portions contain landforms and soils that have a high probability for archaeological sites, notable those closest to the Little River. Based on the topographic and hydrological setting and the presence of previously recorded archaeological sites in the vicinity, we expect the project area may contain intact, significant archaeological sites.

Prior to the initiation of any ground disturbing activities within the project area, we recommend that a comprehensive archaeological survey be conducted in high probability areas by an experienced archaeologist. The purpose of this survey will be to identify and evaluate the significance of 31MG 64 and 31MG65, and any other archaeological sites that may be damaged or destroyed by the proposed project and make recommendations regarding their eligibility status in terms of the National Register of Historic Places. Potential effects on unknown resources must be assessed prior to the initiation of construction activities. This work should be conducted by an experienced archaeologist that meets the Secretary of the Interior professional qualifications standards. A list of archaeological consultants who have conducted or expressed an interest in contract work in North Carolina is available at <https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/programs/environmental-review/archaeological-consultant-list>.

***Please note that our office requests consultation with the Office of State Archaeology Review Archaeologist to discuss appropriate field methodologies prior to the archaeological field investigation.***  
One paper copy and one digital copy (PDF) of all resulting archaeological reports, as well as a digital copy

(PDF) of the North Carolina site form for each site recorded, should be forwarded to the Office of State Archaeology (OSA) through this office for review and comment as soon as they are available and in advance of any construction or ground disturbance activities. OSA's *Archaeological Standards and Guidelines for Background Research, Field Methodologies, Technical Reports, and Curation* can be found online at: <https://archaeology.ncdcr.gov/osa-guidelines>.

We have determined that the project as proposed will not have an effect on any historic structures.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,



for Ramona Bartos, Deputy  
State Historic Preservation Officer