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**Sent:** Friday, August 30, 2024 3:27 PM  
**To:** Grike, Rebecca [DEP] <[Rebecca.Grike@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Rebecca.Grike@dep.nj.gov)>  
**Cc:** Matthew Tomaso <[mtomaso@psands.com](mailto:mtomaso@psands.com)>; Bianchi, Lucy [DEP] <[Lucy.Bianchi@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Lucy.Bianchi@dep.nj.gov)>  
**Subject:** HPO Project #11-1079-5 Cox's Corner Substation Phase II Archaeological Survey

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**HPO Project #11-1079-3  
HPO-H2024-304**

**Burlington County, Evesham Township  
PSE&G Cox's Corner Substation  
Block 15, Lot 2  
Phase II Archaeological Survey  
DLRP File #0313-23-0001.1**

Dear Ms. Grike,

The Historic Preservation Office (HPO) was recently provided with the opportunity to review and comment on the following Phase II archaeological survey report, received at this office on July 22, 2024 for the above-referenced project:

Tomaso, Matthew S., Kristian Eshelman, and Christopher Stevenson  
July 2024 *Phase II Archaeological Investigation: 28-Bu-1029, PSE&G Cox's Corner Substation, Block 15, Lot 22, 225 Sharp Road, Evesham Township, Burlington County, New Jersey.* Prepared for PSE&G, South Plainfield, NJ.  
Prepared by PS&S, Warren, NJ.

According to the documentation submitted, the proposed project involves the construction of a new Public Service Electric and Gas Company (PSE&G) electrical substation adjacent to an existing switching facility, as well as two new stormwater management basins and a new access road in Evesham Township, Burlington County. The area of potential effects (APE) currently comprises woodlands and is near a segment of Sharp Run. The APE was previously subject to Phase I archaeological investigation in February of 2024, in which one Native American archaeological site was identified and registered as Site 28-Bu-1029. This site was represented by three lithic flakes recovered from two contiguous shovel test pits (STPs). The above-referenced Phase II archaeological survey of Site 28-Bu-1029 was prepared following HPO approval of the Phase II work plan in May of 2024 (HPO Chrono E2024-242).

The Phase II archaeological survey of Site 28-Bu-1029 involved the excavation of eight 3x3-foot excavation units (EUs) judgmentally placed around the two positive STPs that make up the site (an area measuring approximately 900 square feet). Additionally, ten supplemental STPs were excavated at close intervals across this area to refine site boundaries. Soil strata were generally consistent across the site, comprising a typical plowzone layer (Stratum I) overlaying a lower B horizon (Stratum II) that aligns with the agricultural history of the property. Several EUs and STPs also exhibited modern disturbances including concrete, rubble, and truncated soil strata most likely the result of modern impacts and demolition of a former farmstead in the vicinity. In total, 20 historic-period or modern artifacts were recovered from the Phase II survey. This mostly comprised vessel glass, nineteenth- and twentieth-century ceramics, coal, and brick fragments. However, no distinct concentrations of historic-period artifacts, features, or sites were identified, and Site 28-Bu-1029 is not considered to have an historic component.

Fourteen precontact-period artifacts were recovered during the Phase II excavations, for a total of 17 precontact-period artifacts that make up Site 28-Bu-1029. This assemblage includes ten fragments of lithic debitage, five

fragments of fire-cracked rock (FCR), and one sherd of cord-impressed Native American pottery. None of these artifacts originated from intact subsoil contexts but were rather in upper and mixed soil strata. Further, no distinct artifact concentrations or features were identified; the artifacts were recovered from across the entire Phase II study area in low densities (e.g., approximately 2-3 artifacts recovered per EU).

According to information in the report, this artifact assemblage is interpreted as the remnants of a precontact-period habitation locus that may originate outside of the project area and which was altered through plowing in the historic period. The presence of one sherd of pottery generally places this site within the Woodland Period, although no other diagnostic materials were found to refine site chronology. The report further details the general project setting in relation to a nearby site (28-Bu-718) across the street from the current project area. This site comprises a large complex of Native American campsites clustered around a peri-glacial water feature, which yielded over 1,500 artifacts from combined Phase I/II surveys. The consultant suggests that Site 28-Bu-1029 may be an ephemeral component of this larger complex and is lower in artifact density based on greater distance to the peri-glacial feature. The research questions presented in the Phase II work plan were similarly addressed, and the consultant states that limited research potential remains at this location. Overall, the consultant states that Site 28-Bu-1029 represents a site of temporary human activity that has limited potential to yield additional data given the lack of archaeological features and low artifact density. However, this interpretation does characterize the site within the immediate archaeological context of the Sharp Run drainage and in relation to the nearby complex of campsites (Site 28-Bu-718). Based upon this interpretation, the consultant states that site 28-Bu-1029 is not considered eligible for listing on either the New Jersey or National Registers of Historic Places under any criteria. Therefore, the consultant recommends that no additional archaeological investigations are necessary at Site 28-Bu-1029.

*Upon review, the HPO concurs with this assessment and recommendations made in the above-referenced report. Therefore, no additional archaeological consideration of the APE or of Site 28-Bu-1029 is necessary for the project as currently proposed, prior to permit issuance.*

### Additional Comments

Thank you again for providing this opportunity for review and comment on the potential for this project to affect historic and archaeological resources. Please reference the HPO project number **11-1079** in any future calls, emails, submissions, or written correspondence to help expedite your review and response. Please feel free to contact Lucy Bianchi ([Lucy.Bianchi@dep.nj.gov](mailto:Lucy.Bianchi@dep.nj.gov)) with questions regarding archaeology.

Sincerely,

**Katherine J. Marcopul, Ph.D., CPM** she/her

Administrator and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer | Historic Preservation Office

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KJM/LB