

Tribal Historic Preservation Office

Mi'kmaq Nation (Formerly known as the Aroostook Band of Micmac)

Kendyl Reis

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer

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SHM Rockland LLC Project

Rockland, Maine

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Thank you for the opportunity to review the above-referenced project for compliance with National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), or other, requirements.

Based on the project description, we do not have knowledge of any specific sites or cultural features that exist at the proposed project location. However, this geographic area does constitute traditional areas that were historically utilized by members of the Mi'kmaq Nation and the other Wabanaki Tribes. Therefore, we respectfully request that if during the course of excavation/construction activities, human remains, artifacts, or any other evidence of Native American presence is discovered, that site activities in the vicinity of the discovery immediately cease, pending notification to us.

In addition, if this project results in wetland disturbances requiring mitigation, we are requesting that you utilize the black ash (*Fraginus nigra*) as the principal wetland species for wetland restoration activities. The black ash tree has special significance in the culture of the northeastern Tribes and is used extensively for weaving baskets and other Native American crafts. The black ash tree also provides valuable food and habitat for migratory waterfowl and other wildlife. Unfortunately, however, this species has been selected against by foresters and landowners who favor other tree species. As a result of this, and other environmental factors, the black ash tree is in serious decline in Maine. The Mi'kmaq Nation has completed several black ash wetland restoration projects and have a dependable source for highly-quality seedlings, and the experience and expertise to assist you with black ash wetland restoration projects.

On the subject of human remains, artifacts, or any other evidence of Native American presence is discovered. The human remains will be reburied with the appropriate respect for the remains that is required at a distinctive and respectable site. The artifacts and other evidence of Native American discovery will be documented with appropriate detail. The items will be analyzed for the precise period of the items' distinctive period and will be documented by the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for the Mi'kmaq Nation.

If you have any questions or comments, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

Kendyl Reis

Tribal Historic Preservation Officer