



AES Londonderry Cogeneration Facility and Direct Interconnect Route Londonderry, New Hampshire

Date of Performance: 1998–2000

Client: Earth Tech

In 1998, PAL was contracted by the firm Earth Tech to provide cultural resource management expertise with regard to a proposed new cogeneration facility and interconnect route in Londonderry, New Hampshire. The project plans included the AES Londonderry Cogeneration power facility and a new 2.5-mile electrical interconnect corridor with double and single pole locations. The project was initiated with research and a landscape assessment to determine the presence of any known cultural resources within the project Area of Potential Affect (APE). Because most of the route traversed undeveloped, rural landscapes adjacent to a number of historically significant properties, an identification survey including subsurface testing was also necessary. The surveys were conducted to insure compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. As a result of the surveys, historic landscape elements associated with the National Register James Watts Mills Site and the Watts House and Carriage House were identified, in addition to the previously undocumented Musquash Valley Site. Based on PAL's recommendations and the concurrence of the NH SHPO, these resources were given further consideration during the planning stages of the proposed undertaking. Additionally, one Native American site, The Five Otters Site, was discovered and considered to be a potentially significant prehistoric resource.

In May 2000, site evaluations were conducted on the historic period Musquash Valley Site and the Native American Five Otters Site. The historic site evaluation focused on two cellar holes, remains of a former stone dam, and a number of stone enclosures adjacent to an abandoned roadway and former stream. Cartographic sources linked the archaeological remains with landowners J. Anis, and William



***Aerial Photograph of the
AES Londonderry Cogeneration Facility***

Plumer in the mid-nineteenth century. The additional work at the Musquash Valley Site satisfied the proponent's Section 106 requirements regarding the identification and protection of this historic resource.

Additional work at the Five Otters Site provided sufficient data to conclude that it represents a Native American encampment used for a brief period of time during the Early Woodland Period. In addition to a small collection of Native American artifacts, the investigations documented a small cooking hearth and a nearby pit feature, radiocarbon dated to 2400 ± 60 years before present. The site was not considered significant in terms of National Register criteria for eligibility, and the project proceeded on time as planned.

PAL SERVICES

- **SECTION 106 CONSULTATION**
- **ARCHIVAL RESEARCH**
- **HISTORIC CONTEXT DEVELOPMENT**
- **LOCAL INFORMANT INTERVIEWS**
- **ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS**