

Britta A. Tonn

Director of Cultural Resources-Vermont



Britta is the Director of Cultural Resources for VHB's Vermont office. She has extensive experience in state and federal environmental regulation and compliance for infrastructure projects, cultural resource management, archival research, historic resource documentation and survey, and preservation planning. Britta is the Governor appointed architectural historian member of the Vermont Advisory Council for Historic Preservation. She meets the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for an Architectural Historian and Historian (36 CFR 61).

Education

MS, Historic Preservation,
University of Vermont, 2010

MA, Education, Goddard
College, 2007

BA, History of Art and
Architecture, Middlebury
College, 2002

13 years of professional experience

Solar Installations – Regulatory Compliance, Statewide Vermont

VHB frequently works with solar installation developers throughout Vermont, assisting with permitting and design. Britta manages the Cultural Resources studies required for permitting by the Public Utility Commission (Section 248). The Cultural Resources Studies focus on the potential effects of the projects on both aboveground and belowground historic resources. Britta also assists solar developers in identifying potential cultural resources constraints in the planning phase of potential projects.

Telecommunications Installations – Regulatory Compliance, Statewide Vermont and Nationwide

While at VHB, Britta has worked with VELCO, AT&T, Vertex Towers LLC, and Viridi Wireless, Inc. to complete NEPA, Section 106, and Section 248 Public Utility Commission (PUC) reviews (in the form of prefiled testimony) for several new telecommunications facilities throughout Vermont. Prior to VHB, Britta worked for 8 years as an architectural historian in the telecommunications field, preparing Section 106 and NEPA reviews for telecommunications clients nationwide. These types of projects required Britta to initiate collaboration and meetings between clients, SHPOs, Native American tribes, and municipalities to develop projects that would be supported by multiple stakeholders. These projects in Vermont also required that Britta submit prefiled testimony to the PUC.

Green Mountain Power (GMP) Hydroelectric Facility Rehabilitation Projects – Section 106 Reviews, Statewide Vermont

Britta has completed Section 106 reviews for rehabilitation projects at over a dozen Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) licensed historic hydroelectric facilities owned by GMP throughout Vermont. These rehabilitation projects included substation upgrades, concrete repairs, gate repairs and replacements, flashboard replacements, powerhouse rehabilitations, and electrical modernizations. For several of the projects that resulted in adverse effects to historic resources, Britta developed Memoranda of Agreement (MOA) and completed mitigation measures stipulated in the MOAs.

GMP Historic Transmission Line Towers – Determination of Eligibility and Section 248 Review, New Haven, VT

Britta and colleague Matt researched and wrote a Vermont State Register eligibility determination for two 1911 steel lattice transmission line towers near the Beldens Falls Hydroelectric Project in New Haven, VT. The steel towers carry transmission lines over



the railroad and are among the oldest structures on GMP's Transmission Line 60 in Addison County. Britta and Matt developed a historic context for the towers and the VDHP concurred with their recommendation that they are State Register eligible. Britta and Matt are currently consulting with the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation (VDHP) on a proposed project to complete upgrades to the transmission line that would affect these two towers.

GMP Center Rutland Hydroelectric Project – FERC Relicensing Documentation, Center Rutland, VT

Britta is preparing various cultural resources studies to support the FERC relicensing of the historic hydroelectric facility. These studies include delineating an Area of Potential Effect (APE) for the facility, documenting the hydroelectric facility and other nearby associated resources on a VARI district form, evaluating the National Register eligibility of the facility, and completing a Section 106 review that will evaluate the effects of the facility's continued operation on historic resources in the APE, including both electrical generation and transmission components of the facility. Throughout the project, Britta has worked closely with Northeast Archaeology Research Center, Inc. (NE ARC), who have completed three archaeological studies at the facility.

Surface Transportation Board (STB), Canadian Pacific/Kansas City Southern Railways Merger – Section 106 Reviews, Iowa

To support Section 106 consultation for one of the largest railroad mergers in recent history, Britta led a small team of cultural resource specialists to prepare extensive survey reports and eligibility determinations for eight track improvement locations throughout Iowa. In the field, Britta conducted intensive aboveground resource surveys. She was able to rapidly deploy support staff to meet the aggressive project schedule and successfully adjust the survey plan when last-minute project changes were received both during fieldwork and during report preparation. Britta continued to support the project through coordination with the Iowa State Historic Preservation Office during preparation of the survey reports and navigated the Section 106 process that resulted in a "No Adverse Effect" finding for the merger project. One of the resources that Britta surveyed, documented, and evaluated was a 1966 electrical substation associated with the heavily industrialized Mississippi River waterfront in Clinton and Camanche, Iowa.