



FLORIDA DEPARTMENT *of* STATE

RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE
Secretary of State

Ms. Angel Granger
FDEP-Bureau of Public Land Administration, MS 130
3900 Commonwealth Boulevard
Tallahassee, Florida 32399-3000

August 10, 2020

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2019-4318-B
Project: AID 40469-NDB Easement 33305
Gulf Power NFRC Transmission Line Project Easement Request No. 33305 – Four Sections

- Lake Talquin State Forest, Leon County
- Plank Road, Jefferson and Leon Counties
- Tallahassee –St. Marks Trail, Leon County
- Wakulla State Forest, Leon County

Dear Ms. Granger:

Our office reviewed the referenced easement request in accordance with this agency's responsibilities under Chapters 267.061 *Florida Statutes*, and implementing state regulations, for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, in the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP), or otherwise of historical, architectural or archaeological value.

Our office received additional information from Gulf Power and SEARCH addressing the four easement sections for which our office noted in our August 3, 2020 letter that insufficient information was provided to determine if the proposed project would affect historic properties in those areas. The report provided by SEARCH, *Technical Memorandum Cultural Resources Assessment Survey of State Lands North Florida Resiliency Connection Transmission Line Project Leon, Jefferson, Madison, and Suwannee Counties, Florida*, provided additional information and analysis for each of the four sections:

- Lake Talquin State Forest, Leon County – southern part – SEARCH conducted additional Phase I testing within this section. The additional testing was negative for cultural material.
- Plank Road, Jefferson and Leon Counties – SEARCH documented previous Phase I testing within or adjacent to this section. SEARCH does not recommend further Phase I testing within this area, but does note that archaeological sites 8JE00067, 8JE00880, 8JE00881, and 8LE01549 area eligible for listing in the NRHP and should be avoided by project activities or subjected to additional testing.
- Tallahassee –St. Marks Trail, Leon County – SEARCH notes that the transmission line will cross the historic trail, but that the trail was previously determined to be ineligible for listing in the NRHP.

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SEARCH did not recommend additional testing within this section based on the narrow width of the section and the previous ground disturbance within the area.

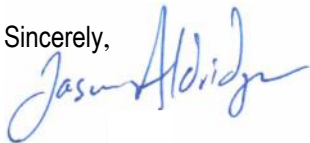
- Wakulla State Forest, Leon County – SEARCH documents previous Phase I testing adjacent to this section. SEARCH archaeologists also completed a pedestrian survey of this section. SEARCH determined that the area has a low probability to contain significant archaeological sites and did not recommend additional testing.

Based on the additional information provided by Gulf Power and SEARCH, our office concurs that additional Phase I testing is not necessary for the above mentioned sections. For the Lake Talquin State Forest, Tallahassee-St. Marks Trail, and Wakulla State Forest sections, we concur that no eligible historic properties are present and that the proposed activities within these section will have no effect to historic properties.

The Plank Road section does include several historic properties which are eligible for listing in the NRHP, sites 8JE00067, 8JE00880, 8JE00881, and 8LE01549. The proposed transmission line project may adversely affect these resources and our offices recommends that Gulf Power avoid any potential adverse effects to these sites. Should avoidance not be possible, Gulf Power should coordinate with our office to develop appropriate treatment plans to minimize and mitigate any adverse effects to these sites. The treatment plans should be developed and implemented in a manner consistent with the draft *Programmatic Agreement Among the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and Gulf Power Company Regarding Gulf Power Company North Florida Resiliency Connection Transmission Line in Columbia, Suwannee, Madison, Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden and Jackson Counties, Florida*. This agreement is currently in draft form, but must be completed prior to issuance of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers permit for the project.

If you have any questions, please contact me by email at Jason.Aldridge@dos.myflorida.com or by telephone at 850-245-6344.

Sincerely,



Jason Aldridge
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
for Compliance and Review