



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
JACKSONVILLE DISTRICT CORPS OF ENGINEERS
POST OFFICE BOX 4970
JACKSONVILLE, FLORIDA 32232-0019

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

October 27, 2020

Regulatory Division
North Permits Branch
Jacksonville Permits Section

Dr. Paul Backhouse
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Seminole Tribe of Florida
30290 Josie Billie Highway
PMP 1004
Clewiston, Florida 33440

ATTN: Bradley Mueller

Dear Dr. Backhouse:

The Corps is seeking your office's comments on the attached, draft Programmatic Agreement (PA) as part of the Corps' permit review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act related to the proposed development of a 176-mile aerial transmission line by the Gulf Power Company. The new transmission line will traverse parts of seven counties: Columbia, Suwannee, Madison, Jefferson, Leon, Gadsden, and Jackson.

Based upon the results of three Cultural Resource Assessment Survey documents submitted to the Corps for the project and which have been previously submitted to your office, the Corps has determined that adverse effects are expected within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). In order to resolve the adverse effects, and in order to ensure additional archaeological identification occurs for the remainder of the approximately 7% of corridor that has not yet been surveyed due to land access, the Corps intends to enter into a PA with the Florida State Historic Preservation Officer and Gulf Power Company (the applicant). The PA will address avoidance, minimization of effects, and mitigation of any cultural resources identified as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The PA also ensures that the remaining survey needs are met and that subsequent findings will be appropriately addressed under 36 CFR 800 processes and standards.

By this letter, the Corps is inviting the Seminole Tribe of Florida to review the PA document for comments, and also to review the appendices of the PA which include proposed treatment plans for the archaeological sites that have been determined eligible for National Register listing or that require additional work to determine eligibility.

By this letter, the Corps is also inviting the Tribe to be a Concurring Party to the PA, as defined in 36 CFR 800.6(c)(3). To meet project timeframes, if you would like to be a concurring party on this project, would you please let us know of your interest within 15 days.

Regardless of whether the STOF chooses to be a concurring party in the PA, the Corps will still consult with your office under Section 106 and your office will still have an opportunity to provide comments on the PA document as well as any future, associated archaeological identification efforts and treatment plans for historic properties within the APE.

If you have any questions or comments concerning the proposed project, please contact the project manager, Mr. Brad Carey at the letterhead address, by email at brad.j.carey@usace.army.mil or by phone at 904-232-2405. If you have any questions or comments concerning the cultural resources request addressed above, please contact Mr. Robin Moore at 904-232-3270 or by email at Robin.E.Moore@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

for Shawn H. Zinszer
Chief, Regulatory Division

Enclosure)

cc. Robin Moore, Archeologist