



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

June 5, 2026

Nicole Honson-Morris
Executive Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Historic Preservation
P.O. Box 44247
Baton Rouge, LA 70804-4241

cc:

Dr. Rachel Watson
State Archaeologist and Director
Louisiana Office of Cultural Development, Division of Archaeology

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Dominance Financing, Section 106 Consultation, Entergy River Bend Low Pressure Turbines Replacement Project, West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana

Dear Ms. Hobson-Morris and Dr. Watson,

Pursuant to its authority under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended, which established a Federal loan guarantee program, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) is evaluating whether to provide a Federal loan guarantee to Entergy Louisiana, LLC (Entergy, or the Applicant) for the River Bend Low Pressure Turbines (LPT) Replacement Project (the Project), located in West Feliciana Parish, Louisiana.

The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate consultation with the Louisiana State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (54 United States Code [U.S.C.] 306108), and its implementing regulations, 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800, "Protection of Historic Properties." This letter presents descriptions of the undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE), and the efforts to identify historic properties; and seeks your concurrence with DOE's Finding of No Historic Properties Affected for this Project.

Description of the Undertaking

DOE's action is the issuance of a proposed Federal loan guarantee to the Applicant for undertaking (i.e., the Project), which includes the planned replacement of two LPTs within the existing River Bend Station (RBS) facility. RBS Unit 1 is a single boiling-water reactor located approximately 24 miles northwest of Baton Rouge near St. Francisville, Louisiana. The facility is situated on the Mississippi River approximately 20 miles upstream of Baton Rouge, and the river provides water for the plant's operations. The existing facility site

covers approximately 3,300 acres in the Tunica Hills area of West Feliciana Parish. The facility's coordinates are approximately 30.757, -91.3327. Maps of the Project are included as Attachment 1.

In 1994, the original rotating components of the LPTs were replaced due to flaws discovered on the rotor elements. Stationary elements were not replaced at that time and are original equipment in service since the RBS began operations in 1986. Because the currently installed LPTs are reaching the end of their intended service life, the two LPTs (LPT-A and LPT-B), as well as stationary components, are planned to be replaced.

The LPT replacement process will begin with disassembly of the two LPTs by first removing the outer hoods and placing them on the turbine deck for inspection and preparation for reuse. Then the remaining old components will be removed and taken to the temporary storage location mentioned above. The old components will be unbolted and removed in the following order: upper casing, actual turbines, and finally the lower casings. Once the old equipment is removed and inspection and housekeeping are completed, the new equipment will be installed in the reverse order, completing the installation.

Two laydown yards within the existing RBS facility site will be used for the Project. Laydown Yard A will be used to store the new turbine equipment between its delivery to the site and the installation. The component manufacturer requires the construction of a temporary storage building before the delivery of the new components prior to installation; contractually, this building must also support pre-outage unpacking, component inspection, and some assembly.

Laydown Yard A, located to the northwest of the RBS Turbine Building, will accommodate this temporary storage building (see Attachment 1, Page 4). This area is an existing paved parking lot next to an existing warehouse building and has power readily available to support the temporary storage building. There are approximately 1.5-2 acres available to facilitate setup of the contractually required temporary storage building to store the new equipment between delivery and installation. Laydown Yard A measures 250 feet by 275 feet, or approximately 1.58 acres.

Laydown Yard B, located to the southeast of the RBS Turbine Building, measures 275 feet by 175 feet, or approximately 1.1 acres (see Attachment 1, Page 4). This area is an existing graded and graveled pad that will be used to store the existing turbine equipment after it is removed from the plant. Both laydown yards are located on site, and equipment transfers will not interfere with normal plant operations or normal travel paths.

Additionally, an existing lot measuring 175 feet by 125 feet (or approximately 0.5 acre) is available for potential use as a temporary staging area prior to installation (see Attachment 1, Page 4, labeled "Storage Location for the Generator Rotor and Main Transformer"). Lastly, an existing barge dock site on the Mississippi River measuring 275 feet by 150 feet (approximately 0.95 acre) may be used for Project equipment delivery.

Existing onsite roads will be utilized for the Project and will not be improved as part of the Project. There are two haul road options for delivery of the turbines and other equipment to the site. Haul Road Option 1 is to transport the turbines via the South Haul Road, an existing 20-foot-wide gravel haul road extending from the existing barge dock on the Mississippi River to Laydown Yard A (see Attachment 1, Pages 4-6). The South Haul Road spans approximately 3.23 miles. Haul Road Option 2 is to transport the turbines via an existing 25-foot-wide asphalt road from the plant's north entrance on U.S. Highway 61 to Laydown Yard A, spanning approximately 1.1 miles (see Attachment 1, Pages 3-4).

Additional existing onsite roads will be used to transport the new equipment from Laydown Yard A to the LPT building for installation, and to transport the old equipment removed from the LPT building to Laydown Yard B, as depicted in Attachment 1. No improvements or modifications to the existing onsite roads will be required as part of the Project.

Description of the Area of Potential Effects

As defined in the Section 106 regulations (36 CFR § 800.16(d)), the APE is the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The dimensions of the APE are influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.

The Project's APE includes the area where Project activities will occur within the existing RBS facility, including the LPT building and the laydown yards, for a total of approximately 4.15 acres; however, no new ground disturbance will take place as part of the Project. Project use of approximately 4.25 miles of existing onsite roads will also occur, but no road improvements or new road construction activity will take place. Maps of the Project are included as Attachment 1.

Description of Efforts to Identify Historic Properties

Tribal Outreach

In accordance with Section 106, DOE identified federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes (Tribes) that may have an interest in the Project area. DOE has notified the following eight (8) federally recognized Tribes to see if they have an interest in the Project: Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town; Apache Tribe of Oklahoma; Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma; Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana; Jena Band of Choctaw Indians; Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; and Seminole Tribe of Florida.

By separate letter sent concurrently with this submission to the SHPO, DOE EDF has requested Tribal respondents to provide their comments on the undertaking, provide information regarding historic properties of religious or cultural significance to Tribes that may be present in the APE, and to identify any additional Tribes that may share an interest in the Project area so DOE EDF can promptly invite them to consult. DOE EDF will consider all comments received from Tribes during the 30-day consultation period and will

coordinate with the SHPO and other consulting parties, as appropriate, if additional consultation is necessary or requested.

Archaeological and Historic Architectural Resources

The proposed Project includes the replacement of facility components within the existing turbine building, use of existing onsite laydown yards and staging areas, and use of existing onsite access roads. No new ground disturbance is required for the Project; the existing facility, onsite roads and laydown yards are areas that have been previously significantly disturbed by prior construction activity to develop the RBS site. The Project APE is within an area that has been previously surveyed for cultural resources and where no archaeological resources were found to be present; SHPO reviewed and approved the findings of this prior survey in 2009 (LA Division of Archaeology Report #22-3038). Because the entire Project APE is within areas that have been previously surveyed and/or are significantly previously disturbed, it is DOE EDF's opinion that the APE does not contain archaeological historic properties, and it is not anticipated that this undertaking has the potential to cause effects on intact, significant archaeological resources. Therefore, a new archaeological survey for this Project is not warranted.

Review of the SHPO's online Louisiana Cultural Resources Map indicates the Project is located approximately one mile from the nearest known inventoried historic resource (LHRI# 63-00537) and the nearest known historic property (Star Hill Plantation Dependency, NR Ref# 03000680). Because the Project does not propose to include any new permanent above-ground construction that would alter the exterior of the RBS facility in a manner that could affect the character of the surrounding setting, and because any potential visual or other non-physical effects would be screened by dense interceding vegetation surrounding the perimeter of the RBS site, it is DOE EDF's opinion that the APE does not contain architectural historic properties, and it is not anticipated that this undertaking has the potential to cause visual and other non-physical effects on historic properties external to the RBS site. Therefore, a new historic architectural survey to identify historic resources external to the RBS facility is not warranted.

Lastly, because the RBS facility is less than 50 years old (circa 1986) and will still be less than 50 years old at the time of Project completion (planned 2029), the facility itself does not meet the age threshold to be evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Furthermore, it is DOE EDF's opinion that the RBS facility has not achieved significance within the past 50 years and is not of exceptional importance to warrant an evaluation under NRHP Criteria Consideration G. Therefore, a survey and evaluation of the facility itself is not warranted.

In conclusion, the Project's APE has been previously surveyed and significantly previously disturbed, the Project will not cause viewshed or other external non-physical effects external to the existing facility, and the facility is less than 50 years old and not of exceptional importance. Therefore, it is DOE EDF's opinion that the circumstances of the Project do not warrant additional cultural resource identification and evaluation surveys, and no historic properties are present within the Project's APE.

Requesting your Concurrence and Next Steps

Based on DOE EDF's efforts to identify historic properties and conclusions drawn from this information, DOE EDF is issuing a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected, consistent with 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). As part of the Section 106 process, DOE EDF requests the concurrence of the Louisiana SHPO on the Finding of No Historic Properties Affected, as well as any comments you may have on the APE or the Project **within thirty (30) days of receipt of this letter.**

In the event of a post-review unanticipated discovery of cultural resources and/or human remains during construction, the Applicant will abide by the requirements of its Nuclear Facility Cultural Resources Protection Plan, which will remain in effect for this Project, including immediately stopping work and notifying the SHPO for guidance prior to resuming work.

We look forward to consulting with your office throughout the Section 106 process. If you have any questions or would like to discuss this project further, please contact me at 202-586-7272 or via email at EDF_Environmental@doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Molly R. Cobbs
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Dominance Financing

Attachments:

Attachment 1. Project Maps