



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

October 6, 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 Louisiana, Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 Nuclear Uprate Project, St. Charles 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 Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 (Waterford 3) Nuclear Uprate Project (the Project) (the Project), located in St. Charles 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. A Project map is included as Attachment 1.

Description of the Undertaking

DOE's action is the issuance of a proposed Federal loan guarantee to the Applicant for undertaking (the Project), which includes:

1. Replacing the main transformer (Transformer B),
2. Replacing the turbine closed cooling water (TCCW) heat exchangers and isophase bus coolers to increase the cooling capacity,

3. Replacing the main generator current transformers,
4. Upgrades to normal level control valves (NLCV), automatic level control valves (ALCV), and associated piping, and
5. Enabling a main generator hydrogen pressure increase by replacing or upgrading certain components, including the air side seal oil supply gauge, set point charges for multiple valves, air side seal oil back up pump, and replacement of turbine shaft-driven pump discharge orifice.

All planned Project construction and installation work will occur on or in existing infrastructure of the Waterford 3 Station. The Project will not require any ground-disturbing activities, including tree clearing, vegetation clearing, site clearing or grubbing, or in-water work. No site development or excavation, structural demolition, or modification of the built environment will be required to support Project activities. Equipment that will be delivered to the site will be temporarily stored within previously developed and disturbed areas within the existing Waterford 3 facility footprint. Existing roads and right-of-way (ROW) will be used for construction. The Project does not require the construction of temporary access roads or modification of any permanent access roads, or storage berms.

Waterford 3 is a two-loop pressurized water reactor with an original nominal generation capacity of 1,153 MWe. The facility is located on a 3,000-acre site on the west bank of the Mississippi River, approximately 25 miles west of New Orleans on Louisiana Highway (River Road) in the City of Killona, St. Charles Parish, Louisiana. The plant's topography, except for the levee along the Mississippi River, is generally flat with an elevation of eight to 16 feet above mean sea level. The plant began operations in September 1985 and operates under a Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) license valid through December 2044. On July 10, 2025, Entergy submitted an application (see [here](#)) for approval by the Louisiana Public Service Commission to complete an uprate project at Waterford 3, which would increase the facility's generation capacity by approximately 45 MWe.

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 Waterford 3 facility. A map of the Project is 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 nine

(9) federally recognized Tribes to see if they have an interest in the Project: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas; Apache Tribe of Oklahoma; Chitimacha Tribe of Louisiana; 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 upgrades and/or replacements of existing internal facility components. All proposed Project construction activities will occur within the existing facility in areas that have been significantly previously disturbed by prior construction and development of the Waterford 3 facility. No ground-disturbing activities, development, excavation, vegetation clearing, or installation of new access roads or equipment staging areas are required for the Project. As no new ground disturbance is required for the Project, **the Project does not have the potential to cause effects on archaeological resources**; therefore, an archaeological field survey is not warranted for this Section 106 review.

Similarly, the Project does not include any modifications to the built environment, new structures, or structural demolition. As such, **the Project does not have the potential to cause visual and other non-physical effects on historic properties** external to the Waterford 3 facility. Therefore, a historic architectural survey external to the Waterford 3 facility is not warranted for this Section 106 review.

Lastly, construction of the Waterford 3 Plant facility was completed in 1985, and therefore the Waterford 3 facility **is not yet of age to be evaluated for eligibility** for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

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. Given the scope of the undertaking and the exceedingly low potential for the undertaking to affect historic properties, DOE EDF requests your expedited review and comments **within fifteen (15) days of receipt of this letter**.

In the event of a post-review unanticipated discovery of cultural resources and/or human remains during construction, DOE EDF will determine actions to resolve adverse effects and notify the SHPO, any Tribe that might attach religious and cultural significance to the affected property, and

the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) within 48 hours of the discovery, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.13(b)(3).

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 via email at EDF_Environmental@doe.gov.

Sincerely,

DONALD BROWN

Digitally signed by DONALD
BROWN
Date: 2026.10.07 07:54:40 -04'00'

Donald Brown
Senior Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Dominance Financing

Attachments:

Attachment 1. Project Map

Figure 1. Site Location Map for Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 Nuclear Update Project

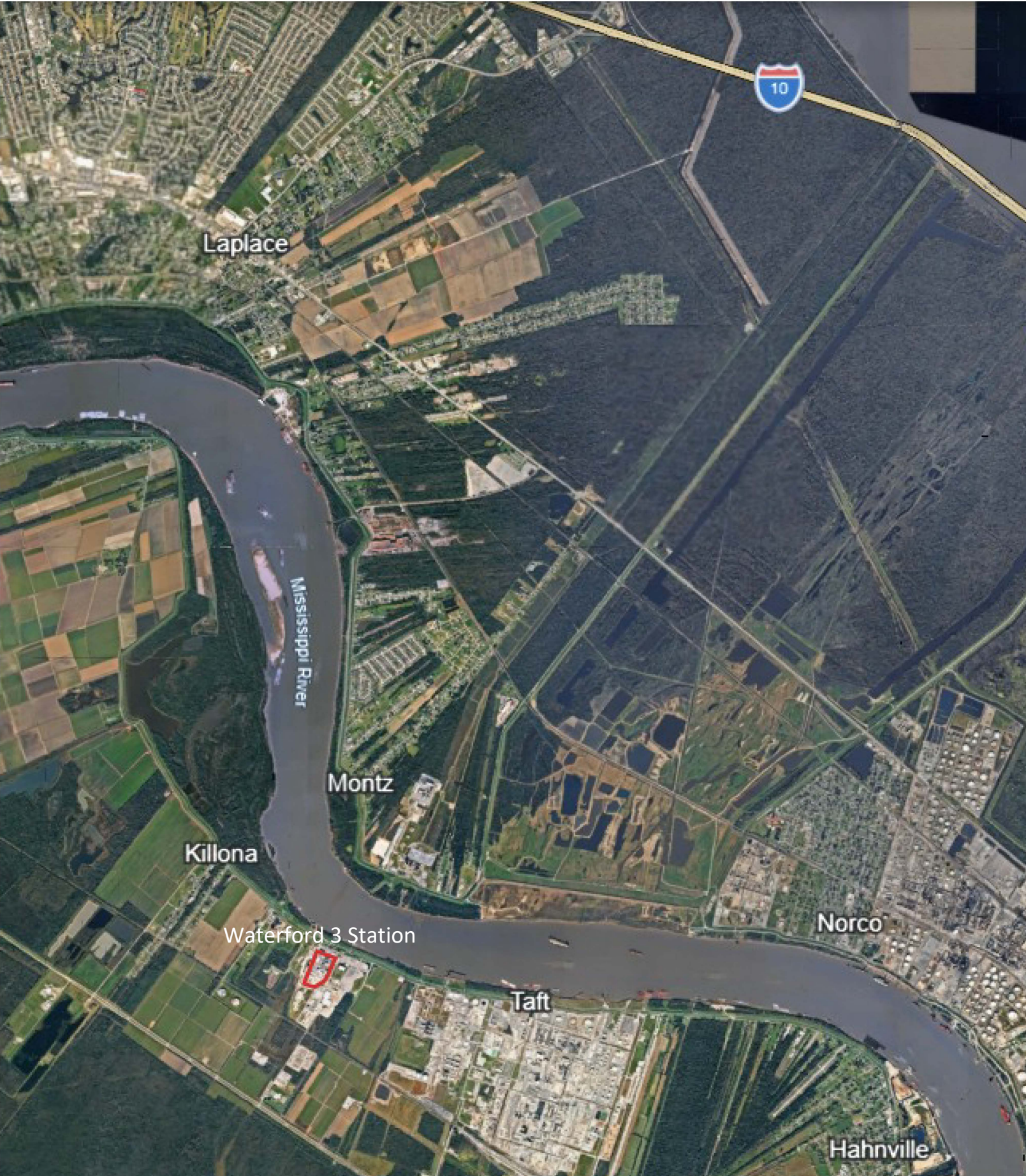


Figure 2. Waterford Steam Electric Station, Unit 3 Nuclear Update Project

