



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

September 1, 2026

Christopher Nunn
State Historic Preservation Officer and Commissioner
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, GA 30329

cc:

Jennifer Flood, Division Director
Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
Georgia Department of Community Affairs
Attn: Environmental Review, Historic Preservation Division
60 Executive Park South, NE
Atlanta, Georgia 30329

SUBJECT: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Dominance Financing, Section 106 Consultation, Georgia Power Company, Hatch Nuclear Plant Extended Power Uprate Project, Appling County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Nunn,

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) has executed a Federal loan guarantee agreement with Georgia Power Company (GPC or Borrower) pursuant to DOE's authority under Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended. The loan guarantee to GPC is intended to provide financing for many projects over the life of the Federal loan guarantee. Each project is reviewed and considered individually prior to being approved for financing under the Federal loan guarantee. GPC has identified the Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP) Extended Power Uprate (EPU) Project (the Project), located in Appling County, Georgia, for potential inclusion in the loan guarantee.

The purpose of this letter is to formally initiate consultation with the Georgia 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 Georgia Historic Preservation Division (HPD) Environmental Review Form is included as Attachment 1.

Description of the Undertaking

DOE's proposed action is the issuance Federal financing to the Borrower for the undertaking (i.e., the Project). Nuclear power plants are licensed to perform within a maximum power level. A power uprate is a process used to increase the maximum power level at which a nuclear power plant can operate. Nuclear power uprates are subject to regulatory approval, and extensive analysis and testing are required to ensure that the plant can operate safely at a higher power level. GPC plans to implement an Extended Power Urate (EPU), which will involve modifications to existing plant equipment, systems, and operational procedures to support operation at the proposed increased power level. Planned Project modifications include the following:

- A.** Replacement of the steam dryer,
- B.** Modifications to the power range neutron monitoring system, and
- C.** Upgrades to 16 balance-of-plant systems and components including:

- 1. Circulating Water Cooling Tower Fill
- 2. Cross Around Relief Valves
- 3. Condensate Booster Pumps & Motors
- 4. Condensate Pumps & Motors
- 5. Condensate Demineralizers
- 6. EX2100e Upgrades
- 7. Feedwater Debris Strainers
- 8. Feedwater Heaters
- 9. Feedwater Heater Level Control Valves
- 10. Generator Rotor
- 11. High Voltage Bushings Upgrade
- 12. Potential Power Transformers
- 13. Plant Service Water Upgrades
- 14. Reactor Feed Pump Turbine Rotors
- 15. Residual Heat Removal Service Water Heat Exchanger Sleaving
- 16. Steam Jet Air Ejectors

The proposed EPU is not expected to expand the existing developed footprint of the facility or require new land disturbance. All equipment replacements and modifications will occur within existing plant structures and previously developed areas. No ground disturbance or excavation is planned, and the EPU will not require construction of new laydown areas, access roads, or other new facilities.

The EPU is subject to approval by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). GPC plans to submit a License Amendment Request (LAR) to the NRC in the third quarter of 2027 requesting authorization to increase the licensed electrical generating capacity of Units 1 and 2 from approximately 1,832 MW(e) to 1,927 MW(e).

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 HNP facility. The proposed Project activities include replacements and upgrades to existing facility components, which warrants an evaluation of HNP's potential eligibility for inclusion non the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

As no new ground disturbance is required for the Project, potential effects on archaeological resources are not expected to occur, and archaeological survey is not warranted. As the Project does not include any proposed new permanent above-ground construction that would alter the exterior of the HNP facility in a manner that could affect the character of the surrounding setting, visual and other non-physical effects on historic properties external to the HNP facility are not expected to occur, and historic architectural survey external to the HNP facility is not warranted.

Description of the 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 ten (10) federally recognized Tribes to see if they have an interest in the Project: Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town; Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana; Kialegee Tribal Town; Miccosukee Tribe of Indians; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Poarch Band of Creek Indians; Seminole Tribe of Florida; Seminole Nation of Oklahoma; Thlopthlocco Tribal Town; and United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma.

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 requested or necessary.

Historic Architectural Resources

DOE previously consulted SHPO regarding the NRHP eligibility of HNP for a separate Federal financing action related to equipment and digital modernization within the HNP

facility (**HPD Project Number:** HP-250902-006). As part of the Section 106 identification process for that consultation, qualified historians at Brockington and Associates, Inc. (Brockington) prepared an Architectural Survey Report of HNP that is summarized below and included again here as Attachment 2. In a letter dated September 2, 2025, DOE determined that the surveyed HNP historic architectural resources were not eligible for inclusion on the NRHP, and SHPO concurred that no historic properties were affected in a letter dated October 2, 2025.

Brockington surveyed and evaluated architectural resources within the 1,169-acre parcel where HNP is located. The architectural investigation consisted of both background research and a field survey. As part of the background research, Brockington collected relevant archival information, visited and contacted local library collections, and reviewed online newspapers and technical reports. Brockington conducted fieldwork during the week of March 24, 2024.

The field survey identified 58 architectural resources within the HNP parcel built from 1968 and through 1979. Of these 58 resources, 52 are within the fenced areas of HNP; this group of resources is collectively referred to as the Plant Hatch Complex. The remaining six (6) resources outside the fenced areas include the Backup Meteorological Tower, a Restroom and Storage building located at the Security Firing Range, three (3) warehouses and railroad spurs associated with the Baxley B&F Railroad. Brockington evaluated the these resources for their individual NRHP eligibility and recommended they are not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D, or Criteria Consideration G.

In addition, Brockington evaluated the Plant Hatch Complex as a potential district. The Plant Hatch Complex was recommended as not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C, and D or Criteria Consideration G as a potential district, and the individual resources within the complex are recommended not eligible for the NRHP either individually or as contributing resources to a district.

An additional 117 architectural resources on the HNP parcel built from 1980 through 2023 were evaluated under Criteria Consideration G and are recommended not eligible for the NRHP due to a lack of exceptional historical significance.

Also on the HNP parcel is the 1940 Cork and Hook Building. This building is located near the bank of the Altamaha River west of the secure area and was originally part of a fish camp that predates HNP. It is currently known as the Staff Development Center and is recommended not eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A, B, C and D.

Lastly, at the south end of the HNP parcel near the former Plant Hatch Recreation Area is the Bell Family Cemetery, which dates to the mid-nineteenth and the early twentieth century. The cemetery has an unknown NRHP eligibility under Criterion D. Currently there are no development plans or ground-disturbing activities planned near the cemetery as part of the Project, and thus the cemetery is outside of the APE.

In conclusion, none of the HNP historic architectural resources are eligible for inclusion in the NRHP; therefore, no historic properties are present within the Project APE.

Requesting your Concurrence and Next Steps

Based on DOE EDF's review of the 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 Georgia 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, 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 at 202-913-3477 or via email at EDF_Environmental@doe.gov.

Sincerely,

Don Brown
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Dominance Financing

Attachments:

Attachment 1. Georgia SHPO Project Review and Consultation Form

Attachment 2. Architectural Survey Report