



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

May 28, 2026

Burns Wetherington, P.E.
Environmental Affairs
Georgia Power
241 Ralph McGill Blvd, NE Bin 10221
Atlanta, Georgia 30308

Subject: U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Dominance Financing
Completion of Environmental Review for the Proposed Equipment
Modernization and Digital Modernization of the Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear
Plant (HNP), Units 1 and 2 in Appling County, Georgia

Dear Mr. Weatherington:

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) (formerly the Loan Programs Office [LPO]) and Georgia Power Company (GPC) have executed a loan guarantee agreement (LGA) of a funding facility pursuant to DOE's authority under section 1706 of Title XVII of the Energy Policy Act of 2005, as amended by the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022 (42 U.S.C. 16517) and the One Big Beautiful Bill Act (Pub. L. No. 119-21, 139 Stat. 72 (July 4, 2025)) (the Energy Dominance Financing or EDF Program). EDF is considering whether to include the Hatch Nuclear Plant (HNP) Project (the Project), in Appling County, Georgia, for inclusion in the funding facility that is the subject of DOE's loan guarantee (proposed Federal financial assistance). Descriptions of the Project activities that are the subject of the proposed Federal financial assistance are provided below.

Equipment Modernization includes a range of capital upgrades and improvements that are crucial for maintaining the plant's efficiency, reliability, safety, and regulatory compliance. Proposed activities for HNP include:

1. Spare Generator Step-Up Transformer Replacement
2. Plant Service Water Stainless Steel Pump Upgrades (7 out of 8)
3. Unit 1 Steam Dryer Upgrade
4. Control Rod Drive Replacements
5. Turbine Valve Replacements

6. Recirculation Motor Replacement

Digital Modernization includes upgrades to plant analog control systems designed in the 1960s and 1970s with modern digital control systems. These projects are crucial for maintaining the plant's efficiency, safety, and regulatory compliance without interrupting its energy production. Proposed activities for HNP include:

1. Turbine Controls Upgrade
2. EX2100 Upgrade
3. Steam Jet Air Ejector

EDF conducted the environmental reviews and consultations required by the applicable and relevant environmental statutes and Executive Orders (EOs) associated with its proposed Federal financial support. In addition, DOE relied upon the completed Final Environmental Impact Statement NUREG-1437, Supplement 4 (SEIS), Generic Environmental Impact Statement for License Renewal of Nuclear Plants: Regarding Edwin I. Hatch Nuclear Plant, Units 1 and 2 – Final Report by US Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) to inform the DOE's decision. The other applicable and relevant environmental statutes and EOs included:

1. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536)
2. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 306108)
 - a. EO 13175, Consultation and Coordination With Indian Tribal Governments
3. E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, and 10 CFR 1022, Floodplains

Applicable and Relevant Environmental Review(s)

Section 7, Endangered Species Act

In accordance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, EDF relied upon the NRC's previous and ongoing consultation under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. EDF's review found that there would be *no effect* to designated critical habitat. Additionally, for the one Federally threatened, endangered, proposed, and candidate species with potential to occur in the Project area (shortnose sturgeon), EDF has reached a no effect determination based on 1) no in-water or in-stream work proposed, 2) no tree or vegetation clearing proposed, and 3) the results of desktop and field-based assessments indicating no ground disturbance within suitable habitat areas for this species.

Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act

EDF reviewed the regulatory agency consultations completed pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and issued a Finding of No Historic Properties Affected, consistent with 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). On October 2, 2025, the Georgia State Historic Preservation Officer concurred with DOE's finding of No Historic Properties Affected, due to the scope and location of work associated with DOE's undertaking (i.e. Federal financial assistance for equipment modernization and digital modernization at HNP). DOE identified and contacted 10 federally recognized Native American Indian Tribes (Tribes) that may have an interest in the Project area (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). No comments were received from these Tribes.

E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, and 10 CFR 1022, Floodplains

DOE reviewed the 2001 NRC Final SEIS, Supplement 4 in accordance with the requirements of 10 CFR 1022 for floodplain and wetland assessments, as well as the regulatory agency consultations that were previously completed. The NRC Final SEIS provides floodplain and wetland information and analyses to support EDF's conclusion that no impacts on floodplains or wetlands are associated with the activities that are the subject of the proposed Federal financial assistance.

EDF notes that Georgia Power is responsible for obtaining permits, approvals, and/or authorizations required for the construction and/or operation of the Project.

Conclusion

With this letter, EDF confirms that it has completed the environmental reviews and consultations required by the applicable and relevant environmental statutes and Executive Orders (EOs) associated with its proposed Federal financial support.

Respectfully,

Don Brown
Environmental Project Manager
Office of Energy Dominance Financing

cc: Denis O'Meara, EDF Utilities Vertical Lead
Todd Stribley, Director, EDF Environmental Programs
Giulio Areinamo-Duque, EDF Portfolio Management Division