



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

June 26, 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 Wadley Battery Energy
Storage System Project, Jefferson County, Georgia

Dear Burns Wetherington:

The United States Department of Energy (DOE), Office of Energy Dominance Financing (EDF) has issued a Federal loan guarantee to Georgia Power Company (GPC) 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 Wadley Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project (Project) in Jefferson County, Georgia, for potential inclusion in the loan guarantee.

GPC is proposing the construction and operation of a 260-megawatt (MW) / 4-hour (e.g., 1,040 MWh) electrochemical BESS with a new overhead 230 kilovolt (kV) utility line and breaker station at 1890 Coleman Chapel Road in Wadley, Georgia. The line will connect the BESS to a new electrical breaker station, which will tie into an existing generating facility's step-up substation. That substation currently connects to GPC's Rachels Pond 230 kV Switching Station.

GPC's Project will include the construction and installation of shop-fabricated battery enclosures, step-up transformers, auxiliary power system, site building, power plant control system, 50,000-gallon water tank, security system, and external fire alarm system. Following construction, the area will be restored and stabilized in accordance with the Project's Erosion, Sedimentation and Pollution Control Plan (ES&PCP) and the Georgia Manual for Erosion and Sediment Control. The Project substation area scope includes rough grading only.

The Project would be partially funded by the EDF loan. The portions of the Project eligible for Federal financing include the purchase of components and installation/assembly of the BESS

modules atop existing foundations, the 230kv tie-line clearing and construction, and the switching station construction.

BESS and GSU substation site preparation and related construction activities will **not** be subject to EDF funding (e.g., tree clearing, stump grubbing, erosion & sediment control measures, grading, stormwater drainage system, parking lot, laydown yard, perimeter fence poles/posts, underground wiring/lines/conduit and equipment foundations/slabs). GPC has already initiated and/or completed these activities using their own funds, and therefore, they are not eligible for funding under the EDF loan program, and as such, there is no federal action for these activities.

EDF, in coordination with the GPC, has identified environmental statutes and EOs applicable to the proposed Federal financial support for the Project include, but are not limited to:

1. Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536)
2. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 306108)
 - a. Executive Order 13175, Consultation and Coordination with Indian Tribal Governments
3. Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201-4209)

EDF completed the environmental reviews and consultations associated with the Project, as summarized below.

Section 7, Endangered Species Act (16 USC 1536)

An Official Species List was generated on June 9, 2026, using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database (project code: 2026-0100879). Four listed or proposed species were identified with potential to occur in the project area (i.e., the tie-line area): tricolored bat, eastern indigo snake, southern hognose snake, and monarch butterfly. The project area does not overlap with designated critical habitat.

Using a USFWS Determination Key (D-key), EDF reached a no effect determination for the threatened eastern indigo snake. Similarly, EDF used a D-key for to reach a not likely to adversely affect (NLAA) determination for the proposed endangered tricolored bat. The NLAA determination triggered a 15-day review period for USFWS. The 15-day review period was completed and EDF was not notified by USFWS that the IPAC-assisted determination was incorrect. Therefore, consultation on the action is considered complete for the tricolored bat.

Surveys indicated potential suitable habitat for the proposed threatened monarch butterfly and the proposed threatened southern hognose snake in the upland, maintained areas surrounding adjacent solar farms and GPC's BESS site. No suitable habitat was identified in the forested portion of the site proposed for the tie-line. Given that EDF's financing is limited to the tie-line and purchase and installation of batteries on existing foundations and no suitable habitat was identified, EDF has reached a no effect determination for these two species.

Section 106, National Historic Preservation Act (54 USC 306108) and EO 13175

In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), on May 26, 2026, DOE EDF initiated consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and 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.

DOE's consultation package indicated a Finding of No Adverse Effect, consistent with 36 CFR § 800.5(d)(1).

On June 24, 2026, the Georgia SHPO provided a letter of concurrence with DOE's Finding of No Adverse Effect. Additionally, the SHPO confirmed that any changes to this project as it is currently proposed will require additional consultation.

No tribes responded. Further, no objections were received from these parties within 30 days of receipt of DOE's Finding; therefore, in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1)(i), DOE EDF's responsibilities under section 106 are fulfilled.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201-4209)

In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, on June 12, 2026, EDF consulted the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) regarding potential direct and indirect conversion of farmland. Jointly, EDF and NRCS completed a Farmland Conversion Impact Rating for Corridor Type Projects (CPA-106) review. No alternative routes are required to be considered. The review concluded on June 25, 2026.

Conclusion

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

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

Respectfully,

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

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