



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

July 16, 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 Bowen Battery Energy
Storage Project, Bartow 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 Bowen Battery Energy Storage System (BESS) project (Project) in Bartow County, Georgia, for potential inclusion in the loan guarantee.

The Bowen BESS project consists of two phases. Each phase includes construction of a 250-megawatt (MW), 1,000-megawatt-hour (MWh) BESS with a 20-year asset life and Commercial Operation Date (COD) of November 2028. Each Phase will connect to a common Generation Step-Up (GSU) substation located between the two Phases. Connection will be via 34.5 kV underground lines. The GSU substation will transform the generating voltage to 230 kV so it can be conveyed to the grid via a new interconnecting tie-line. The 230 kV tie-line will connect to a new 230 kilovolt (kV) interconnection substation to be constructed and owned by GPC on the same 539-acre GPC parcel. This new substation ("West Bowen") will connect to the grid via the existing Bowen - Judy Mountain 230 kV Transmission Line. Both Phases are scheduled to start construction in December 2026.

The Project site will include the construction and installation of shop-fabricated battery enclosures (less than 10 feet tall), inverter step-up transformers, auxiliary power system, BESS control system, private fire main, security system, and external fire alarm system. An Operations and Maintenance (O&M) building and permanent parking lot will be constructed south of the GSU substation and between the BESS Phases. The O&M building will house operation and

maintenance staff, contain the control system and operator station, and store all spare parts and maintenance equipment for the BESS facility. A temporary, gravel parking lot will be installed west of the O&M building parking lot and will exist only for the duration of the Project's construction.

The Project activities eligible for Federal financing include the site preparation and related construction activities for the BESS and GSU substation, purchase of components and installation/assembly of the BESS modules and GSU equipment and the 230 kV tie-line clearing and construction. The BESS and GSU site preparation and related construction activities that are subject to EDF funding include erosion and sediment control measures, grading, stormwater drainage system, parking lot, laydown yard, perimeter fence poles/posts, underground wiring/lines/conduit, and equipment foundations/slabs.

The BESS and GSU will be constructed on an existing industrial borrow area that was previously developed by GPC using private funding. (The borrow area is not associated with the proposed BESS and GSU.) The borrow area was previously cleared of vegetation; the Project does not require any further tree clearing or stump grubbing for the BESS and GSU construction.

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. E.O. 11988, Floodplain Management, and 10 CFR 1022, Floodplains
4. 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 April 27, 2026, and updated on June 26, 2026, using the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) database (project code: 2026-0081899). Eight listed or proposed species were identified with potential to occur in the project area: gray bat, tricolored bat, whooping crane, finelined pocketbook, monarch butterfly, large-flowered skullcap, Tennessee yellow-eyed grass, and white fringeless orchid. The project area does not overlap with designated critical habitat.

EDF used a USFWS determination key (D-key) 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 on July 13, 2026, 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.

Potential foraging habitat for the gray bat is present in the project area. Current protected bat species management guidelines recommend restricting clearing of bat habitat from mid-May to July 31. GPC intends to conduct clearing activities outside of this window. EDF has reached a “No Effect” determination for this species.

Surveys indicated potential suitable habitat for the proposed threatened monarch butterfly in the open, grassy areas in the northwestern portion of the project area. Similarly, surveys indicated potential suitable habitat for the white fringeless orchid in one wetland on the northern perimeter of the project area. Ground disturbance in these areas is either not required for the project, was completed prior to EDF’s involvement in the project, or is not subject to federal financing. Therefore, EDF has reached a “No Effect” determination for these two species.

For all other species, there is no potential suitable habitat within the project area. Therefore, EDF has reached a determination of No Effect for these 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 February 18, 2026, DOE EDF initiated consultation with the Georgia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) and twelve (12) federally recognized Tribes to see if they have an interest in the Project: Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas; Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town; Cherokee Nation; Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana; Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians; Kialegee Tribal Town; Miccosukee Tribe of Indians; Muscogee (Creek) Nation; Poarch Band of Creek Indians; 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 March 19, 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.

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

Approximately 1,000 linear feet of the new 230kV tie-line will cross the 100-year floodplain. Two new steel monopole transmission structures will be installed in the floodplain (net new).

Accordingly, on April 10, 2026, EDF published a Notice of Floodplain Action and a proposed

statement of findings for a 15-day public review period. EDF notified the Federal Emergency Management Agency regional office and Bartow County emergency management agencies of the posted notice and opportunity for review and comment. No comments were received.

New structure placement will meet local and federal floodplain management requirements. The new structures will be designed to not affect base flood elevations. Work areas will be temporary and will not require modifications to site elevations. Temporary erosion controls will be installed and maintained until the work areas are restored and stabilized. Base flood elevations will not be affected by the Project.

This letter serves as EDF's final statement of findings. EDF's obligations for review, analysis, and public notice are complete.

Farmland Protection Policy Act (7 USC 4201-4209)

In accordance with the Farmland Protection Policy Act, on March 19, 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 (AD-1006) review. No alternative routes are required to be considered. The review concluded on March 31, 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