

February 14, 2013

Mr. George McCluskey  
Senior Archeologist/106 Review Coordinator  
The Department of Arkansas Heritage  
Arkansas Historic Preservation Program  
1500 Tower Building  
323 Center Street  
Little Rock, AR 72201

SUBJECT: NHPA SECTION 106 REVIEW FOR NRC PALEOEARTHQUAKE STUDY IN  
GEOLOGIC TRENCH EXCAVATIONS

Dear Mr. McCluskey:

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) is planning to continue research efforts to identify paleoliquefaction features in Arkansas. Upon completion of the National Historic Preservation Act's Section 106 process, our planned work consists of conducting a paleoearthquake study at two Arkansas sites to be selected in a field visit. The paleoearthquake study will include excavating a 1.5 meter deep trench at each site having approximate plan dimensions of 1 meter by 30 meters. Our initial site investigation work is described in my letter to you of August 23, 2012. Based on previous discussions with you, we have developed a plan for completing the Section 106 consultation process, which is summarized below.

#### **Plan for Completing the 106 Review Process**

Upon selection of a particular site for the trench excavation work and paleoearthquake studies, the NRC will determine the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and then consult with your office to both identify other consulting parties, including Native American tribes, and any historic properties located within the APE. In consultation with your office and any other consulting parties, the NRC will (1) determine whether the excavation work and paleoearthquake studies may cause an effect upon any historic properties present in the APE and (2) if the planned work does cause such an effect, then the NRC will assess whether such effect is adverse. If the effect is determined to be adverse, the NRC will work with your office and any other consulting parties to resolve such effect.

We plan to select two sites during a field visit in March 2013. This field visit will include shovel testing at approximately 10 meter intervals along the proposed trench excavation. Following this field visit, we will provide you and any other consulting parties with a project notice of our proposed activities for the excavation of a trench at each of the two sites. Our project notice will include a report which will provide a detailed project description, a USGS topographic map for each work area (1:24,000 scale) showing the location of the proposed trench excavation, and other pertinent data as it relates to any historic properties at the site. We are anticipating that the trench excavation at one or both of the sites will begin in the fall of 2013.

G. McCluskey

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If you have any questions or require additional information please contact Thomas Weaver by phone at (301) 251-7654 or by email at [Thomas.Weaver@nrc.gov](mailto:Thomas.Weaver@nrc.gov). Please send written correspondence to the attention of the Document Control Desk at the following address.

ATTN: Document Control Desk  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, DC 20555-0001

Sincerely,

**/RA/ Brian Thomas for**

Michael J. Case  
Director, Division of Engineering  
Office of Nuclear Regulatory Research

cc: Dr. Robert Lafferty  
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Mr. Andrew Pessin, Esq., NRC/OGC/GCLR/RMR  
Mr. Stuart Easson, NRC/FSME/DILR/ILB

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