

SEMINOLE TRIBE OF FLORIDA  
TRIBAL HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE  
AH-TAH-THI-KI MUSEUM

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October 5, 2015

Ms. Megan Clouser, Senior Project Manager  
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Regulatory Division  
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Dear Ms. Clouser,

**Subject:** Turkey Point Nuclear Plant Transmission Line Corridors  
**THPO#:** 0006365

Thank you for consulting with the Seminole Tribe of Florida's Tribal Historic Preservation Office (STOF-THPO) pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and in acknowledgement of your trust responsibilities.

The proposed Turkey Point transmission line corridors, both the East Preferred Corridor and the West Consensus Corridor, lie within an area that is an important part of the Ancestral Seminole land and we appreciate the opportunity to provide the following comments on the proposed draft EIS (please refer to the attached map as needed).

- A large number of archaeological sites have been recorded throughout southeast Florida and as noted in the draft EIS, numerous sites are known to occur near the proposed transmission line corridors. We are concerned with the possible impacts of any undertaking on cultural resources which may be present within the area of potential effect. Since it does not appear that either of the possible transmission line corridors have been subjected to a systematic Phase I cultural resources assessment survey, we request that such a survey be conducted at the appropriate time and that the results of such survey be provided to the STOF-THPO for review and comments. If any preliminary or desktop/archival investigations have already been completed we would like to be provided copies of those reports.
- Our experience has shown that archaeological sites in the Everglades have a high likelihood of containing burial resources (human skeletal remains, etc.). This is especially relevant with regards to the West Consensus Corridor. It is the Tribes position that the remains of ancestors should be left undisturbed and every effort should be made to identify sites in advance of any ground disturbance, and those sites avoided

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whenever feasible. We also request that at the appropriate time, prior to any ground disturbing activities, the USACE, the STOF-THPO, and other appropriate parties develop protocols to follow in the event of the unanticipated discovery of human remains during any phase of the proposed undertaking.

- At least one area considered sacred to the Seminole, a natural spring, is located near a portion of the East Preferred Corridor. We are concerned with the possible effects of transmission line construction on the hydrology of that area and request that sufficient technical analysis be conducted to assess if water flowing to the spring would be interrupted or adversely affected. We would also ask that the USACE make available an appropriate, knowledgeable individual to discuss the results of such investigations with members of the Tribal community if needed.
- Lastly, in the USACE's April 4<sup>th</sup>, 2015 public notice announcing the release and availability of the Turkey Point draft EIS, it is stated that a short section of the transmission line, presumably the East Preferred Corridor, will cross beneath the Miami River as an underground cable system. The area proposed for this crossing, east of Interstate I-95, is rich in aboriginal archaeological sites including sites that have been shown to contain numerous burials. We caution that any ground disturbing activities in these areas has a heightened potential for encountering cultural and/or burial resources and we would like to be consulted further when details of such a river crossing are being developed. We again recommend that protocols be developed in consultation with the STOF-THPO to deal with the unanticipated discovery of human remains.

Please continue to consult with us on this project since it is occurring within an area that is especially important to the Tribe. Feel free to contact us at your convenience with any questions or to provide a project update.

Respectfully,

*Bradley M. Mueller*

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