

RON DESANTIS
Governor

LAUREL M. LEE
Secretary of State

Richard W. Estabrook, Ph.D., RPA Senior Project Manager/Archaeologist Environmental Services Richard.Estabrook@nexteraenergy.com April 16, 2021

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2019-4593-I

Received by DHR: March 29, 2021

Management Summary: Archaeological Site 8JE872, North Florida Resiliency Connection Transmission

Line Project, Jefferson County, Florida

Management Summary: Archaeological Excavations at Site 8JE00881 North Florida Resiliency Connection Transmission Line Project, Jefferson County, Florida

Management Summary: Archaeological Excavations at Site 8JE00067 North Florida Resiliency Connection Transmission Line Project Jefferson County, Florida

Dear Dr. Estabrook:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced management summaries of the results of additional archaeological testing for three archaeological sites (8JE00067, 8JE872, and 8JE00881) within the North Florida Resiliency Connection (NFRC) electrical line corridor. The sites were all subjected to additional testing in order to assess the potential for each site to contribute significant data to the understanding of Florida's history or prehistory. The review was conducted as part of our ongoing consultation with Gulf Power and the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) regarding the Gulf Power North Florida Resiliency Connection (NFRC) Transmission Line Project associated with USACE permit number SAJ-2019-02766. The project was reviewed for possible effects on historic properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the *National Register of Historic Places* (NRHP), and was conducted in accordance with Section 106 of the *National Historic Properties*.

SEARCH conducted Phase II testing at 8JE00881 and 8JE00067, while Janus tested site 8JE872. All three sites displayed disturbances, contained minimal diagnostic artifacts, and lacked features. While a deeply-buried scraper from 8JE00881 may suggest a Paleoindian component at that site, artifact yields from that depth were sparse and provided limited archaeological information. Sites 8JE00067, 8JE872, and 8JE00881, in the opinion of the SEARCH and Janus investigators, lack sufficient integrity and research potential for NRHP eligibility. No further work was recommended by SEARCH and Janus.

DHR Project File No.: 2019-4593-J

April 16, 2021

Page 2

Our office has reviewed the management summaries and found the level of Phase II work sufficient. We look forward to receiving the final report. This project is subject to a Corps review and determination of effects, which we have not yet received. As such, our comments on the project's effects will be provided to the Corps directly upon receipt of their effects determination communication.

If I can be of any further help, or if you have any questions about this letter, please feel free to contact Clete Rooney at *Cletus.Rooney@dos.myflorida.com*.

Sincerely,

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D.

Director, Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer