

FLORIDA DEPARTMENT Of STATE

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

March 2, 2021

RE: DHR Project File No.: 2019-4593-G Received by DHR: January 25, 2021 Technical Memorandum, Additional Survey and Testing, North Florida Resiliency Project Phase 1—Columbia and Suwannee Counties

Dear Dr. Estabrook:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced cultural resources assessment survey (CRAS) addendum report 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 Preservation Act of 1966*, as amended, and its implementing regulations in *36 CFR Part 800: Protection of Historic Properties*.

Between September and Decmber of 2020, SouthArc, a part of Commonwealth Heritage Group, Inc., conducted the above referenced cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) on behalf of Gulf Power Company (Gulf Power). At the behest of the Poarch Band of Creek Indians, additional testing was conducted at ten sites that had been previously evaluated to better define the site boundaries (8SU570, 8SU572, 8CO1443, 8CO1444, 8CO1445, 8CO1449, 8CO1450, 8CO1451, 8CO1447, and 8CO1452). The results of this additional testing did not change the NRHP eligibility recommendations for these resources. All of the sites are low density scatters, and lack sufficient research potential for NRHP inclusion in the opinion of the investigators. Survey of the previously inaccessible segments of the APE and the two added staging areas did not locate any additional cultural resources.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with the results of the survey and we find the submitted addendum report complete and sufficient in accordance with Chapter 1A-46, *Florida Administrative Code*. 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.



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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, lasu For

Timothy A. Parsons, Ph.D. Director, Division of Historical Resources and State Historic Preservation Officer