

RON DESANTIS
Governor

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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 Addendum to the Cultural Resource Assessment Survey of Phase 2 of the North Florida Resiliency Connection Transmission Line Project Jefferson, Leon, and Madison Counties, Florida

Dear Dr. Estabrook:

The Florida State Historic Preservation Officer reviewed the referenced cultural resources assessment survey (CRAS) 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 August and December of 2020, SEARCH, Inc. (SEARCH) conducted the above referenced cultural resource assessment survey (CRAS) on behalf of Gulf Power Company (Gulf Power). The survey area consisted of 35 acres. Five archaeological sites were newly recorded (8MD00365, 8MD00366, 8MD00367, 8MD00368, 8MD00369) and two previously recorded sites (8JE00883 and 8MD00107) were revisited. Sites 8MD00365, 8MD00366, 8MD00367 are recommended as not NRHP eligible, and no further work is indicated for these sites.

Site 8MD00368 is newly recorded within a proposed off-ROW access road for the project. The site could not be fully delineated, so there is insufficient information to make an NRHP eligibility recommendation. However, the proposed access road should not impact the deposits which were found at depths greater than 60 cm. The project should have no adverse effect on 8MD00368. Site 8MD00369 has also not been delineated outside of the APE, so there is likewise insufficient information to make an NRHP eligibility recommendation. However, based on the degree of disturbance observed within the excavated shovel tests, the site as expressed in the APE does not appear NRHP eligible. Site 8MD00107 is a prehistoric scatter originally identified in 1970. The current survey expanded the boundaries of this previously recorded site. SEARCH recommends additional work at the portion of 8MD00107 within the APE to evaluate the integrity and research significance of the Deptford component of the site.

Based on the information provided, our office concurs with the results of the survey and we find the submitted 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



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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