



Tennessee Valley Authority, 1101 Market Street, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37402-2801

August 26, 2011

Mr. E. Patrick McIntyre, Jr.
Executive Director
Tennessee Historical Commission
2941 Lebanon Road
Nashville, Tennessee 37243-0442

Dear Mr. McIntyre:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA), CLINCH RIVER SMALL MODULAR REACTORS PROJECT, PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE

TVA is developing plans to construct up to six small modular nuclear generating reactors within the Clinch River Small Modular Reactors (SMR) project area in Roane County, Tennessee, and is currently preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). TVA identified the area of potential effects (APE) as the entire SMR project site, which consists of approximately 1185 acres bounded on the west, south, and east by Watts Bar Reservoir (between Clinch River river miles 15.5R and 19.6R); on the northwest by Department of Energy land; and on the northwest by Grassy Creek.

Previous archaeological investigations within the APE have identified 39 archaeological sites and no historic architectural resources. TVA has recently conducted two Phase I surveys of portions of the SMR APE. A 2002 cultural resources survey of 188 acres for proposed ash disposal/storage and borrow areas within the SMR APE (then termed the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site) documented one potentially eligible archaeological site (40RE549) within the SMR APE. A Phase I archaeological survey of 310 acres earlier this year for proposed site characterization work related to the SMR project documented five potentially eligible archaeological sites (40RE106-108, 40RE165, and 40RE166). TVA has consulted with your office regarding these findings and your office has concurred by letters dated July 25, 2003, and February 28, 2011, respectively.

TVA contracted with TRC to conduct a Phase I archaeological survey of areas within the SMR APE, totaling 687 acres that were not covered by the above mentioned surveys. Enclosed is the draft report titled *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Clinch River Small Modular Reactors Project (SMR), Roane County, Tennessee*. A historic structures survey was conducted by Ted Karpynek over a 0.5 mile architectural APE surrounding the SMR archeological APE, for which no historic structures were identified. A report of this survey will be submitted to your office.

The archaeological survey conducted on March 14 to April 29, 2011, identified 15 previously unrecorded archaeological sites (40RE590-598 and 600-602 and 605-607) and three isolated finds (IF 1-3). The survey also re-evaluated 20 previously identified archaeological sites within the study area (40RE104-106, 40RE108, 40RE122-125, 40RE128, 40RE140, 40RE151, 40RE153, 40RE155, 40RE160-164, 40RE167, and 40RE549).

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TRC recommended that sites 40RE104-106, 40RE108, 40RE124, 40RE128, 40RE140, 40RE167, 40RE549, 40RE595, 40RE600, 40RE601, and 40RE605 are potentially eligible for the NRHP under criterion *d* of 36 CFR Part 63. TRC recommended that sites 40RE122, 40RE123, 40RE125, 40RE151, 40RE155, 40RE160-164, 40RE590-594, 40RE596-598, 40RE602, and 40RE606- 40RE607 are ineligible for the NRHP due to lack of stratified, intact cultural deposits or the low density of cultural material or the effects of prior disturbance.

TVA has reviewed the enclosed report and agrees with the findings and recommendations of the authors with one exception. It is TVA's opinion that 40RE605 is ineligible due to the low density of material and lack of clearly stratified deposits. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, we are seeking your concurrence with TVA's findings and recommendations:

- Sites 40RE104-106, 40RE108, 40RE124, 40RE128, 40RE140, 40RE167, 40RE549, 40RE595, 40RE600, and 40RE601 are potentially eligible for the NRHP.
- Sites 40RE122, 40RE123, 40RE125, 40RE151, 40RE155, 40RE160-164, 40RE590-594, 40RE596-598, 40RE602, and 40RE605-40RE607 are ineligible for the NRHP.

Planning for the proposed SMR project is currently under development and finalization may not occur until fiscal year 2014. Pursuant to 36 CFR §§ 800.14(b)(1)(ii) and (b)(3), TVA proposes to develop, in consultation with your office and other consulting parties, a programmatic agreement to document the terms and conditions to resolve potential adverse effects of the undertaking.

If you have any questions or comments, please contact Richard Yarnell in Knoxville, Tennessee, at (865) 632-3463 or wryarnell@tva.gov.

Sincerely,



Susan J. Kelly
Senior Manager and
Federal Preservation Officer
Federal Determinations
LP 5U-C

Enclosure