



Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, TN 37902

April 2, 2015

To Those Listed:

TENNESSEE VALLEY AUTHORITY (TVA), CLINCH RIVER SMALL MODULAR REACTORS PROJECT, PHASE I ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY, ROANE COUNTY, TENNESSEE (LATITUDE 35.916944, LONGITUDE -84.391389)

TVA initiated consultation with your office on August 26, 2011 regarding the above-named project, a proposal to develop up to six small modular nuclear generating reactors at the former Clinch River Breeder Reactor Site in Roane County, Tennessee (and seek a construction and operating license from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the project). TVA's findings are documented in the final report titled *Phase I Archaeological Survey of the Clinch River Small Modular Reactors Project (SMR), Roane County, Tennessee*. TVA and the State Historic Preservation Officer have agreed that 12 archaeological sites so far identified in the APE are potentially eligible for the NRHP. If TVA develops plans that could affect any of those sites, TVA will conduct additional investigations in order to determine eligibility.

TVA placed this project on hold in 2012 due to funding issues. TVA is now resuming the development of project designs and the consideration of environmental impacts, including possible impacts to historic properties. TVA also has changed its focus from seeking a construction and operating license, to seeking an early site permit license. Once the early site permit application is approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, TVA will begin preparing a combined construction and operating license application.

In addition to the APE that was under consideration in 2011, TVA is now considering possible development of two areas located outside that APE. TVA may propose infrastructure changes in these two areas to facilitate plant construction. These areas are located near the mouth of Grassy Creek and on Department of Energy (DOE) property between Grassy Creek and the State Route 58 bridge over the Clinch River. Therefore, TVA has enlarged the APE for archaeology as shown in Figure 1, below. This area comprises approximately 138 acres of land, most of which is owned by DOE. All other areas of the APE have been surveyed previously and were included in our previous consultation.

TVA contracted with AMEC Foster Wheeler (AMEC) for a Phase I archaeological survey of the expanded portion of the APE. The survey included all parts of this APE save one area that was included within a recent DOE survey, and which contains a portion of previously recorded site 40RE233 (Happy Valley Workers' Camp). The DOE survey recommended 40RE233 as eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. The current survey included 110.5 acres. Please find enclosed the resulting report titled *Phase I Archaeological Survey, TVA Clinch River SMR, Roane County, Tennessee* along with two CDs containing digital copies of the report.

Background research conducted by AMEC prior to the survey indicated that four archaeological sites (40RE135, 40RE138, 40RE139, and 40RE202) have been recorded previously within the study area. These sites were revisited during the current survey. Based on the findings, AMEC

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recommends that 40RE135 and 40RE202 have been destroyed by construction, and that the area where 40RE139 is shown on the Tennessee Division of Archaeology (TDOA) site form contains no archaeological deposits. AMEC suggests that 40RE139 may have been mapped incorrectly when it was recorded. AMEC recommends further that 40RE138 may contain intact deposits that could be eligible for the NRHP, but that the site's NRHP eligibility is undetermined; a large part of the site was inaccessible with shovel testing because construction fill has been placed over the site. A more intensive field study would be needed in order to access any deposits that may lie beneath the fill.

The survey identified no previously unrecorded archaeological sites. The survey identified one isolated find and one non-site locale. AMEC recommends both ineligible for the NRHP.

TVA has reviewed the enclosed report and agrees with the findings and recommendations of the authors. Based on the information provided in this report, TVA determines that the isolated find, non-site locale, and sites 40RE135 and 40RE202 are ineligible for listing in the NRHP. TVA finds that no archaeological deposits associated with 40RE139 are located in the APE. Based on currently available information, TVA cannot fully evaluate the NRHP eligibility of site 40RE138.

TVA's current plans for the project do not include any actions that would affect 40RE138 or 40RE233. If such plans are developed in future, TVA will consult further with your office.

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(f)(2), TVA is consulting with the following federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties within the proposed project's area of potential effects that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and eligible for listing in the NRHP: Cherokee Nation, Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma.

By this letter, TVA is providing notification of these eligibility determinations and is seeking your comments regarding this undertaking and any properties that may be of religious and cultural significance and may be eligible for listing in the NRHP pursuant to 36CFR §§ 800.2 (c)(2)(ii), 800.3 (f)(2), and 800.4 (a)(4)(b).

Please respond by May 02, 2015, if you have any comments on the proposed undertaking. If you have any questions, please contact me at (865) 632-6461 or by email at pbezzell@tva.gov.

Sincerely,



Patricia Bernard Ezzell
Tribal Liaison and Corporate Historian
Communications
WT 7D-K

SCC:PBE:CSD

**Phase I Archaeological Survey, TVA Clinch
River SMR, Roane County, Tennessee**

March 2015

IDENTICAL LETTER MAILED TO THE FOLLOWING ON APRIL 2, 2015:

Dr. Richard Allen
Policy Analyst
Cherokee Nation
Post Office Box 948
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74465

Mr. Joseph Blanchard
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper
Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801

Mr. Ace Buckner
Cultural Resources Director
Kialegee Tribal Town
Post Office Box 332
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

cc: Ms. Kara Gann
Assistant Cultural Resources Director
Kialegee Tribal Town
Post Office Box 332
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Mr. Bryant Celestine
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas
571 State Park Rd. 56
Livingston, Texas 77351

Mr. Charles Coleman
NAGPRA Representative
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town
Route 1, Box 190-A
Weleetka, Oklahoma 74880

Ms. Robin DuShane
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
127 West Oneida
Seneca, Missouri 64865

Ms. Dee Gardner
NAGPRA/Cell Tower Coordinator
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
127 West Oneida
Seneca, Missouri 64865

Mr. Tyler Howe
Historic Preservation Specialist
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Post Office Box 45
Cherokee, North Carolina 28719

cc: Mr. Russell Townsend
Tribal Historic Preservation Office
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Post Office Box 455
Cherokee, North Carolina 28719

Ms. Miranda Panther
NAGPRA Coordinator
Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Post Office Box 455
Cherokee, North Carolina 28719

Ms. Johnnie Jacobs
Manager
Cultural Preservation Department
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

cc: Mr. Jeff Fife
Secretary of Department of Interior Affairs
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Ms. Odette Freeman
Assistant Manager
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
P.O. Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Ms. Johnnie Wesley
Secretary
Cultural Preservation Department
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Mr. David Proctor
Traditional Cultural Advisor
Cultural Preservation Department
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Ms. Lee Anne Wendt
Tribal Archaeologist
Cultural Preservation Department
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Mr. Tim Thompson
Traditional Cultural Advisor
Cultural Preservation Department
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

Ms. Kim Jumper
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Shawnee Tribe
Post Office Box 189
Miami, Oklahoma 74355

cc: Jodi Hayes
NAGPRA Representative
Shawnee Tribe
PO Box 189
Miami, OK 74355

Mr. Steven Landsberry
Administrative Assistant
Alabama Quassarte Tribal Town
Post Office Box 187
Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883

Mrs. Lisa C. LaRue-Baker
Acting Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
United Keetoowah Band
of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma
Post Office Box 746
Tahlequah, Oklahoma 74464

Mr. Emman Spain
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer
Cultural Preservation Department
Muscogee (Creek) Nation
Post Office Box 580
Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447

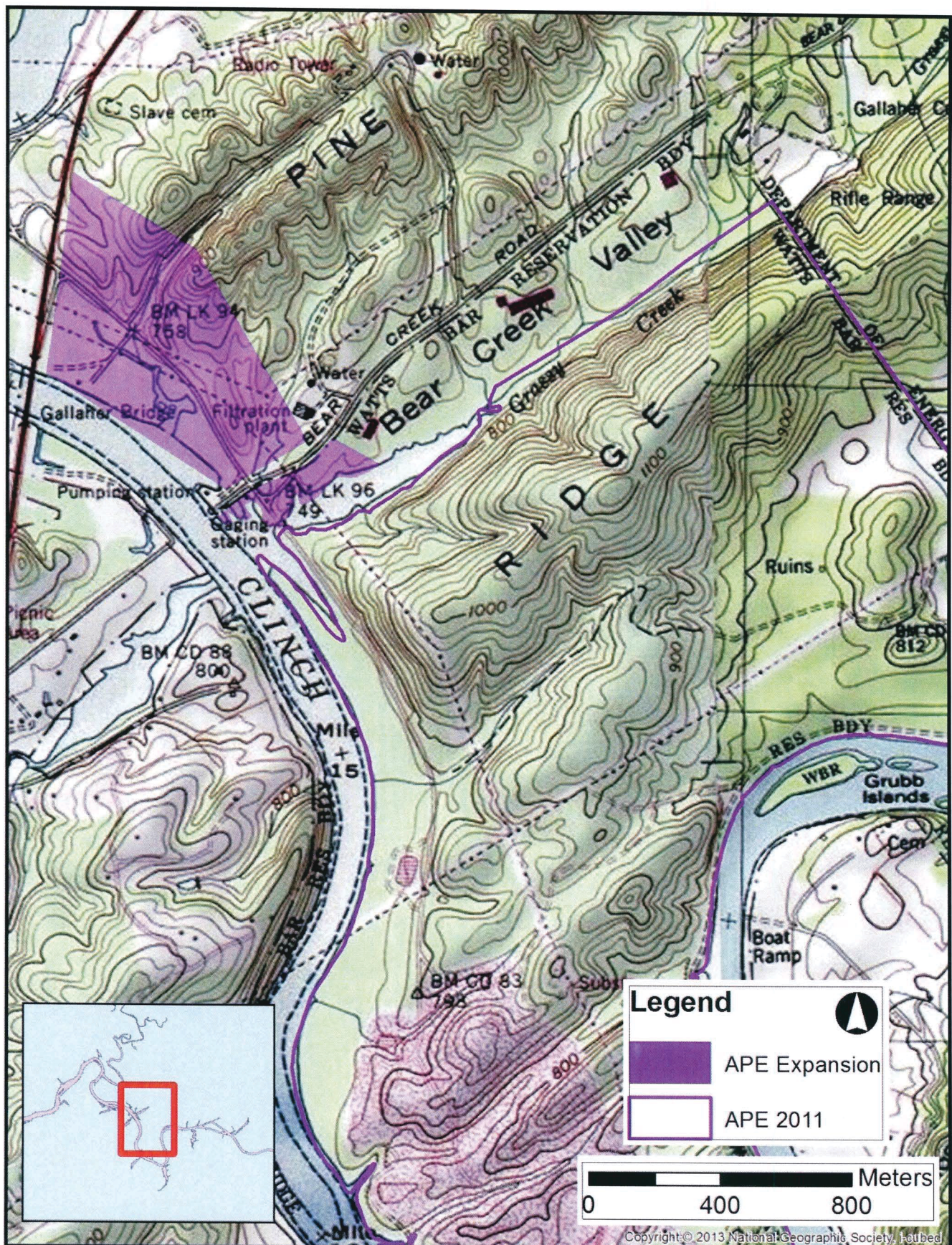


Figure 1. Clinch River SMR Project, APE Expansion area. Base map: Elverton and Bethel Valley, TN 7.5-min quadrangles.