

**Attachment B – Public Scoping Comments and TVA Responses,
Public Notice, and Correspondence**

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Public Scoping Comments and TVA Responses Pertaining to the BRMEMC Proposal

In Support of Proposal

As a property owner in Towns County on Lake Chatuge, I want to offer some comments regarding the proposed location of a BRMEMC Sub Station on parcel 52. No one wants a sub-station in their back yard, however, we are seeing from our current real estate market downturn that when building stops, so does the mountain economy. Based on information provided by BRMEMC, to continue to grow and to maintain satisfactory power reliability and future growth in this section of Towns County, including lake property, a new sub-station is a necessity. (**Comment by:** *Lamar Paris*)

Please accept my support for BRMEMC's request for 2 acres of the TVA property for construction of a sub-station site. With the increase and growth in our county there is a need for BRMEMC to increase the electrical service in our county. As General Manager of the Georgia Mountain Fairgrounds, I have seen a lot of growth for the past several years and we will see continued growth. In order to accommodate the needs for electricity, BRMEMC needs the TVA property for the sub-station. (**Comment by:** *Hilda Thomason*)

TVA Response: Comments noted.

Opposed to the Proposal

I could continue, but Please Turn Down this request from BRMEMC and either suggest another site to them or let them purchase a site, either of which should preferably be located in a small "blind" canyon or treed area to hide the sub station from view of motorists and residences. As a former Georgia Tech engineering graduate, who worked on Gemini, Apollo and Skylab for the NASA, I know from experience that trade-off studies and decisions can be difficult. But, Please do a good job of tackling the issues that mitigate heavily against this particular site being chosen for a sub station. - Do your very best for all citizens and let BRMEMC locate this equipment somewhere else more secluded. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

While TCHA understands that a new substation serving the southeast part of Towns County is absolutely necessary and that decisions need to be made in a timely manner, we are unconvinced that rushing into the solution currently on the table without a thorough investigation of potential alternatives is the best thing for the County, the Cooperative or the TVA. We take note of the fact that, because much of the early work on the proposal has been done off line and quietly, it is only recently that the general citizenry have become aware of the proposed citing and its impact. That suggests that we need to slow down and make sure that all potential resolutions are fully explored and all citizen concerns are fully addressed. We encourage TVA to relax and let these efforts proceed to a conclusion and their results be transmitted to you prior to moving further ahead with the decision process.

(**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: Prior to submitting this request to TVA, BRMEMC evaluated five alternative locations on private property and one alternative location on TVA property. For various reasons such as current owners preferred not to sell property, extensive amount of site preparation or distance from other substations, these alternative sites did not meet the needs of BRMEMC. BRMEMC chose Site 5 on Parcel 52 as the preferred location because the substation would be located in a

commercial area as opposed to a residential neighborhood, near existing transmission lines and near BRMEMC's load center, and would require very little site preparation in order to construct the substation. Construction costs and land use analysis have been included in the Substation Locations and Transmission Line Routes of the final EA.

TVA officials met with members of Towns County Homeowners Association. As a result of that meeting, BRMEMC considered additional sites identified to it by TCHA. BRMEMC has informed TVA that none of these sites were as feasible as Site 5 for various reasons, including size. See also the Preferred Site Identification subsection of the EA.

Electric and Magnetic Field (EMF) Concerns

Reasons for my objection- Power substations emit EMF,(electro magnetic fields), which are known to interact with human tissues and are potentially dangerous. Latest research suggests that pregnant women should never go near a high power transmission line or substation, also those with pace makers or automatic defibrillators. (**Comment by:** *Bob Crawford*)

There is also the concern of the electro magnetic field created by high voltage transformers and power lines. This is dangerous to persons with pacemakers, defibrillators and interferes with hearing aids. (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

TVA Response: See the Electric and Magnetic Fields subsection of the EA.

There is the concern of the EMF (electro magnetic field) effect on persons under or near high voltage wires. If a substation and potential park area shared the same parcel of land there could be detrimental affects on those in this area and doubtful that citizens would use the park area. (**Comment by:** *Robert A. Keys*)

TVA Response: See the Electric and Magnetic Fields subsection of the EA. The typical voltage for power distribution lines in the project area is from 13 to 25 kilovolts. EMFs directly beneath these overhead distribution lines typically range from 10 to 20 milligauss (mG) for main feeders and less than 10 mG for lateral power lines. Information provided in the EMF section of the EA indicates that the EMF levels produced from a 115-kV transmission line are much less than those produced from operating common household and office equipment.

Floodplains

Then there is the environmental impact of the remaining portion considering BRMEMC would have to bring in fill dirt to raise the elevation for their substation. Can they disturb the land this way? (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

The land elevation places it almost entirely in a flood plain of Lake Chatuge well below the 1933 elevation. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

The hazard of a sub station being engulfed by rising lake water could pose operational and maintenance access difficulties with contingent power interruptions. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

The proposed site is below the 1933 line and very close to highway 76. Although we recognize that filling can elevate the location, fill dirt is never as stable as undisturbed soil and substation equipment is very heavy. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: A very small portion of the site is below the 100-year flood elevation 1,929.0, and BRMEMC plans to place 21 cubic yards of fill material within the 100-year floodplain to elevate this portion of the site. Another small part of the site is below the 500-year flood elevation. To address this, BRMEMC plans to add 0.2 acre-foot of fill material to elevate this small area above the 500-year flood elevation 1,931.0. The entire substation site would be constructed above elevation 1,933.0, which is approximately 4 feet above the 100-year flood elevation at this location. The risk of site flooding is minimal and acceptable.

Land Use

I suggest BRMEMC find a more acceptable location. I have heard that a 2 acre site behind the Mohawk plant might be available. (**Comment by:** *Bob Crawford*)

There must be other lands EMC can obtain. They only want this parcel because it is easy access for their people without concern for the beauty of that property. Let them buy property elsewhere at fair market value. TVA should provide this property to Towns County for their development to be used by the citizens of the county. (**Comment by:** *Mary Keys*)

As a concerned citizen of Towns County, GA I am greatly opposed to BRMEMC using any portion of Land Parcel #52 for a substation. Please don't mar the lake with any more substations. There are other places that the substations could be placed. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

To date, BRMEMC has embraced our proposal for the exploration of alternatives and has agreed that, if an alternative site can be found and obtained, to consider such positively even to the extent of incurring additional cost, if not unreasonable. While this effort is underway it will take time. BRMEMC emphasizes the need to move ahead but the issue is important enough to the future of the county to require whatever time it takes to do it right. As of this writing, we have identified several potential parcels further to the south and we are, with the help of Commissioner Kendall, exploring their utility and availability. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

In summary, TCHA advances a recommended use for this property which is the most appropriate. We are also working hard to help the BRMEMC find a location which they can live with and which will further the desire of the County to preserve and maintain the mountain charm of our community. We enlist the support of the TVA in achieving this goal. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: Prior to submitting this request to TVA, BRMEMC evaluated five alternative locations on private property and one other alternative location on TVA property. For various reasons, as discussed in the Substation Locations and Transmission Line Routes section of the EA, these alternative sites did not meet the needs of BRMEMC. BRMEMC chose Site 5 on Parcel 52 as the preferred location because the substation would be located in a commercial area as opposed to a residential neighborhood, near existing transmission lines and near BRMEMC's load

center, and would require little site preparation in order to construct the substation. TVA has reviewed BRMEMC's siting evaluation and concurs with it.

This lake front property is far too valuable as a County park or other similar use available to the general public. Installation of an electric sub station would eliminate or at least deteriorate that possibility for the County. In addition it would present an eyesore on Hwy 76 a main thoroughfare for tourist travelers coming into the city. Surely there is other property in the area more secluded that would serve the BRMEMC requirement. **(Comment by: Don Washburn)**

As a concerned citizen of Towns County, GA I am greatly opposed to BRMEMC using any portion of Land Parcel #52 for a substation. Please don't mar the lake with any more substations. There are other places that the substations could be placed. **(Comment by: Hilda T. McGriff)**

TVA Response: The construction of a substation and new transmission line on Site 5 on Parcel 52 would not preclude future potential recreational use on the remainder of the parcel. The substation and new transmission line would be seen in the foreground by area residents and motorists along U.S. Highway 76. However, a vegetative screen of mixed evergreen and deciduous trees and evergreen shrub species would be planted at a 25-foot-minimum width around all sides of the substation. An 8-foot-high chain link fence with dark green vinyl slats would be constructed surrounding the substation. Most of the parcel, including the part fronting the reservoir, would remain for other uses, including recreation.

Parcel 52 is an undeveloped but prime lake front property. It has no business being used for a heavy commercial application when it is more suited for recreational purposes or residential development focused on the lake. **(Comment by: Towns County Homeowners Association)**

The land would probably market at several million dollars for lakefront residential or hotel construction, if the 1933 elevation could be accommodated without forbidden fill dirt washing into the lake? **(Comment by: Wes Lerdon)**

TVA Response: TVA Land Policy does not allow land to be sold for residential use. However, the TVA Land Policy does allow for lands to be made available for public infrastructure including public power distribution purposes. Parcel 52 could also be used for developed recreation. The construction of a substation and new transmission line on Site 5 would not preclude other potential land uses for the remainder of the parcel, provided the uses are allowable under TVA policies and guidelines.

When all options are considered, this would appear to be one of the best solutions to a difficult issue. The cost savings to BRMEMC from this site compared to others will be significant and a savings that will ultimately be passed on to rate payers. **(Comment by: Lamar Paris)**

TVA Response: Comment noted.

Request for Public Hearing

A substantial number of Towns County citizens have contacted my office with concerns and questions regarding the electrical power sub station proposal to be located on TVA property Parcel 52 approximately 2 miles east of Hiawassee. I feel a great majority of citizens are not aware of this proposal and those that are aware of it have concerns and many questions. Therefore, as the elected governing authority of Towns County, I am hereby making a formal request that TVA and the Blue Ridge Mountain EMC hold public hearings on this very important proposal of which will effect the lives of all citizens. I firmly believe governmental agencies at the local, State and Federal level should go to great lengths to enlighten the public on issues and decisions being made that will effect their property and lives. (**Comment by:** *Bill Kendall, Towns County Commissioner*)

TVA Response: An open house-style public meeting was held by TVA on November 13, 2008. This meeting provided the public an opportunity to come in as their schedules permitted to learn about the proposal and to provide TVA information and comments about the proposal. TVA has found that an open house format generally works better than a formal hearing format. An open house format is more informal and people typically find this less daunting. The public also may come and go as they please. Because of the informality and availability of staff, there is generally more one-on-one interaction. Furthermore, some people will discuss their concerns more freely without an audience. Additionally, in TVA's experience, the open house format allows more people to provide comments in an efficient and timely manner.

Recreation

This parcel is very well suited for more community minded purposes such as a soccer field and park area for Towns County citizens and children to enjoy waterfront access. (**Comment by:** *Robert A. Keys*)

The TVA maps show the proposed site is intended for "Recreation", certainly not an unsightly sub station or other industrial corporate use. (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

However, one of the major advantages to this site is that in addition to the sub-station, we understand that there is a potential for a public park on a portion of this property, which will be a huge asset to this community. (**Comment by:** *Lamar Paris*)

We are further opposed to the proposed deal whereby BRMEMC would develop the remainder of parcel 52 into a park for the City of Hiawassee (see below). As a consumer financed public utility, BRMEMC has no business spending utility funds on improvements to public property. In addition, the locating of a park where children and adults will play and relax next to a large electrical power substation invites unnecessary potential safety issues. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

The TCHA also opposes the leasing of this parcel or any part thereof to the City of Hiawassee for a public park and boat ramp for the following reasons: The property is not within the city limits. The City already has a piece of property on the lake about one half mile north of this parcel which they have attempted to develop with poor results and which is largely unused. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

If the City has money for a park, then they should first consider spending it to upgrade the park on the City Square before starting another project and leaving two others unfinished.

The TCHA is strongly opposed to any new boat ramps or extension of existing ones until effective policing and watercraft use management is established on Lake Chatuge. This subject will be fully addressed in our formal response to the Land management Study later this summer and has already been brought to the attention of the Authority in the letter mentioned in the first paragraph above. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

As an appropriate use for this property the TCHA endorses and encourages the TVA to lease this parcel to Towns County for use as an unlighted soccer field for the youth of the county. Today, the county youth soccer teams must share temporary fields with other youth sports, i.e. baseball and softball. There is no dedicated youth soccer field and those that are available are fully used by the high school and the college. The county has been searching for a piece of property for this use for several years without success. This property is uniquely suited to the soccer field use and the request has the endorsement of Commissioner Kendall. The objection to late night play will be handled by leaving the field unlighted. The property can be made soccer ready with minimum grading and fencing plus the installation of suitable parking for which there is ample room. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

TVA Response: The construction of a substation and new transmission line on Site 5 would not conflict with existing or future potential recreational use on the remainder of Parcel 52. Neither the City of Hiwassee nor Towns County have requested use of Parcel 52 or any part of it for recreational use nor is there a proposal to build a boat ramp or marina on the property.

Socioeconomics

The proposed site is immediately adjacent to the Palmer property including a store and trailer village and across the road from several businesses all of whom have been in their present locations for a long time. These businesses will be adversely impacted by the suggested location and their owners are expressing their concern. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

The residential properties across this narrow part of the lake could be devalued and property tax dollars lost forever to Towns County with resultant devalued resale for the homeowners and possible successful litigation for homeowners to be compensated for their loss of property values. (No, I do not live anywhere near the adversely affected area.) (**Comment by:** *Wes Lerdon*)

TVA Response: The construction of the proposed substation and related transmission line would have a small temporary positive impact on employment and income in the county. Once completed, the local area would continue to have a reliable and adequate supply of electricity for some time, allowing the economy to continue to grow. No significant impact on property values is likely, although a temporary, short-term impact could occur until the public becomes accustomed to the presence of the substation and transmission line. Vegetative screening and lighting requirements, as discussed in the subsection on Visual Resources, would contribute to avoiding any significant impact to property values. In addition, the location of the substation in a commercial area would avoid intruding directly on residential areas, decreasing any likelihood of impacts on property values.

Visual Impacts

Locations near personal residences causes a much more sever impact than the proposed site. Even though it is along the lake and adjacent to Hwy 76, if you compare it to another sub station located on the West side of Hiawassee and along the lake, the visual impact is very minimal. There is no residence next door and the main power line right-of-ways already exist, therefore, the potential for site 52 to be the least disruptive site should be obvious. **(Comment by: Lamar Paris)**

TVA Response: This is consistent with TVA's assessment of potential visual impacts.

Location- Parcal52, across from Parker Oil Co is one of the most beautiful areas on Lake Chatuge. A power substation would diversely affect the aesthetics of this area. The substation would require the routing of high voltage transmission lines which carry voltages of 35,000 to 65000 or even higher through or around Hiawassee. These transmission lines would require those hugh metal poles that run along US 64 coming in to Hayesville, recently installed. **(Comment by: Bob Crawford)**

This is a beautiful piece of land worth of something other than an ugly substation on the major highway leading into Hiawassee from the East. We already have two ugly substations on the same highway to look at and they do nothing for the beauty of the area. I believe if BRMEMC did get the acreage they desire it will render the remaining portion of this parcel unusable. Who would want a park, business, etc located next to a high voltage area with large power lines running to and fro. **(Comment by: Mary Keys)**

This parcel is prime waterfront property and a substation will totally destroy the aesthetics of that piece of land. This property is visible to all visitors coming into Towns County from the East (Helen and Clayton) and is one of the first pieces of lakefront property County visitors see. All one has to know how this is true is see the ugly substations already in existence on Highway 76 in Young Harris, Hiawassee across from Papa's Pizza (and this one is on the waterfront as well) and the new substation in Hayesville. BRMEMC has done nothing to improve the aesthetics of the areas around these substations. **(Comment by: Robert A. Keys)**

A sub station, with all attendant unsightliness, would create an eyesore at the eastern approach to Hiawassee comparable to an unfenced junk yard or oil drilling rig. **(Comment by: Wes Lerdon)**

I have live in this area 46 years and have seen the growth impact. In order for our store(Hiawassee Hardware) to continue selling building supplies our local EMC must be able to provide proper utilities. I have heard there is a need for a new substation to provide the Hightower area with power. The proposed property is now used by fishermen, however the shoreline is not kept up. It would be my hope if a substation goes in there a TVA groundskeepers would be assigned to the area and it could be more attractive as you pass by on your way to enter into the city limits. Perhaps a park could be incorporated to utilize this beautiful piece of lakefront property and landscape the substation accordingly. **(Comment by: Brenda McKinney, Secretary/Treasurer, Hiawassee Hardware & Building Supply, Inc.)**

Further, substations, being of their nature aesthetically degrading and potentially dangerous, should be located away from area of heavy use either by traffic or personnel. **(Comment by: Towns County Homeowners Association)**

BRMEMC in the few public discussions they have had, have never highlighted the fact of the requirement for the high voltage power lines which are required to service the substation. These lines are presently planned to come through downtown Hiawassee on large power poles which will add nothing to the ambience of the town nor will they be easily located on the existing paths. TCHA recognizes that any location may require this approach but moving the substation further south would allow the option of running the distribution lines down SR 288. In no condition, would the TCHA support the running of the power lines across the lake and we think that BRMEMC agrees with this. (**Comment by:** *Towns County Homeowners Association*)

Selfishly, this is where we live and the area we call home. Each time we turn down Shakerag Road and each time we exit our home from Shakerag onto Hwy 76 we would see the eyesore of a substation in one of the most pristine, pure areas of North Georgia. This would totally ruin that feeling. Also, the business' that are located right around there would be impacted by the unsightly view of the substation if it were to be located there. Also, for residents and visitors to Hiawassee coming from the East and South one of their first views on coming into the region are the beautiful shores of Lake Chatuge only to immediately be met with a substation just before the city limits of Hiawassee. Not that I am commenting that there isn't a need for another substation, but there has to be a better place to locate this new substation besides Parcel 52. Please reconsider this proposal and find a location that is not as highly visible to not only residents and business owners in this immediate area, but also visitors coming into Hiawassee. (**Comment by:** *Robert B. Blaha*)

TVA Response: The substation and new transmission line would be seen in the foreground by area residents and motorists along U.S. Highway 76. However, a vegetative screen of mixed evergreen and deciduous shrub species would be planted at a 25-foot-minimum width around all sides of the substation. An 8-foot-high chain link fence with dark green vinyl slats would be constructed surrounding the substation. TVA has concluded that potential visual impacts of locating a substation on this part of Parcel 52 would not be significant. BRMEMC has stated the substation would be locked at all times, unless employees are working inside the station.

Public Notice

April 29, 2008

Proposed action

Sale of TVA Property

Location

Chatuge Reservoir, Hiwassee River, Towns County,
Georgia

Description

Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative (BRMEMC) has submitted a request for approximately 2 acres of TVA property for construction of a substation site and a small portion of a transmission line right-of-way.

The requested property is located on Chatuge Reservoir, Hiwassee River, Towns County, Georgia, and is located along U.S. Highway 76 just south of the city limits of Hiwassee, Georgia. (See [vicinity](#) and [exhibit](#) map.) The requested property is known as Parcel 52 in the Draft Mountain Reservoirs Land Management Plan.

Construction of the substation and associated transmission line is needed by BRMEMC to handle increasing demand for electrical service in the area. If approved, TVA would be compensated for the fair market value of the property.

TVA is interested in receiving comments on the potential of the proposed action to affect the environment, historic properties and to identify any other issues associated with this proposal. These comments will be used in reaching a decision concerning the proposed action. Please note that any comments received, including names and addresses, will become part of the administrative record and will be available for public inspection.

[Exhibit Map](#)

[Vicinity Map](#)

All written comments on this proposed action must be received on or before June 1, 2008, and should be directed

to:

Dan Fisher, TVA
1101 Market Street (PSC 1E-C)
Chattanooga, TN 37402-2801
(423) 876-4177
Fax (423) 876-4016
E-mail: dfisher@tva.gov

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Georgia Department of Natural Resources

Historic Preservation Division

Noel Holcomb, Commissioner

W. Ray Luce, Division Director and Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer
34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600, Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2316
Telephone (404) 656-2840 Fax (404) 857-1040 <http://www.gashpo.org>

June 23, 2008

Thomas O. Maher, Ph.D.
Manager, Cultural Resources
Tennessee Valley Authority
400 West Summit Hill Drive
Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

**RE: Construct Macedonia Substation, US 76/SR 75/SR 2, South of Hiawassee
Towns County, Georgia
HP-080521-006**

Dear Dr. Maher:

The Historic Preservation Division (HPD) has reviewed the report *Cultural Resource Survey for the Proposed Macedonia Substation and Transmission Line in Towns County, Georgia*, dated May 2008 by TRC, Inc. Our comments are offered to assist the US Army and its applicants in complying with the provisions of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA).

Please accept this letter in replacement of our previous June 19, 2008 letter. Based on the information contained in the survey report, HPD concurs with the finding that archaeological site 9TO204 is considered not eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Therefore, the proposed project will have **no effect** on archaeological resources that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1).

Based on the provided information, HPD concurs with the findings that historic structures HR-3 to HR-7, and HR-14 are not eligible for the NRHP. HPD concurs that HR-2, HR-8, HR-9, HR-12, HR-13, HR-15, and HR-18 appear to be eligible for the NRHP. It is our opinion that HR-10, HR-11, HR-16, and HR-17 are not eligible for the NRHP due to alterations. HPD does not feel that adequate information was provided concerning the Osborn Cemetery, HS-1. We find that it may be eligible for the NRHP for its age in relation to the early development of the town of Hiawassee, and for the design of its gravestones. However the case for its eligibility, HPD finds that the proposed project will have **no adverse effect** on the Osborn Cemetery due to its location. HPD concurs that the proposed project will have **no adverse effect** on historic structures that are listed in or eligible for listing in the NRHP due to the existing transmission lines that the proposed transmission line will be connected with, coupled with topography and vegetative screening as outlined in the provided information, as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.5(d)(1).

Please refer to project number **HP-080521-006** in any future correspondence regarding this undertaking. If we may be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact Elizabeth Shirk, Environmental Review Coordinator, at (404) 651-6624, or Bob Entorf, Review Archaeologist, at (404) 651-6775.

Sincerely,



Karen Anderson-Cordova
Manager, Planning and Local Assistance Unit

KAC: jph

cc: Chip Wright, Georgia Mountains RDC



Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

May 20, 2008

Commissioner Noel Holcomb
State Historic Preservation Officer
Department of Natural Resources
34 Peachtree Street, NW, Suite 1600
Atlanta, Georgia 30303-2316

Dear Commissioner Holcomb:

TVA, LAND USE PERMIT, MACEDONIA SUBSTATION, TOWNS COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to grant a land use permit to Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative for the construction of a substation and a 500-foot transmission line (TL) right-of-way (ROW) on a portion of TVA fee-owned land. The TVA fee-owned land (Tract CHR-414) is located on a river terrace overlooking Chatuge Reservoir at Hiwassee River Mile 129.9 in Towns County, Georgia. The permit would grant an easement for the 500-foot TL ROW, and TVA would sell the 1.5-acre footprint required for the substation (Figure 1). The 500-foot ROW would cross U.S. Highway 76 and connect with an existing TL ROW running to the Woodsgrove substation near Friendship, Georgia.

TVA determined the archaeological area of potential effect (APE) to be the 1.5-acre substation footprint and 500-foot long by 20-foot wide TL ROW. In addition, TVA determined the historical/architectural APE to be any areas visible within a half-mile radius of the archaeological APE.

TVA contracted with TRC, Inc. (TRC) to conduct a cultural resource survey of both the archaeological and historical/architectural APE. Archival research conducted by TRC indicated one previously recorded archaeological site, 9TO204, and one historic structure, Survey #39, occur within the APE. Site 9TO204, recorded by New South Associates, Inc. in 1998 during a shoreline survey, was recommended ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Survey #39 was identified during a comprehensive Towns County survey in 1977 but was subsequently demolished. Following the archival research, TRC conducted the Phase I cultural resources survey of the APE on April 22-24, 2008. Please find enclosed two copies of the draft report titled, *Cultural Resource Survey for the Proposed Macedonia Substation and Transmission Line in Towns County, Georgia*.

The archaeological survey resulted in the relocation of site 9TO204, and no new archaeological sites were identified within the APE. TRC concurs with New South Associates, Inc. recommendation that Site 9TO204 is ineligible for the NRHP. No further archaeological work is recommended.

Commissioner Noel Holcomb
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May 20, 2008

The historical/architectural survey resulted in the identification of 18 resources. TRC recommended historical/architectural resources HR-1, HR-3 through HR-7, and HR-14 are recommended ineligible for the NRHP. TRC recommended historical/architectural resources HR-2, HR-8 through HR-13, and HR-15 through HR-18 as eligible for the NRHP. TRC determined that the project would have a visual effect on the eleven eligible resources but that the effect will not be adverse due to partial vegetation screening and/or extant modern construction in the vicinity.

TVA is consulting with the following federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties within the proposed project's APE that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and eligible for the NRHP: the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, The Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

TVA has reviewed the enclosed report and agrees with the findings and recommendations of the authors. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, we are seeking your concurrence with TVA's findings and determinations regarding the following:

- The archaeological APE consists of the 1.5-acre substation footprint and 500-foot long TL ROW;
- The historical/architectural APE consists of areas within and visible from one-half mile of the archaeological APE;
- Archaeological site 9TO204 and historic/architectural resources HR-1, HR-3 through HR-7, and HR-14 are ineligible for the NRHP;
- Historical/architectural resources HR-2, HR-8 through HR-13, and HR-15 through HR-18 are eligible for the NRHP; and
- The project will have no adverse effect to historic properties on or eligible for the NRHP.

Should you have any questions or comments, please contact Ted Wells at 865/632-2259 or ewwells@tva.gov.

Sincerely,



Thomas O. Maher, Ph.D.
Manager
Cultural Resources

EWW:IKS
Enclosures
cc: EDMS, WT 11D-K



Tennessee Valley Authority, 400 West Summit Hill Drive, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902-1499

May 20, 2008

To those listed:

TVA, LAND USE PERMIT, MACEDONIA SUBSTATION, TOWNS COUNTY, GEORGIA

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) proposes to grant a land use permit to Blue Ridge Mountain Electric Membership Cooperative for the construction of a substation and a 500-foot transmission line (TL) right-of-way (ROW) on a portion of TVA fee-owned land. The TVA fee-owned land (Tract CHR-414) is located on a river terrace overlooking Chatuge Reservoir at Hiwassee River Mile 129.9 in Towns County, Georgia. The permit would grant an easement for the 500-foot TL ROW and TVA would sell the 1.5-acre footprint required for the substation (Figure 1). The 500-foot ROW would cross U.S. Highway 76 and connect with an existing TL ROW running to the Woodsgrove substation near Friendship, Georgia.

TVA determined the archaeological area of potential effect (APE) to be the 1.5-acre substation footprint and 500-foot long by 20-foot wide TL ROW. In addition, TVA determined the historical/architectural APE to be any areas visible within a half-mile radius of the archaeological APE.

TVA contracted with TRC, Inc. (TRC) to conduct a cultural resource survey of both the archaeological and historical/architectural APE. Archival research conducted by TRC indicated one previously recorded archaeological site, 9TO204, and one historic structure, Survey #39, occur within the APE. Site 9TO204, recorded by New South Associates, Inc. in 1998 during a shoreline survey, was recommended ineligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Survey #39 was identified during a comprehensive Towns County survey in 1977 but was subsequently demolished. Following the archival research, TRC conducted the Phase I cultural resources survey of the APE on April 22-24, 2008. Please find a copy of the draft report titled, *Cultural Resource Survey for the Proposed Macedonia Substation and Transmission Line in Towns County, Georgia* at the internet link <http://www.trcsolutions.com>. At the top right of the web page, there is a "Secure Logon" link. Click on this. You will be directed to the TRC portal. To logon, use this information: User name: tva@tva.gov, Password: tvatribal, Authentication Source: Client.

The archaeological survey resulted in the relocation of site 9TO204, and no new archaeological sites were identified within the APE. TRC concurs with New South Associates, Inc. recommendation that Site 9TO204 is ineligible for the NRHP. No further archaeological work is recommended.

The historical/architectural survey resulted in the identification of 18 resources. TRC recommended historical/architectural resources HR-1, HR-3 through HR-7, and HR-14 are recommended ineligible for the NRHP. TRC recommended historical/architectural

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resources HR-2, HR-8 through HR-13, and HR-15 through HR-18 as eligible for the NRHP. TRC determined that the project would have a visual effect on the eleven eligible resources but that the effect will not be adverse due to partial vegetation screening and/or extant modern construction in the vicinity.

TVA is consulting with the following federally recognized Indian tribes regarding properties within the proposed project's APE that may be of religious and cultural significance to them and eligible for the NRHP: the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians, the United Keetoowah Band of Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma, Cherokee Nation, the Muscogee (Creek) Nation of Oklahoma, Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of Texas, Alabama-Quassarte Tribal Town, Kialegee Tribal Town, Thlopthlocco Tribal Town, The Chickasaw Nation, Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma, Jena Band of Choctaw Indians, Shawnee Tribe, Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Seminole Tribe of Florida.

TVA recommends no further work with regard to archaeological or historic architectural resources for the proposed undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800, TVA is seeking your comments regarding this undertaking's effect on any historic properties which your tribe attaches religious or cultural significance.

If you have any questions regarding this project, please contact me at pbezzell@tva.gov or at (865) 632-6461 or Ted Wells at ewwells@tva.gov or 865-632-2259.

Sincerely,



Patricia Bernard Ezzell
Historian/Native American Liaison

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