



**North Carolina Department of Natural and Cultural Resources**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

Ramona M. Bartos, Administrator

Governor Roy Cooper  
Secretary Susi H. Hamilton

Office of Archives and History  
Deputy Secretary Kevin Cherry

December 13, 2018

Christy Churchill  
Duke Energy Corporation  
526 South Church Street  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Re: Inadvertent Discovery during Bear Creek Lake Drawdown, East Fork Hydroelectric Project,  
FERC 2698, Jackson County, ER 06-3132

Dear Ms. Churchill:

Thank you for your letter of November 12, 2018, concerning the above-referenced project.

It appears as though the structure might relate to a dwelling constructed between 1935 and 1946. We have determined that the structure is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places.

There are no known archaeological sites within the proposed project area. Based on our knowledge of the area, it is unlikely that any archaeological resources that may be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the project. We, therefore, recommend that no archaeological investigation be conducted in connection with this project.

The above comments are made pursuant to Section 106 and 110 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's Regulations for Compliance with Section 106 codified at 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for your cooperation and consideration. If you have questions concerning the above comment, contact Renee Gledhill-Earley, environmental review coordinator, at 919-814-6579 or [environmental.review@ncdcr.gov](mailto:environmental.review@ncdcr.gov). In all future communication concerning this project, please cite the above referenced tracking number.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Renee Gledhill-Earley".

Handwritten initials in blue ink, possibly "for" or "RM".  
Ramona M. Bartos



**Received: 11/15/2018**  
**State Historic Preservation Office**

November 12, 2018

**ER 06-3132**

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office  
4617 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, NC 27699-4617

**Due -- 12/4/18**

**A-**

**Subject:** East Fork Hydroelectric Project No. 2698, Jackson County, North Carolina  
Inadvertent Discovery during Bear Creek Lake Drawdown  
Request for Determination of Eligibility

Dear Ms. Gledhill-Earley:

Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC (Duke Energy) is the Licensee of the East Fork Hydroelectric Project No. 2698 (Project). As specified in Article 414 of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) operating license issued on May 4, 2011 for the Project, Duke Energy is required to consult with the North Carolina State Historic Preservation Office (NC SHPO) and the Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office (EBCI THPO) regarding activities and undertakings within the Project Area of Potential Effect (APE) that are not categorically excluded in the Project's Historic Properties Management Plan (HPMP). In particular, Chapter 4 of the HPMP (Rev. July 31, 2006) requires Duke Energy to consult with NC SHPO and the EBCI THPO regarding the need to conduct archaeological surveys of the exposed area for any planned drawdown where the pond elevation will remain at least 10 feet below the Normal Minimum Elevation for a minimum of 30 consecutive days. The HPMP also requires Duke Energy to consult with the NC SHPO regarding certain activities that may affect the Project's historic buildings and structures. In September of 2017, Duke Energy initiated consultation for the Bear Creek, Tennessee Creek, and Cedar Cliff Lake drawdown activities currently being conducted. The plan cited that the NCSHPO would be contacted in the event of inadvertent discoveries.

### **Project Description and History**

The Project began commercial operation in 1952 and is currently owned and operated by Duke Energy. The Project consists of three developments, Wolf Creek Development, Bear Creek Development, and Cedar Cliff Development on the East Fork of the Tuckasegee River in Jackson County, NC. The Bear Creek Development includes Bear Creek Dam, located on the East Fork of the Tuckasegee River near RM 54.5.

The Project area is situated in the Blue Ridge physiographic province, a mountainous zone that extends northeast-southwest from southern Pennsylvania to central Alabama. The physiography of Jackson County consists of high, intermediate, and low mountains; floodplains; and low stream terraces. The East Fork Project is located in the Tuckasegee River watershed, which typically drains to the north. The

Project area is surrounded by open water, rural residential, pastureland, and forested undeveloped lands.

## Project Activities

Temporary modifications to normal Project reservoir elevations to perform headgate rail repair and installation of Lemke redundant spillway gate hoists required by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Atlanta Regional Office (ARO) at the Bear Creek Development is currently underway. By letter to Duke Energy dated October 23, 2017 (ER 16-1388) NC SHPO noted that based on NC SHPO's knowledge of the area, there were no known historic resources that would be adversely affected by the project.

## Consultation Pursuant to the HPMP

The APE includes the drawdown footprint for the reservoir and Project facilities where maintenance activities are occurring . During the 90' drawdown of the lake, a previously unrecorded stone structure was revealed in the lakebed on October 11, 2018 in the Turkey Branch arm of the lake just east of the dam. The structure appears to have three openings for windows and a door and seems to have been built into the side of the slope. Duke Energy staff used special equipment to capture photos of the structure (Images 1 and 2) and locate with reasonable accuracy on a map prior to the need to begin refilling the lake (Images 3 and 4). Project staff notified the historic properties manager who immediately called the office of the NCSHPO for direction. This letter of request for a determination of eligibility related to this inadvertent discovery is in response to the direction provided by the NCSHPO on October 12, 2018. Duke Energy does not have information related to this structure and is unable to provide an approximate construction date aside from the fact that it pre-dates the creation of the lake in 1952.

## Conclusion

We request that you review the attached information and provide a determination of eligibility under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Should you have any questions regarding this project or require additional information, please do not hesitate to contact Christy Churchill at (980) 373-4183 or [Christy.Churchill@duke-energy.com](mailto:Christy.Churchill@duke-energy.com).

Ms. Renee Gledhill-Earley  
October 22, 2018  
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Sincerely,  
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC



Christy Churchill  
*Cultural/Historical Resources Coordinator*

cc: Jon Wise – Duke Energy  
John Eddy – Duke Energy  
Steve Johnson – Duke Energy



*Figure 1-View of Structure*



*Figure 2 -View of Structure Detail*



*Figure 3 -Aerial Map View of Structure Location*

