

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY  
REGION 6  
1445 ROSS AVENUE, SUITE 1200  
DALLAS TX 75202-2733

SEP 23 2013

Mr. Mark Wolfe  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Texas Historical Commission  
P.O. Box 12276  
Austin, Texas 78711

Attn: Mr. Bill Martin

Dear Mr. Wolfe:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 6 (EPA Region 6) is considering issuing a *Prevention of Significant Deterioration* (PSD) permit for El Paso Electric Company (EPEC) Montana Power Station for Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions. The proposed PSD permit would allow for the construction of four (4) natural gas-fired simple cycle combustion turbines at an electrical generating facility located in El Paso, El Paso County, Texas.

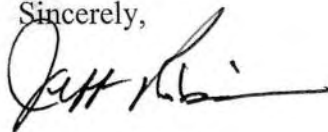
Pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), EPA determined that the issuing of this permit constitutes an "undertaking," and as such, examined its potential for having an effect on historic properties. A cultural resources report was prepared by SWCA Environmental Consultants ("SWCA") on behalf of EPEC and EPA.

On August 1, 2013 and August 23, 2013, EPA sent letters to the Indian tribes identified by the Texas Historical Commission and the National Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (NAGPRA) Online Database as having historical interests in El Paso County, Texas to inquire whether any of the tribes were interested in consulting with EPA in the Section 106 process. EPA also invited thirty-one tribes to participate in two informational exchange calls about the project as a follow up to the letters sent. No tribes sought to be section 106 consulting parties.

Field survey results indicate two newly recorded sites and three previously recorded sites. Based upon the information provided in the cultural resources report (enclosed) and EPEC's plan and letter of commitment to avoid any cultural resource sites present, EPA Region 6 determines that while there are cultural materials of historic or prehistoric age identified within the APE, issuance of the permit to EPEC will not affect potentially eligible for listing on the National Register. We now request your concurrence with our determination for this undertaking within thirty (30) days.

Thank you in advance for your expeditious evaluation of this request. In the interim, please feel free to contact Alfred C. "AC" Dumauval, at (214) 665-6613, if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



Jeff Robinson  
Section Chief  
Air Permits Section

Enclosure

cc: Roger Chacon, El Paso Electric Company