



**Federal Railroad  
Administration**

August 24, 2023

Amanda McBride  
Environmental Review Coordinator  
Alabama Historical Commission  
State Historic Preservation Office  
468 South Perry St.  
P.O. Box 300900  
Montgomery, AL 36130-0900

RE: Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line, Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama  
Section 106 Consultation and Finding of *No Historic Properties Affected*

Dear Ms. McBride:

The Federal Railroad Administration (FRA) is providing Fiscal Year 2022 Consolidated Rail Infrastructure and Safety Improvements (CRISI) funding to the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) for the proposed Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line (Project). The Project begins north of Threemile Creek and traverses to the north, east of Paper Mill Road and terminates at Berg Spiral Pipe Road, in Mobile, Mobile County, Alabama. The Project is in Township 3 South, Range 4 West, Section 44 and Township 4 South, Range 1 West, Section 44 on the Mobile, AL U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) Quadrangle 7.5 Minute Series Topographic Map. The southern terminus is located at latitude 30.726264°N and longitude 88.053482° W and the northern terminus is located at latitude 30.744034°N and longitude 88.063298°W (Attachment A).

The Project is an undertaking subject to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, and its implementing regulations (36 CFR Part 800) (Section 106). FRA is entering into consultation with your office on the Project and notifying you of our finding of No Historic Properties Affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).

**Project Background**

The purpose of the project is to improve efficiency of rail traffic entering and exiting the Terminal Alabama State Docks (TASD) interchange yard while reducing bottlenecks and idle time on nearby railroads. Currently, the existing TASD is the main track entering into the TASD interchange yard from the north, causing idle times in excess of four hours in non-industrial areas, on the nearby Alabama Gulf Coast Railway and the Norfolk Southern Railroad tracks. The proposed project design will allow trains up to 10,000- feet, or approximately 175 cars to utilize the new sidetrack while waiting on trains to enter or exit the TASD interchange yard. It is anticipated that the new sidetrack will reduce idle times to less than two hours and move waiting trains to a more industrial area.

**Project Description**

The ASPA is proposing to construct approximately 1.9 miles of new siding track, paralleling the existing TASD track, within existing railroad right-of-way. The southern connection is 100-feet north of the existing railroad bridge over Threemile Creek, and the northern connection will terminate south of Berg Spiral Pipe Road. The new siding track will be constructed within existing right-of-way (ROW) and approximately 0.57 acres of temporary construction easements (TCE)

will be needed due to grading constraints. Construction will consist of grading, drainage improvements, grade crossing improvements, and new track installation 15-foot offset from the centerline of the existing T ASD. Based on the noise and vibration analysis conducted for the Project for both construction and operation, there will be no perceptible changes in either beyond the limits of disturbance (LOD).

### **Area of Potential Effects**

The Area of Potential Effects (APE), as defined in 36 CFR Part 800.16(d), is “the geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.” FRA has therefore defined an APE limited to where the Project has the potential to cause effects on historic properties, and has been delineated to reflect the nature, scale, and location of the entire Project.

The Project is limited to the construction and operation of a 1.9-mile-long lead line immediately adjacent to the existing T ASD line within a heavily industrial area. There are no noise and vibration effects beyond the LOD, which corresponds with the railway right-of-way. The maximum depth of project excavation is 6 feet.

Since the addition of a short lead line within a heavily industrial area will not change the character of the setting of properties or introduce visual, atmospheric, or audible elements beyond the LOD, FRA determined that the APE is limited to the LOD. The APE map is the attached report, *A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line, Mobile County, Alabama* by All Phases Archaeology (APA).

### **Identification of Historic Properties**

As detailed in the attached report in Table 1, there are several previously identified archaeological and architecture/history located within one mile of the APE, but none are located within.

An archaeological survey was completed in March and April of this year. As detailed in the attached report, no archaeological sites were identified in the APE.

There are no architecture/history resources within the APE. The surrounding area is heavily industrial, especially to the east toward Chickasaw Creek and the Mobile River. Nearby industrial properties include Berg Pipe Mobile, Central Gulf Car Services, Shapiro Metals, and Kimberly-Clark Corporation (formerly Scott Paper Company). APA researched and assessed the industrial area to ascertain if it should be considered a potential industrial historic district that may extend into the APE. Of key consideration was the area’s association with Scott Paper Company, which built a paper mill at 200 Africatown Boulevard in 1940 to produce paper goods, including toilet paper and tissues. It was an integrated sulfate pulp and paper mill designed to produce higher quality brown and white papers. In 1963, Scott Paper continued to grow and expanded their Mobile plant by constructing a 100,000 square ft building at 1201 Paper Mill Road, which was the largest pulp and paper mill in the world at the time (*The Mobile Journal*, 30 August 1963:1, 4). Kimberly-Clark Corporation purchased the property from Scott in 1995.

Aerial imagery over the last 75 reveals a significantly altered and changing landscape which lacks the integrity necessary for NRHP consideration as a historic district (Attachment A). FRA determined that it has made a reasonable and good faith effort in identifying if the APE contains historic properties associated with a larger industrial historic district and, based on the scope and scale of the Project, no further work is warranted for the surrounding industrial area.

The TASD opened in 1927 and today is a subsidiary of the Alabama State Port Authority (ASPA) which operates 75 miles of track at two ports serving numerous industries, wharves, and warehouses. Being that the TASD remains in operation, it was not recorded with the State of Alabama as a linear historic resource. It has not been evaluated for NRHP listing; however, the proposed siding track of under 2 miles in length parallel to a small segment of the TASD will not affect the railroad line.

### **Consulting Party Outreach**

Due to the limited potential of effects from the Project, FRA did not identify any parties with properties inside the APE; however, the project is proximate to the National Register-listed Africatown Historic District. While the Africatown Historic District is not within the APE, it is adjacent to it in the southern part of the Project. FRA invites them via copy on this letter to participate as Section 106 consulting parties. Consulting parties should indicate their willingness to participate as a consulting party and provide comments, as indicated below, within 30 calendar days from the date on this letter. For more information on the role of a consulting party see:

<https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/citizens-guide-section-106-review>.

FRA invited federally recognized Native American tribes to participate in consultation by separate letter. The tribes contacted are listed in Attachment B. To date, the following tribes have responded: the Muscogee Nation, Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians, and the Cherokee Nation. The Muscogee Nation requested a copy of the archaeological survey report; therefore, they are copied on this letter and attached report. There have been no further responses. We will work to address any concerns that may be raised and notify your office as appropriate.

### **Section 106 Finding**

FRA invites your comments on the delineation of the APE and the appropriateness of the identification efforts for the undertaking. We are also notifying you of our finding of no historic properties affected. Based on the background research and field survey, FRA has determined that there will be **No Historic Properties Affected** as per 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1) by the Project as currently proposed.

Please email your response to me at [kristen.zschomler@dot.gov](mailto:kristen.zschomler@dot.gov). If you have questions or wish to discuss the Project, I can be reached at 651-391.0243. Thank you for your cooperation on the Project.

Sincerely,

*Kristen Zschomler*

Kristen Zschomler, RPA  
Historian, Architectural Historian, and Archaeologist  
Federal Railroad Administration

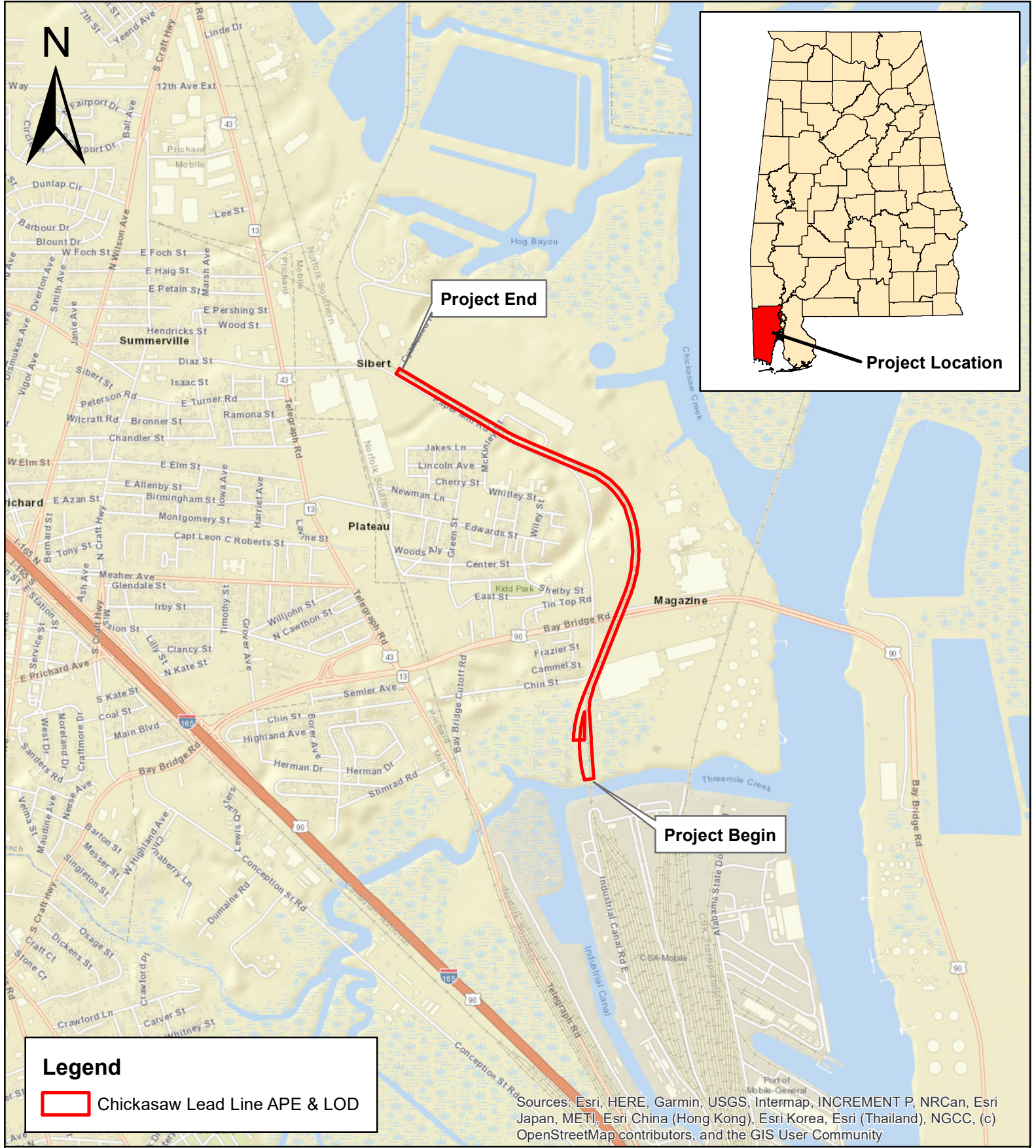
Attachments    A: Site Maps and Historic Aerial Images of Project Area  
                    B: List of Native American tribes contacted

Enc:    *A Phase I Cultural Resources Survey for the Chickasaw Railroad Lead Line, Mobile County, Alabama by All Phases Archaeology.*

cc:        [info@africatownhpf.org](mailto:info@africatownhpf.org)  
            [section106@mcn-nsn.gov](mailto:section106@mcn-nsn.gov)

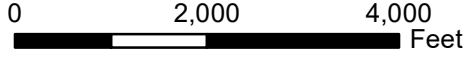
**ATTACHMENT A:**  
**Site Maps and Historical Aerial**  
**Imagery**





**Legend**  
 Chickasaw Lead Line APE & LOD

Sources: Esri, HERE, Garmin, USGS, Intermap, INCREMENT P, NRCan, Esri Japan, METI, Esri China (Hong Kong), Esri Korea, Esri (Thailand), NGCC, (c) OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS User Community

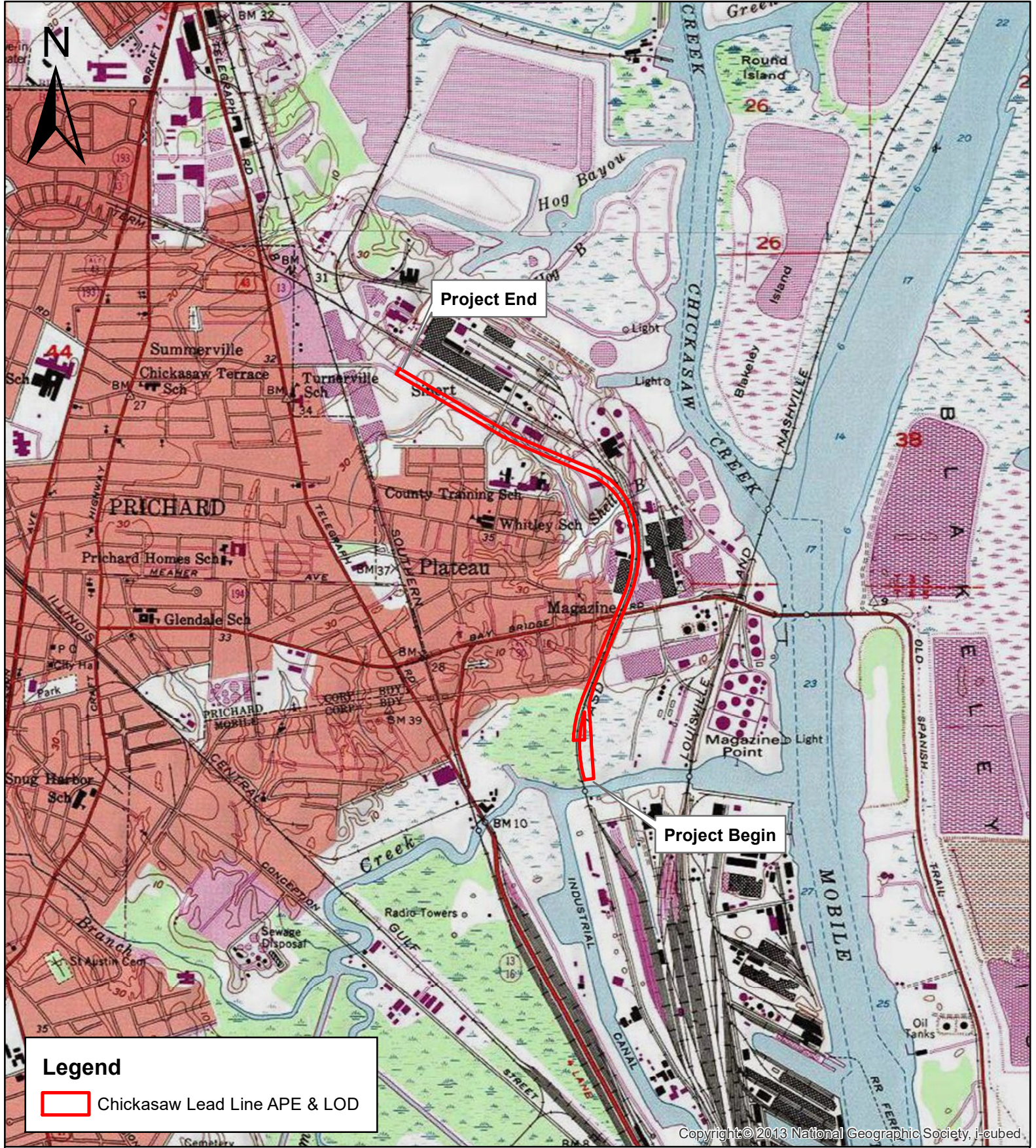


1 Inch = 2,000 Feet

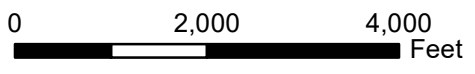
Note: This map is not intended for construction.

**Figure 1: General Location  
 Chickasaw Lead Line  
 Federal Railroad Administration  
 Mobile, Mobile County, AL**





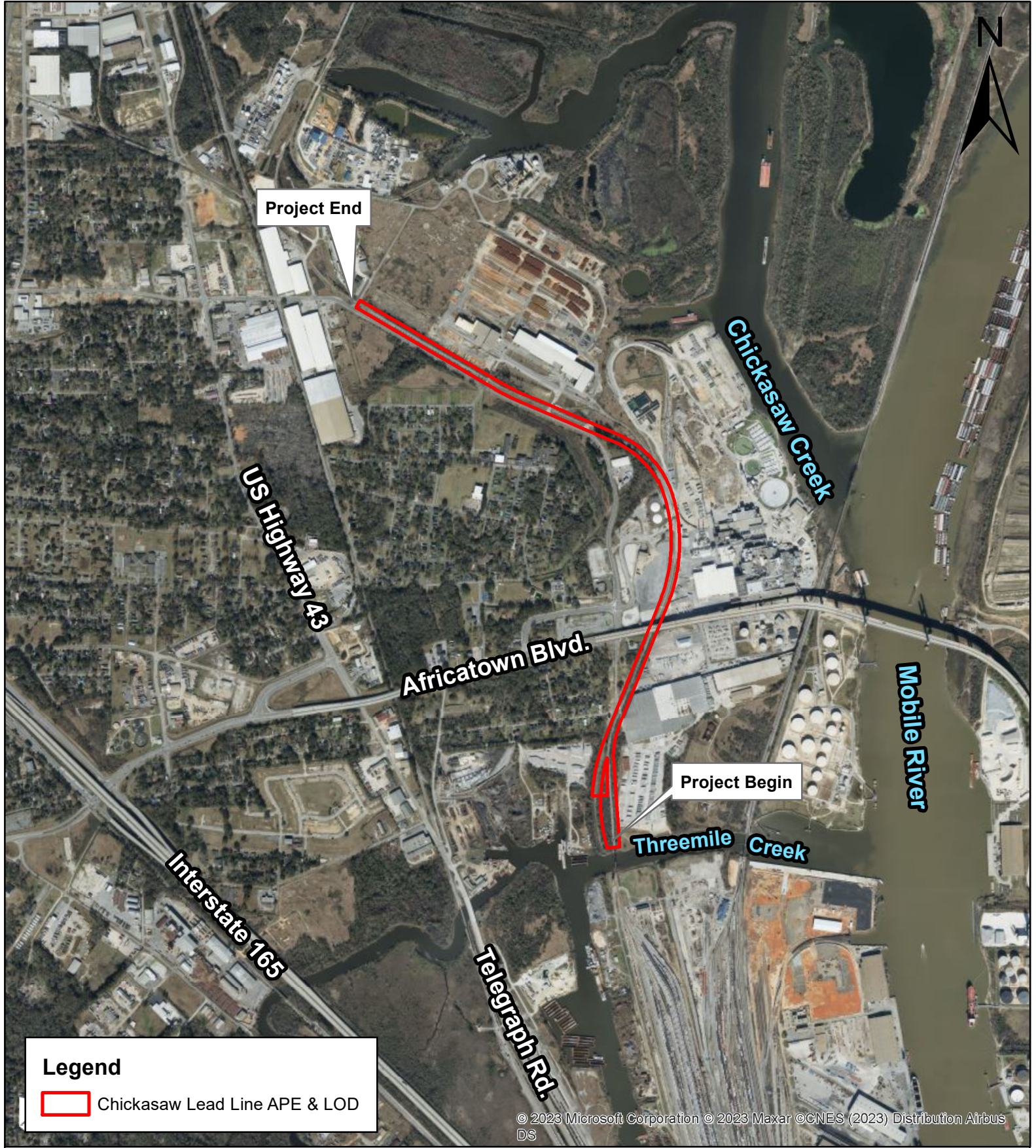
**Figure 2: USGS Quadrangle Map  
 Chickasaw Lead Line  
 Federal Railroad Administration  
 Mobile, Mobile County, AL**



1 Inch = 2,000 Feet

Note: This map is not intended for construction.



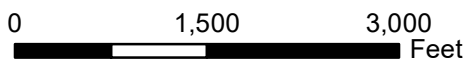


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**Legend**

Chickasaw Lead Line APE & LOD

**VOLKERT**



1 Inch = 1,500 Feet

Note: This map is not intended for construction.

**Figure 3: Aerial Imagery  
Chickasaw Lead Line  
Federal Railroad Administration  
Mobile, Mobile County, AL**



# Scott Paper Company/Kimberly Clark Corp





# Scott Paper Company/Kimberly Clark Corp



2021



1997



1980



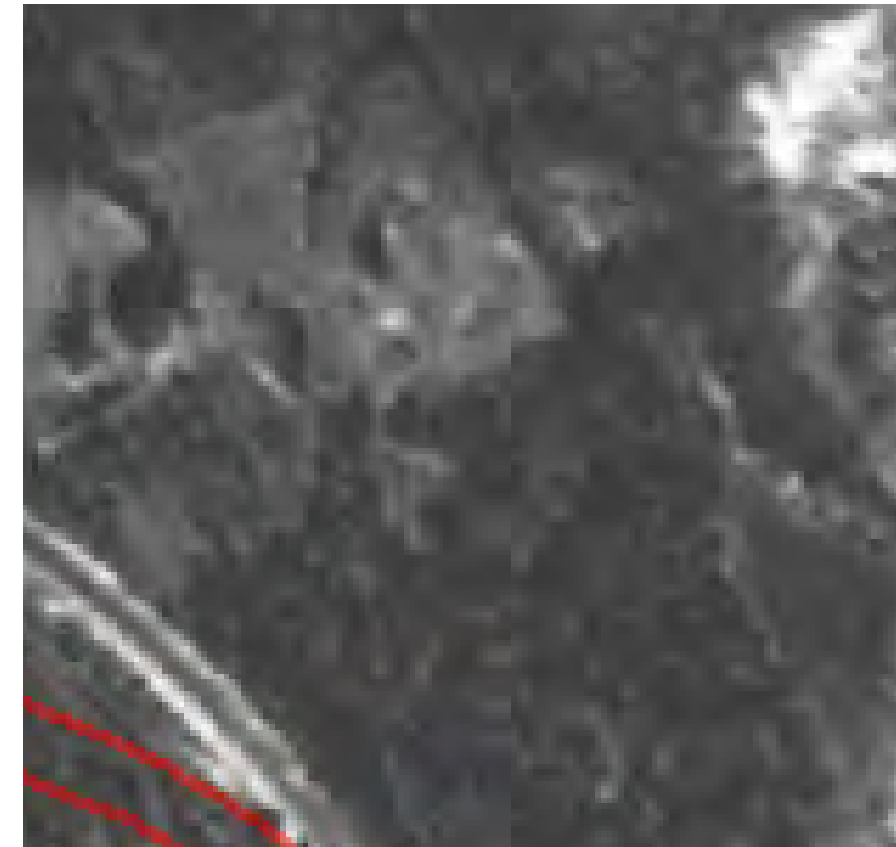
1971



1967



1952



1938

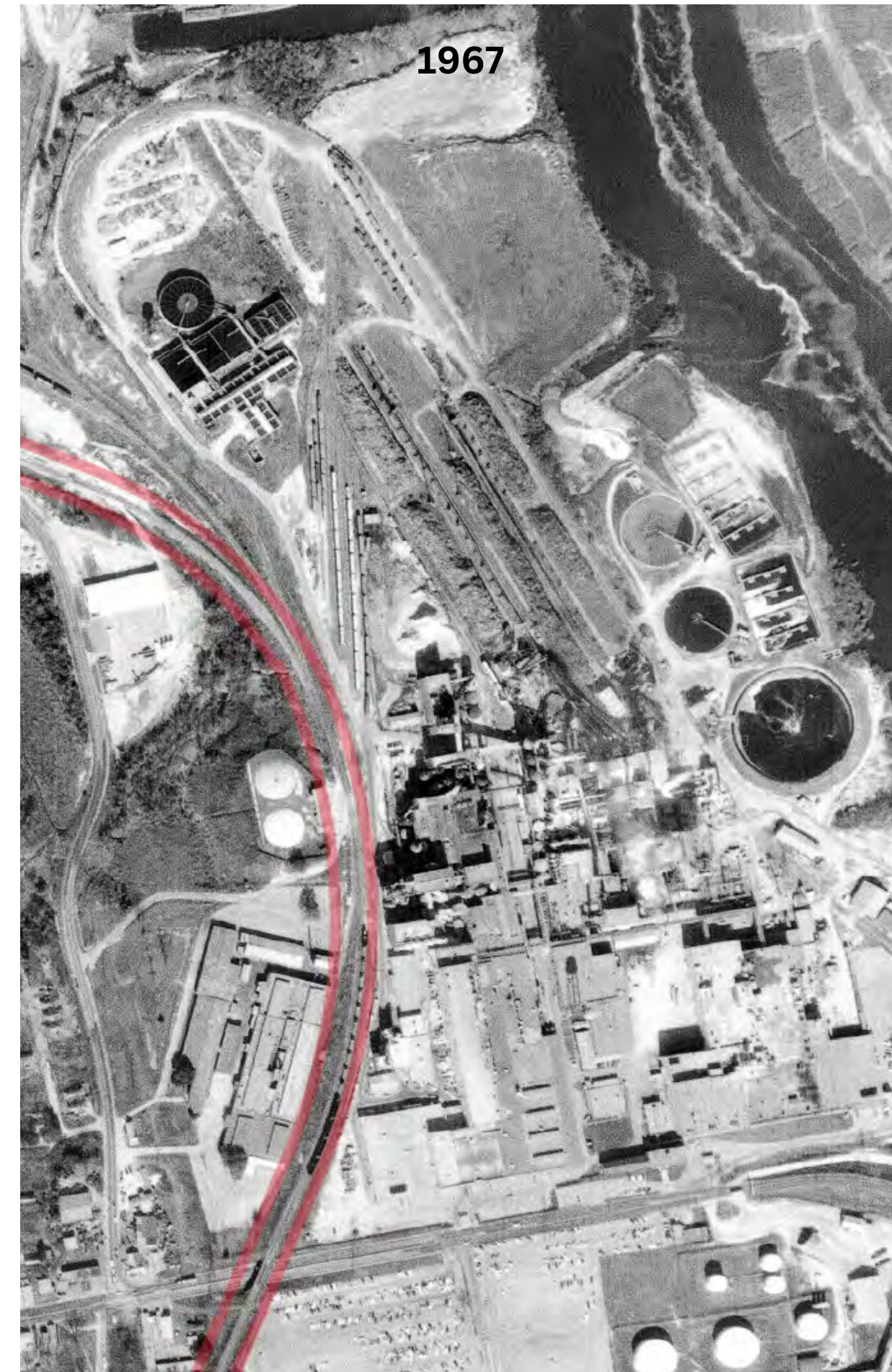


# Scott Paper Company/Kimberly Clark Corp

1938

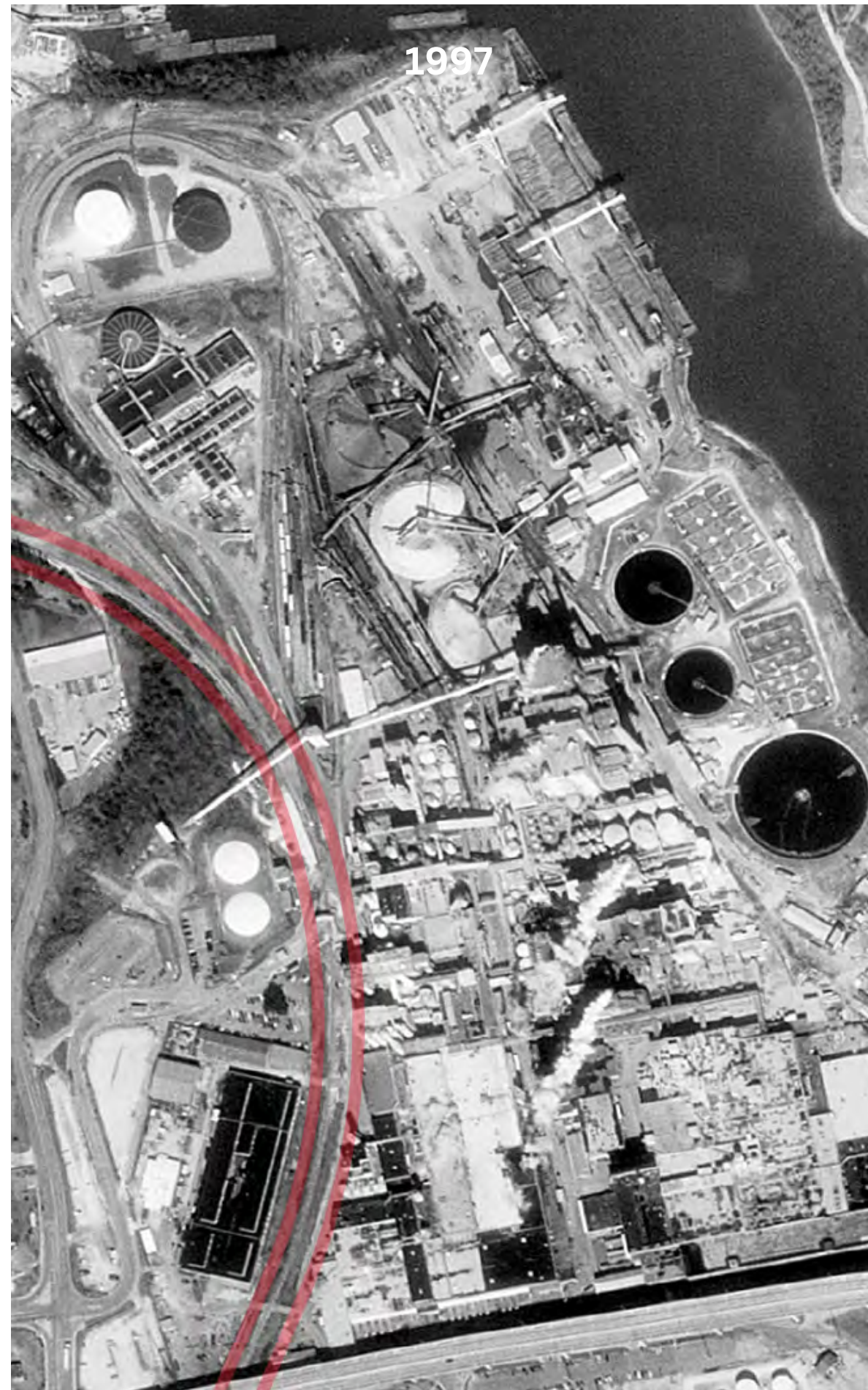
1952

1967





# Scott Paper Company/Kimberly Clark Corp





# Scott Paper Company/Kimberly Clark Corp



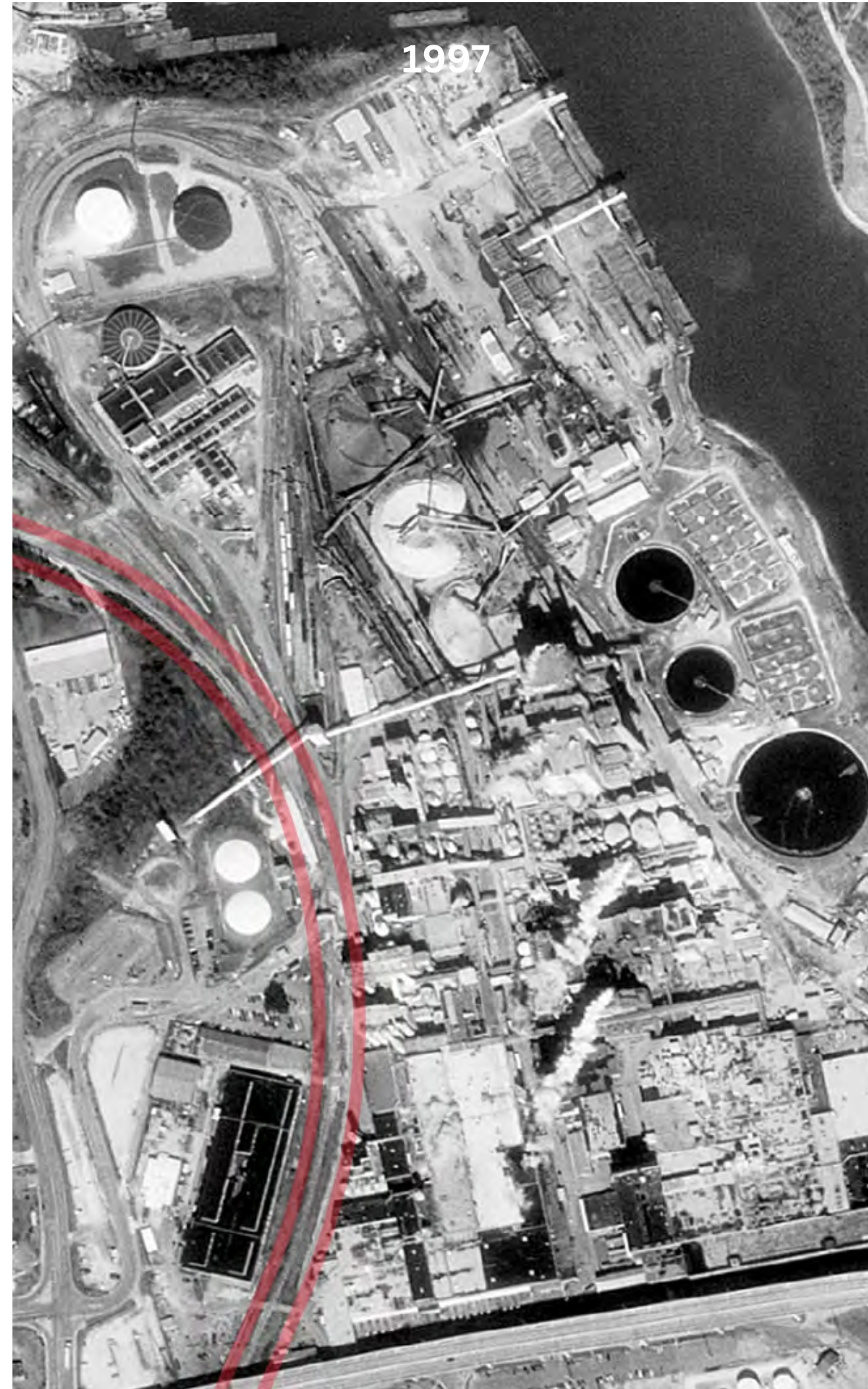


# Scott Paper Company/Kimberly Clark Corp

1952



1997



2021





**ATTACHMENT B:**  
**List of Native American Tribes**  
**Contacted**



<b>Tribe/Agency</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>E-Mail</b>	<b>ADDRESS</b>
Absentee-Shawnee Tribe	Ms. Devon Frazier	THPO	106NAGPRA@astribe.com	2025 S Gordon Cooper Dr. Shawnee, OK 74801
Alabama-Coushatta Tribe of TX	Bryant Celestine	Historic Preservation Officer	celestine.bryant@actribe.org	571 State Park Road 56 Livingston, Texas 77351
Alabama-Quassarte Tribe of OK	Samantha Robison	Historic Preservation Officer	AQhpo@mail.com	P.O. Box 187 Wetumka, Oklahoma 74880
Cherokee Nation	Elizabeth Toombs	THPO	toombs@cherokee.org	PO Box 948 Tahlequah, OK 74465
Chickasaw Nation	Ms. Karen Brunso	THPO	HPO@chickasaw.net	P.O. Box 1548 Ada, OK 74821
Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma	Dr. Ian Thompson	Director, Historic Preservation Department	ithompson@choctawnation.com	Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma PO Drawer 1210 Durant, OK 74701
	Lindsey Bilyeu (pronounced Blue)	Senior Section 106 Compliance Review Officer	lbilyeu@choctawnation.com	
Coushatta Tribe of Louisiana	Dr. Linda Langley	THPO	llangley@mcneese.edu or llangley@coushatta.org	P.O. Box 10 Elton, Louisiana 70532
	Raynella Fontenot	Cultural Revitalization Coordinator	rdfontenot@coushattatribela.org	
Eastern Band of The Cherokee Nation	Russell Townsend	THPO	russtown@nc-chokeee.com	Qualla Boundary Reservation P.O. Box 455 Cherokee, N.C. 28719
	Stephen Yerka	Tribal Historic Preservation Specialist for DOT/FHWA	syerka@nc-chokeee.com	
Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma	Brett Barnes	THPO	bbarnes@estoo.net or thpo@estoo.net	70500 E 128 RD Wyandotte, OK 74370
Kialegee Tribal Town	David Cook	Preservation	kialegeettcpo@gmail.com	P.O. Box 332 Wetumka, Oklahoma 74883
Mississippi Band of Choctaw Indians	Kenneth H. Carleton	THPO/Archaeologist	kcarleton@choctaw.org or choctawhp@gmail.com	P.O. Box 6257 Choctaw, Mississippi 39350



Muscogee (Creek) Nation	Corain Lowe-Zepeda	THPO	clowe@mcn-nsn.gov	P.O. Box 580 Okmulgee, Oklahoma 74447
	Emman Spain	NAGPRA Officer	emspain@MCN-nsn.gov	
Poarch Band of Creek Indians	Carolyn White	THPO	THPO@pci-nsn.gov	5811 Jack Springs Road Atmore, Alabama 36502
Seminole Nation of OK	Theodore (Ted) Isham	Historic Preservation Officer	isham.t@sno-nsn.gov	PO Box 1498 Seminole, Ok 74868
Seminole Tribe of FL	Bradley Mueller	Compliance Section Supervisor	bradleymueller@semtribe.com	Tribal Historic Preservation Office Seminole Tribe of Florida 30290 Josie Billie Highway PMB 1004 Clewiston, FL 33440
Thlopthlocco Tribal Town	Terry Clouthier	THPO/NAGPRA Contact	thpo@tttown.org	P.O. Box 188 Okemah, Oklahoma 74859
Tunica-Biloxi Tribe of Louisiana	Earl Barbry, Jr.	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer	earlii@tunica.org	P.O. Box 1589 Marksville, LA 71351
United Keetoowah Band of the Cherokee Indians in Oklahoma	Sheila Bird	THPO and Director of Natural Resources	sbird@ukb-nsn.gov	PO Box 746, Tahlequah, OK 74465
	Erin Thompson	NAGPRA Coordinator/Tribal Archaeologist	ethompson@ukb-nsn.gov	18263 W. Keetoowah Circle Tahlequah, OK 74464
Jena Band of Choctaw Indians	Alina J. Shively	Deputy THPO	ashively@jenachoctaw.org	P.O. Box 14 Jena, LA 71342