

BUILDING W-405, PARKING GARAGE
CONSTRUCTION OF PARKING GARAGE SHEAR WALLS
(Excluding the construction of additional parking spaces)

M Street, SE
Washington, D.C.

Finding of No Significant Impact

DEC 28 2009

Pursuant to Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR, Parts 1500-1508), and NCPC's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, I have evaluated the preliminary and final building plans for the addition of shear walls to Building W-405 (parking garage) at the Washington Navy Yard, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 41.10(38.00)42865 and the November 2007 environmental assessment (EA) prepared by the Department of the Navy. The Navy noticed the EA for a 30 day public comment period and received no comments regarding the proposed construction of shear walls. I adopt the EA for NCPC for purposes of reviewing construction of the shear walls only and not at this time for any other component of the proposed project including additional the construction of additional parking spaces.

The proposed action

The proposed action is preliminary and final approval of construction plans for shear walls to be erected at building W-405 in the Washington Navy Yard (WNY). The building structural system will be enhanced to mitigate the effects of seismic loading by alteration of the north and south exterior walls of the garage. The design places a cast reinforced concrete shear wall in one structural bay on each of two sides of the building. The shear walls are approximately thirty feet wide on the north and south building elevations and rise from ground level to the height of the structure, interrupting the horizontal banding of the floors at each parking deck level. The existing five story parking structure is a non-contributing structure to the Historic District of the WNY and was initially constructed in 1999.

Standard for evaluation

Under NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations, and NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, an environmental assessment is sufficient and an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared if the

environmental assessment supports a finding that the federal action will not significantly affect the human environment. The regulations of the Council on Environmental Quality define "significantly" as used in NEPA as requiring consideration of both context and intensity of impacts as noted by 40 CFR §1508.27.

Potential impacts

The EA identifies and evaluates, as potential impacts of the shear walls, minor temporary air impacts from construction activity resulting from the removal of existing concrete and brick material and drilling of concrete surfaces that would not significantly impact the air quality of the vicinity. Construction vehicle noise and air quality impacts are also identified as short-term and minor. The EA does not identify any significant environmental impacts of the shear wall project including its construction.

Potential impacts on historic resources are considered through the Section 106 process of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) concurred that the proposed undertaking will have no impact to known historic properties and that the building itself is not eligible as part of the extended WNY historic district. The DC-SHPO concurrence was completed on December 2005.

Applying the standards, factors, and analysis here, acting under delegated authority from the Commission, I have determined that the EA identifies no significant impacts of the proposed project for shear wall construction and that construction will not significantly affect the human environment.



Marcel C. Acosta
Executive Director