



**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR BUILDING (FRANCES C. PERKINS BUILDING)
INTERIM FOUNTAIN MODIFICATION**
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Washington, DC

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

September 25, 2003

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for interim modifications to a fountain at the Department of Labor Building (Frances C. Perkins Building) at 200 Constitution Avenue, NW, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.24(05.17) 41238.

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The General Services Administration (GSA) has submitted a proposal to improve the appearance and use of the non-functioning fountain in the east lawn of the Frances C. Perkins Building until it can be repaired as part of the future modernization of the building, now scheduled for the year 2008. Noted landscape architect Laurence Halprin designed the fountain in 1972. In recent years it has functioned poorly or not at all, despite repeated repairs. The fountain and the grassy lawn are installed on top of the parking garage for the building, which will also be part of the anticipated major modernization. In the interim, the fountain assembly will be mothballed appropriately, including the removal of the fountain spray nozzles and the capping of the water supply pipes. The fountain's elliptical lowest level (the basin for the water when the fountain is in operation) will be filled with sand and laid with compatible pavers. The surrounding area around the split-face granite sets will be planted with grass. A handicapped-accessible paved path will be constructed for circulation through the lawn and a complete automatic irrigation system will be incorporated. The proposal will improve the appearance of the area while also protecting the Halprin-designed fountain until it can be restored. The fountain will be left in situ and the sand and pavers to be laid in the basin can be easily removed. The Coordinating Committee coordinated the project at its July 16, 2003 meeting. GSA has determined that the project qualifies as a Categorical Exclusion under its procedures to implement the National Environmental Policy Act. Neither the fountain nor the Perkins Building has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and GSA has concluded its Section 106 responsibilities.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP

Executive Director