

**WASHINGTON NAVY YARD
PERIMETER FENCE SECURITY UPGRADES
River Drive at the Waterfront on the Anacostia River**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

March 25, 2004

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site development plans to construct a new perimeter security fence at the waterfront bulkhead promenade at the Washington Navy Yard, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 84.22(05.17)-41315.

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The Department of the Navy has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for a nine and one-half feet high wrought iron picket fence with 20-inch square brick pilasters capped by concrete coping. The fence extends the entire length of the Navy Yard at the Anacostia River.

The new picket fence sections would be aligned in the same serpentine curve fashion as the existing wall which is set back from the shoreline, at 25 to 30 feet, in the west portion of the Navy Yard. The east portion of the fence maintains a straight alignment with a three-foot offset from the promenade, replacing an existing chain link fence. Both locations maintain the public accessibility and use of the riverside promenade that is present in the Navy Yard at the Anacostia River. Maintenance vehicle access gates and pedestrian wrought-iron and pried turnstiles would occur at approximate intervals of two hundred feet along the fence. New trees are located in coordination with newly installed lighting located at the interior of the fence while new pavement surfaces, designed to match existing, are provided along the bulkhead promenade of the shoreline where existing trees are removed for clearance. Emergency call boxes and unauthorized access warning signs are placed at the fence along the promenade at 200-foot intervals.

The project, which involves only minor site development affecting no occupied structure, would have no adverse impact on land uses or environmental resources of the general site. The Department coordinated the project's review under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act with the District of Columbia Historic Preservation Office and completed all compliance requirements on March 22, 2004. In conformance with its NEPA compliance

procedures, the Navy determined the project is a Categorical Exclusion pursuant to NEPA requirements and the Commission staff review finds the action qualifies as such an activity. The Coordinating Committee coordinated this project at its meeting on January 14, 2004 meeting.

Staff analysis concludes the new perimeter fence is well situated and adequately integrated with the surrounding environs of the Navy Yard and the river shoreline. The proposed fence maintains pedestrian access points throughout the length of the fence and the fence design appropriately reflects materials and character of the Navy Yard itself and is coordinated with the existing seat-wall that it abuts on the edge of the promenade. The project has been vetted by the Navy to the Mayor's planning staff and will be presented to the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Joint Management Committee by the Navy. The submitted fence is consistent with the Anacostia Waterfront Initiative Plan and its Memorandum of Agreement signed by all stakeholders.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director