

# STAFF RECOMMENDATION

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NCPC File No. 6489

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## NAVAL ANNEX INSTALLATION OF MONOPOLE AND ROD ANTENNAS Arlington, Virginia

Submitted by the Department of Defense

July 1, 2004

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### Abstract

The Department of Defense has submitted a proposal to construct a 100-foot-monopole with five transmitting and receiving rod antennas at the Naval Annex in Arlington County, Virginia. The monopole will be located between two wings of Federal Office Building 2. The antennas are essential for the Pentagon Force Protection Agency to communicate directly with state and local public safety agencies in the event of an emergency. The monopole must be in place by the fall, prior to the next Presidential Inauguration.

### Commission Action Requested by Applicant

Approval of preliminary and final site development plans pursuant to Section 5 of the National Capital Planning Act (40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1)).

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### Executive Director's Recommendation

The Commission **approves** the preliminary and final site development plans for the installation of a monopole with five transmitting and receiving rod antennas at the Navy Annex, Arlington County, Virginia, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 1.61(05.17)-41398.

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### PROJECT DESCRIPTION

#### Site

The Naval Annex property is bordered by Columbia Pike to the east, I-395 to the south, Southgate road and the Arlington National Cemetery to the north and residential housing to the west. The property is on a hill above the Pentagon, which is located to the east, across

Washington Boulevard. The Air Force Memorial will be located on the easternmost portion of the Naval Annex property, once Wing 8 of the Annex is demolished. The remainder of the Naval Annex will be demolished by 2010 and the property will be transferred to the Army for the expansion of Arlington National Cemetery.

### Background

The Department of Defense proposes to locate the monopole on the Naval Annex property to meet an immediate need to facilitate communication between the Pentagon Force Protection Agency and state and local public safety and law enforcement agencies in an event of an emergency. The monopole/antennas will support the Consolidated Radio Room (CRR) which will be located in the building and will be operated on a 24 hour, seven-day-a-week basis. The hilltop location will take advantage of 360-degree site lines. The system must be operational by fall 2004 in advance of the Presidential Inauguration.

### Proposal

A single 100-foot monopole with five rod antennas will be constructed between two wings of FOB 2. Approximately 40 feet of the monopole will be visible above the top of the building. The associated operational equipment and staff will be located within FOB 2 in the CRR. The transmitting and receiving rod antennas will measure approximately 18 feet in height and 2 inches in diameter. The monopole and antennas will be painted a light color similar to the Naval Annex building so that they blend into the immediate surroundings. The Federal Aviation Administration has determined that the monopole does not need to be lit for aviation safety.

## PROJECT ANALYSIS

### Executive Summary

Staff recommends approval of the preliminary and final site development plans for the monopole and rod antennas at the Naval Annex. The monopole will be visible from many locations; however, the applicant has located the structure so that when viewing it from the east (the Pentagon and the Mall) it will be set against the backdrop of the much taller Sheraton Hotel. In addition, although the monopole will sit directly west of the Air Force Memorial, the three spires of the memorial range from between 100 feet to 180 feet taller than the monopole. Three other features of the monopole which minimize its impact are: its location between two wings of the building which will partially obstruct the structure; its lack of ground level operational equipment which will be accommodated within the adjacent building; and, its light, non-reflective coloring.

## CONFORMANCE

### Comprehensive Plan for the National Capital

Staff has determined that the antenna installation would not have an adverse effect on other nearby federal facilities, such as Arlington National Cemetery or the Pentagon, and is be consistent with the Federal Elements of the Comprehensive Plan.

#### National Historic Preservation Act

The Naval Annex building is not listed in the National Register of Historic Places. The Department of Defense has determined that the installation of the monopole would not affect any historic properties and that no further Section 106 review is required for this project.

#### National Environmental Policy Act

The submission has been analyzed by staff and it has been determined the project qualifies as a categorical exclusion as specified by Section 8 of the NCPC Environmental Procedures. The applicant has provided an Radio Frequency evaluation pursuant to the Commission's federal antenna project submission guidelines. The evaluation determined the proposed antennas and monopole location comply with all safety exposure limits to humans specified by the Federal Communication Commission's (FCC) Guidelines for Evaluating Exposure to RF Emissions, revised on August 1, 1996 and updated in October 1997.

#### Federal Capital Improvements Program

The proposed monopole is not included in the Federal Capital Improvements Program, Fiscal Years 2004-2009.