



**NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH
BUILDING 31, STAIR TOWER
Montgomery County, Maryland**

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

June 29, 2006

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans to construct a fire exit stair and elevator shaft on the north side of Building 31C at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) in Montgomery County, Maryland, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 3101.20(38.00)42053.

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The National Institutes of Health (NIH) has submitted preliminary and final site building plans for the construction of a fire exit stair and elevator shaft on the north side of Building 31 at the Bethesda Campus, Montgomery County, Maryland. The addition is intended to address National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) deficiencies and ensure compliance with egress requirements.

The planned addition is a twelve story egress tower comprised of fire exit stairs extending through all occupied floors. Also enclosed within the addition are shafts for future construction of elevators, as well as mechanical and electrical closets. The exterior wall construction will consist of CMU backing with a brick facing to match the brick at the existing elevator tower. Pre-cast concrete fascia and vertical accent strips are designed to complement the existing building facades.

The NIH completed an environmental impact statement (EIS) on its revised master plan for the campus that includes Building 31 and the proposed improvements. The Record of Decision for the NIH master plan was completed in May 2005. The completed EIS remains current for this proposed action. NCPC staff has independently reviewed the environmental information and concurs with NIH's determination that the project will have no effect on historic resources and that no further Section 106 review is required. The Maryland Historical Trust concurred that there are no historic properties affected by the undertaking on June 22, 2006.

Patricia E. Gallagher, AICP
Executive Director