



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
MERRIFIELD PROCESSING & DELIVERY CENTER - SOLAR PANEL INSTALLATION
8409 Lee Highway, Merrifield, Fairfax County, Virginia

Delegated Action of the Executive Director

September 27, 2007

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1), I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of solar panels and related building retrofit at the United States Postal Service Merrifield Processing and Delivery Center, located in Fairfax County, Virginia, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 2202.00(38.00)42316.

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The United States Postal Service (USPS) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for roof-mounted solar panels and related retrofit the existing Merrifield Processing and Delivery Center (PD&C). Located in Fairfax County, the facility is the mail processing center for Northern Virginia. The proposal calls for the installation of a photovoltaic array on the roof of the building to offset off-peak electric demand and retrofit the metal siding wall on the south end of the building with ducting and fans to generate warm air during the heating season. Staff commends the USPS for implementing this initiative under its Shared Energy Savings Program to provide energy savings nationwide through sustained energy technologies and to comply with current federal initiatives to reduce energy costs in federal facilities.

The proposal adheres to the delegation criteria as a small project in the environs for proposed buildings or additions of less than 50,000 square feet of floor area where NCPC has already reviewed and approved a master plan. Since the Postal facility is one building, no master plan is required.

Staff has reviewed this proposal in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1). Since NCPC is advisory for federal projects in the environs, it has no NEPA obligation here. In conformance with its NEPA compliance procedures, the Postal Service completed a NEPA analysis of the proposal and arrived at a categorical exclusion. Staff has reviewed the Postal Service's NEPA analysis and submitted project information and finds that it demonstrates no significant negative environmental impacts, while providing a positive energy savings.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) the USPS has submitted its determination of no historic properties affected to the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (VA SHPO). On September 5, 2007, the VA SHPO gave its concurrence that no historic properties would be affected by the undertaking. The facility is located in a mixed-use commercial /industrial area that was constructed around 1970. The project was referred to Fairfax County for review and comment under the Commission's Intergovernmental Procedures, no comments have been received.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director