



UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE
BOLGER CONFERENCE CENTER – RETROFIT FOR SOLAR HEATING
9600 Newbridge Road, Potomac, Montgomery County, MD

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 pursuant to for a retrofit for solar heating at the United States Postal Service Bolger Conference Center, located in Montgomery County, Maryland, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 3108.00(38.00)42315.

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The United States Postal Service (USPS) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans to retrofit two buildings at the Bolger Conference Center campus for solar heating. Located in Montgomery County, the campus houses the Postal Inspection Service as well as conference and physical training facilities at the William F. Bolger Management Academy (WBMA). The proposal calls for the installation of solar collectors on the roof of the North Building to heat the pool below, and a photovoltaic array on the roof of the old Gymnasium, where the North Building houses physical training. In addition, it would install ten solar collectors on the roof of a guest facility (Building E) where postal inspection officers stay while training at the Conference Center, in order to generate a portion of the hot water required for laundry. The project falls under the USPS implementing 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 is consistent with the October 3, 1991 Commission-approved master plan modification for the WBMA. 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.

Although an adjacent (private) property owner has written to express concern that the (federal) facility is competing with his business, NCPC has no jurisdiction over internal operations. Further, the issue of business competition would not fall under its purview of determining adverse effect upon the federal interest.

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 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 saving energy.

Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) the USPS has submitted its determination of no effects to historic resources to the Maryland Historical Trust (MD SHPO). On September 13, 2007, the MD SHPO gave its concurrence that no historic properties would be affected by the undertaking. The project was referred to Maryland National Park and Planning Commission for review and comment under the Commission's Intergovernmental Procedures, but no comments have been received.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director