



SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION NATIONAL ZOOLOGICAL PARK
Central Hay Storage Facility
3000 Connecticut Avenue, NW
Washington, D.C.

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 Central Hay Storage Facility at the National Zoological Park, as depicted on NCPC Map File No. 2.00(38.00)42371.

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The Smithsonian Institution (SI) has submitted preliminary and final site and building plans for the installation of a central hay storage facility at the National Zoo. All hay is currently grown and stored at the National Zoo's Conservation and Research Center (CRC) in Front Royal, Virginia, and transported by tractor trailers to the National Zoo's Rock Creek campus every other week. Once it arrives, it is stored on the trailer it was shipped in. Currently there is no centralized location for storing the hay and there are no loading docks available to assist in unloading it. The National Zoo's nutrition department is in the process of centralizing its commissary activities, including hay storage. With the completion of the National Zoo's new elephant facility and the expansion of the on-site elephant herd to eight elephants, combined with the additional planned improvements to the National Zoo's exhibits, a central hay storage facility is necessary to accommodate the needs of the National Zoo's animal population.

The proposed hay storage facility would be located within an existing service area between the Kid's Farm and Amazonia exhibit off of the Mane Restaurant service road. The total area proposed for the site is approximately 0.15 acres (6,674 square feet) and consists of a small storm water pond (2,400 square feet) and sparse vegetation. This proposal would require the storm water pond to be filled in. As the storm water pond and vegetation is removed, a new storm water management system will be placed underground to handle the storm water management. **Because of the project's proximity to Rock Creek Park, the Smithsonian has**

committed to working with the National Park Service on the implementation of both the storm water management system and landscaping for the project.

The central hay storage facility would be a 1,500 sq. ft (30 ft. wide x 50 ft. long) pre-engineered, pre-fabricated structure with architectural features reminiscent of a barn consistent with the design features of the two farm-themed service buildings located near the proposed site (Mane Restaurant service sheds). The building would have red metal panels and a gray metal roof, and white metal gutters and downspouts. The downspouts would tie into the storm water management system. The floor would be sealed concrete slab-on-grade with concrete footings. There would be two 10 feet wide x 12 feet high metal sliding doors (red with white trim), and three three-foot wide metal swing staff doors (red with white trim). One 12 foot wide concrete truck pad would be provided with a 15 foot wide paved off-loading area. The adjacent Amazonia service road would be utilized for service access and for unloading hay.

Trucks would access the Amazonia service road from the Harvard Street National Zoo entrance. The preliminary and final site and building plans have been evaluated by the DC SHPO for Section 106 review with a determination of “no adverse affect” and signed August 23, 2007.

In September 2007, the Coordinating Committee reviewed this project and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the project had been coordinated by all agencies participating.

The applicant, the Smithsonian Institution, is not a federal agency for purposes of National Environmental Policy Act review, however, the Smithsonian Institution provided an environmental review of the site locations and their prior disturbed nature.

This project is categorically excluded from further environmental review under NCPC’s Categorical Exclusion Section 8.C, Item 21. The project is small, exists within the disturbed site of prior construction, and the scale and nature of the new building conforms to the context of the zoo area. Moreover, there are no extraordinary circumstances present and the proposal adheres to all conditions of the categorical exclusion.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director