



**NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF STANDARDS AND TECHNOLOGY
CENTER FOR NEUTRON RESEARCH FACILITY EXPANSION (BUILDING 235)
Gaithersburg, Maryland**

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 expansion of the Center for Neutron Research Facility (Building 235) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology in Gaithersburg, Maryland, as shown on NCPC Map File No. 3101.20(38.00)42377.

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The Department of Commerce has requested preliminary and final approval of site and building plans for expansion of the Center for Neutron Research Facility (Building 235) at the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) in Gaithersburg, Maryland. The proposed project includes two additions to the building: a 33,000 square foot Technical Support building with connecting lobby and a 16,000 square foot Guide Hall. Site work and utility upgrades to support the expansion will also be completed, including re-striping of the existing parking lot to provide nine additional parking spaces (for the increase in staffing of 20 personnel) and some re-routing of access roads to the facility. Designs for the new additions are compatible with the existing facility, having geometry, massing, and materials similar to the original portions of the building.

The proposal is consistent with the Development/Land Use/Circulation/Landscaping maps that comprise the NIST Master Plan; each map has been updated as part of this proposal. However, a full update of the master plan for the entire facility has not been undertaken since its inception in 1977 and no additional projects should be submitted by the applicant until a master plan update has been completed. Additionally, future projects should be included in the agency's list of projects for the Federal Capital Improvements Program.



BUILDING ADDITIONS (RENDERED)

The applicant has determined that the project is categorically excluded from further environmental evaluation since the proposed work is a facility improvement or addition with limited ground disturbance (Department of Commerce/NIST Categorical Exclusion 6.03c.3(g)). In accordance with the NCPC Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures, NCPC does not have an independent NEPA responsibility for projects outside the District of Columbia.

The proposed project has been evaluated by the applicant and by the Maryland Historical Trust, per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and both have determined that no historic properties will be affected by this undertaking.

Marcel C. Acosta
Acting Executive Director