



Smithsonian
Museum Conservation Institute

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February 13, 2013

Mr. Shane L. Dettman, AICP
Senior Urban Planner, Urban Design and Plan Review
National Capital Planning Commission
401 9th Street, NW – Suite 500
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Shane:

I have looked over the materials in the more-than-700-page February 1, 2013, submission for the Eisenhower Memorial Tapestry Engineering and Technical Data Summary, as well as Tim Foecke's letter dated February 13, 2013. I cede authority to Foecke in the matter of weld corrosion, but, like him, I look forward to seeing a sample of robotically welded tapestry.

Several relatively small items in **Section 6.1.b Recommendation for initial cleaning of stainless steel tapestry** and following pages caught my attention:

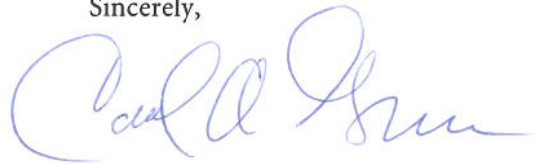
- 1) The first paragraph of the section notes the likelihood of "an addition of a protective plastic film after initial manufacturing of the tapestry . . . after fabrication and during installation." I would be like to know a bit more about the plastic film. Is it plastic sheeting, or is it a sprayed-on coating? If it is a sprayed-on coating, how would it be removed? I ask this, because if a sprayed-on coating is used, any residues left on the tapestry might result in corrosion.
- 2) In the section on *General Cleaning*, "use of a high pressure spray is not recommended as it could potentially compromise the passivation of the Stainless Steel." This would seem to contradict the testing done for removal of wind-blown debris by Gale Associates. Although the amount of pressure was not specified, a pressure washer was required to remove both plastic bags and wet toilet paper.
- 3) In an earlier submission, a lift to be used for cleaning the tapestry was labeled 860 SJ; it is shown in use in a swale, a depression in the terrain near trees. In response to a request for comment, I questioned whether it would be safe to use a lift on soft ground, notably in front of the south tapestry. Is the "driving path of lift vehicle" illustrated in the new submission to be paved? If not, one solution to this problem would be the addition of masonry pads spaced to provide adequate access to the tapestry.

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In addition, the illustration in the present submission shows two lifts, a JLG 800 series telescopic boom lift illustrated in a swale and an MLE T7535-45-Atrium Lift with outriggers. The reason for the second lift was unclear to me nor did I find an explanation for it, but upon inquiry to MLE (Man & Material Lift Engineering, 414-486-1760) I discovered that that the MLE T7535-45-Atrium Lift is inappropriate for use at the Eisenhower Memorial: the company maintains that it should only be used indoors on flat hard surfaces.

Finally, since I understand that the National Park Service (NPS) is to provide maintenance for the tapestry, I am wondering whether it owns a lift that will reach to the top of the tapestry, or would it rent one? Does the NPS bear costs associated with renting or purchasing a lift or lifts?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Carol Ann", written in a cursive style.