



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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| PROJECT Helicopter Display District of Columbia Army National Guard 2001 East Capitol St SE, Washington, DC | NCPC FILE NUMBER 7397 |
| SUBMITTED BY Department of Defense, District of Columbia National Guard | NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 8.40(38.00)43614 |
| | ACTION TAKEN Preliminary and final approval of site development plans |
| | REVIEW AUTHORITY Approval per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d) |

The District of Columbia Army National Guard (DCARNG) has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for a helicopter display on the northwest lawn of the DCARNG Armory property at 2001 East Capitol Street SE. The project is designed to reinforce the historic connection that the DCARNG has with the District and the federal government, and the prominent placing of the display will help visitors to the area realize and appreciate the fact that the DCARNG is an active military component that resides within the boundaries of the District of Columbia. The helicopter will be placed on a 12 by 14 foot concrete pad with a walkway installed to provide access to the display. A four foot high tubular iron fence will be installed around the site, with a single matching gate to provide access to the helicopter. The proposed design requires removal of trees and shrubs that are currently located on the site. Approximately seven trees will be removed and replanted elsewhere on the Armory property. Lighting will also be provided to illuminate the display. There will be no changes or additions to the DCARNG Armory building itself.

The project is not included in the DCARNG master plan; however, all site materials and furnishings are consistent with the master plan. The current landscaping on the site will be affected, but all trees removed will be replanted. The project would not likely be visible from homes on 19th Street SE, as there are trees planted along the eastern side of this street that screen views onto the site. No new parking or permanent change in employment will result from the project.

To satisfy its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the DCARNG has determined that project qualifies for a Categorical Exclusion (CATEX), relying upon its CATEX C(1),¹ which allows disturbance of a previously undisturbed area that is no more than five cumulative acres of new surface disturbance. NCPC staff has independently reviewed the project information and has determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(C)(21) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and

¹ 32 CFR 651 Appendix B

Procedures. Prior to applying this categorical exclusion, NCPC staff determined that no extraordinary circumstances were present as required by the Commission's NEPA procedures.

The Armory building is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. In accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the DCARNG has concluded Section 106 consultation with a determination of "no adverse effect" on historic properties. The DC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) concurred with the DCARNG's determination on May 24, 2012, stating that this project will have "no adverse effect" on historic properties, on the condition that any ground-disturbing activities go no deeper than five feet below the current ground surface. As a federal project located within the District of Columbia, NCPC has an independent responsibility to comply with Section 106 of the NHPA. NCPC staff reviewed the proposal and determined that NCPC's approval of the project would not cause adverse effects on historic properties. As noted below, during Coordinating Committee the DC State Historic Preservation Office agreed the project had been coordinated and acknowledged that Section 106 consultation had concluded.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its August 15, 2012 meeting and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that it has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; District of Columbia Fire and Emergency Medical Services; the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority; and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the Helicopter Display at the District of Columbia Army National Guard, 2001 East Capitol Street SE, Washington, DC, as shown in NCPC Map File No. 8.40(38.00)43614.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

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