The United States Department of the Navy has submitted, on behalf of the District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority (DC Water), preliminary and final site and building plans for an overflow and diversion structure on Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling (JBAB), in Southwest, Washington, DC. The proposal is part of the DC Clean Rivers Project - a multi-year effort lead by DC Water - to control sewer overflows into the District’s waterways. The DC Clean Rivers Project includes the construction of a new 23 foot-diameter tunnel extending several miles north from the Blue Plains Wastewater Treatment Facility to RFK Stadium. The tunnel will be used for stormwater storage during rainstorm events.

DC Water proposes to construct a 140-foot (long) x 65-foot (wide) x 20-foot (high) concrete overflow and diversion structure, along the bank of the Potomac River near Giesboro Park in the northern section of JBAB. The concrete structure will be built into the existing 20-foot high levee in a manner that allows its use as a deck/observation area for JBAB personnel. The final plans show the front-side of the structure with vertical and horizontal articulation to help minimize its appearance, as well as a 36”-high, black metal railing around the perimeter of the deck area to prevent accidental falls. The project will also construct an ancillary odor/venting facility; a new 15-foot wide drive (with turf pavers) to allow maintenance/service vehicle access to the overflow structure; and removal of the existing overflow structure and restoration of the riverbank at a second site located further to the south on JBAB. The underground overflow pipe will be abandoned and fill will be placed in the pipe. As project mitigation, DC Water proposes to: plant 75 new shade/ornamental trees; construct a new 4-stall restroom building; and construct a new pavilion in the vicinity of the project area to enhance the adjacent Giesboro Park.

The project is consistent with the JBAB draft Master Plan’s future land use since its site is located in an area that is identified as “Open Space/Recreation”, and the project will function as an observation/viewing deck, construct a new pavilion, construct a new restroom facility, and plant new trees – all of which, are compatible with open space/recreational uses.

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), DC Water, with the National Park Service, conducted an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the entire Clean Rivers
Project, which included the proposed overflow and diversion structure. The Department of the Navy was a cooperating agency on the EA due to the proposed work on JBAB. On June 30, 2011, the Department of the Navy signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the proposed project at JBAB. Due to the project location, NCPC does not have independent NEPA responsibilities.

In accordance with Section 106 of the Historic Preservation Act, the Department of the Navy submitted the project to the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO) for review. The DC SHPO concurred with the Department of the Navy’s finding that the project will not have an adverse effect on historic properties. NCPC does not have independent Section 106 responsibilities for projects at JBAB.

The United States Commission on Fine Arts found no objection to the design and project approved the project on its Consent Calendar on January 17, 2013.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its March 13, 2013 meeting and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were NCPC; the National Park Service; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Department of Transportation; District of Columbia Office of Planning; District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Office; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and Section 610(a) of Public Law 93-166, I approve the preliminary and final site and building plans for the construction of a District of Columbia Water and Sewer Authority overflow and diversion structure and related site improvements at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, in Southeast, Washington, DC.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director
[Date]