



Delegated Action of the Executive Director

PROJECT Temporary Improvements to the Perimeter Fence White House Complex 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC	NCPC FILE NUMBER 7668
SUBMITTED BY National Park Service	NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER 1.31(38.40)44142
	ACTION TAKEN Final approval of site development plans
	REVIEW AUTHORITY Federal Project in the District per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

The National Park Service (NPS), on behalf of the United States Secret Service (USSS), has submitted revised final site development plans for temporary improvements to sections of the White House perimeter fence. These improvements will be made to the fence on the north, south, east, and west sides of the White House. The main purpose of the improvements is to deter climbers. NPS and the USSS intend to develop a permanent solution for the fence following the installation of the temporary improvements. The Commission approved the temporary improvements to the fence on the north and south side of the White House in May 2015. The current proposal includes the east and west sides of the White House and is identical to the design approved in May.

In developing the proposed design for the temporary improvements, the USSS conducted tests of various modifications. The tests revealed that the proposed additions to the top of the fence will provide an acceptable solution. The proposal calls for a fully reversible installation that will not leave behind permanent changes to the existing fence. Views to and from the White House will not be disrupted by the fence improvements and should have minimal impact for visitors compared with existing conditions today. The design balances the need for security with the visual quality of public space, and in particular is sensitive to the historic setting of the White House, a National Historic Landmark.

Pursuant to its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), NPS has submitted a Categorical Exclusion Form concluding that the project qualifies for NPS categorical exclusion C.17 consistent with Sections 3-4 and 3-6 of Director's Order-12. The NPS categorical exclusion cited is for "construction of fencing enclosures or boundary fencing posing no effect on wildlife migrations," where no exceptional circumstances or conditions apply. As this is a federal project located in the District of Columbia, the Commission has approval authority and therefore a NEPA responsibility. NCPC staff has independently reviewed the project information and has determined that the project meets NCPC's categorical exclusion §8(c)(2) of the Commission's Environmental and Historic Preservation Policies and Procedures. The specific categorical exclusion covers the repair, replacement, and routine installation of components such as windows, doors, roofs; and site elements such as building identification signs, sidewalks, patios, fences,

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

Pursuant to the Section 107 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the White House and its grounds are exempt from Section 106 consultation and the requirements of NHPA.

The Committee on June 24, 2015, reviewed the proposed preliminary and final site development plans and forwarded the proposal to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies are: NCPC; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Transportation; the National Park Service; the General Service Administration; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

* * *

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 final site development plans for temporary improvements to the north, south, east, and west sections of the perimeter fence at the White House.

Marcel Acosta
Executive Director

[Date]