



## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

---

<b>PROJECT</b> <b>C&amp;O Canal Wall Temporary Stabilization</b> 3207 Grace Street, NW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8188
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States Department of the Interior National Park Service	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 71.10(38.00)45151
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approved preliminary and final site development plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

---

### Project Summary

The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted preliminary and final site development plans for a temporary stabilization project to a portion of the southern wall of the C&O Canal at Grace Street, NW in Georgetown. The stone wall south of the canal is bulging into the canal and was determined through geotechnical and other testing to be structurally unsound. The wall requires substantive stabilization work to rebuild and rehabilitate it. While planning for the stabilization work is ongoing, this project proposes support braces to prevent the wall from buckling or falling. The braces are necessary because the wall is in danger of imminent collapse into the canal.

The proposed support braces will be installed on the exterior of the stone wall to hold it in place for a period of up to 10 years. The design includes a concrete footer at the base of the stone wall and one in the canal, both bolted into the bedrock. A vertical bracing wall will be installed against the stone to hold it in place with steel beams attached to the footer. Behind the vertical bracing will be a metal fabric and stone fill to hold the stone of the wall in place. The stabilization braces will be in place for up to 10 years.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the project on June 17, 2020. Without objection, the Committee forwarded the proposed preliminary and final building plans to the Commission with the statement that the proposal has been coordinated with all participating agencies. The participating agencies were the NCPC; NPS; the General Services Administration; the District of Columbia Office of Planning; the District Department of Energy and Environment (DOEE); the State Historic Preservation Office; and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. DOEE noted that the project will need to apply for a building permit that includes erosion and sediment control review.

NPS and NCPC have independent responsibilities under NEPA and Section 106 for this project. NPS has submitted a Categorical Exclusion C.4 *Routine maintenance and repairs to cultural resource sites, structures, utilities and grounds under an approved Historic Structures Preservation Guide or Cyclic Maintenance Guide; or if the action would not adversely affect the cultural resource.* NPS has also executed a streamlined review as part of an approved Programmatic Agreement. The process does not require consultation with the DC SHPO and NPS has determined there is no adverse effect. NCPC also has an independent NEPA and Section 106 responsibility for this project. NCPC staff determined that this project does not have any extraordinary circumstances and meets the categorical exclusion in Section D 601.12

(a)(6) of the NCPC NEPA regulations which relate to “...the approval of federal and District government agency proposals for new construction, building expansion, or improvements to existing facilities.” NCPC also concurs with the DC SHPO no adverse effect determination regarding its Section 106 responsibilities.



Figure 1 View of area of canal wall stabilization



Figure 2 Image of canal wall bowing



\* \* \*

Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on October 3, 1996 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final site development plans for the temporary C&O Canal wall stabilization at 3207 Grace Street, NW, Washington, DC.



Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director



Date