

## Delegated Action of the Executive Director

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<b>PROJECT</b> <b>Department of Agriculture South Building</b> <b>AT&amp;T Rooftop Antennas Recertification</b> 1300 Independence Avenue, SW Washington, DC	<b>NCPC FILE NUMBER</b> 8298
<b>SUBMITTED BY</b> United States General Services Administration	<b>NCPC MAP FILE NUMBER</b> 1.71(38.30)46234
	<b>ACTION TAKEN</b> Approve preliminary and final building plans
	<b>REVIEW AUTHORITY</b> Approval Per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d)

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The United States General Services Administration (GSA), on behalf of AT&T, requests approval to renew the installation of four (4) existing cellular panel antennas on the rooftop of the Department of Agriculture South Building at 1300 Independence Avenue, SW. These antennas were previously approved by NCPC in September 2021, with their placement selected to minimize their visual impact on surrounding streets, and AT&T certified their safe operation within applicable federal requirements. The antennas are affixed to metal grates within arched faux windows on the rooftop corner penthouses, and the antennas are painted to match their darker background. Each sector (of four) has one antenna operated by AT&T, and the submission states that their equipment has not changed aesthetically since the last NCPC approval, and that all conditions of the original approval continue to be satisfied.



*Figure 1: Southwest Corner Sector Antenna*

GSA previously determined the rooftop antennas will not adversely affect the federal building or adjacent historic resources, and the DC State Historic Preservation Office (DC SHPO) concurred with this finding, with the condition that all equipment, including all mounts, are painted to match the darker background of the building's penthouse faux windows. This condition continues to be met. Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has an independent obligation to comply with the requirements of Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and NCPC elected to designate GSA as lead agency pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(a)(2) to satisfy the Commission's Section 106 responsibility.

Pursuant to the regulations implementing the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), GSA previously determined the project qualifies as a categorical exclusion based on GSA's environmental review standards. Due to its approval authority over the project, NCPC has an independent obligation to carry out the requirements of NEPA. Staff finds that this project is in conformance with the NCPC Categorical Exclusion requirements under § 601.12 (a)(5) of the Commission's NEPA Regulations, which apply to the approval of the installation of communication antennae on federal buildings. Staff found that no extraordinary circumstances were present.

The Coordinating Committee reviewed the proposal at its June 17, 2026 meeting. 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. Participating agencies were: NCPC, the District Department of Transportation, the District Department of Energy and the Environment, the District Office of Planning, the DC SHPO, the National Park Service, the General Services Administration, Commission of Fine Arts, and the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority.

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Pursuant to delegations of authority adopted by the Commission on April 1, 2021 and per 40 U.S.C. § 8722(b)(1) and (d), I approve the preliminary and final building plans to allow AT&T to continue operating four (4) rooftop cellular panel antennas on the Department of Agriculture South Building in Washington, DC, for a period of five years.



July 1, 2026

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Marcel Acosta  
Executive Director

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Date