National Capital Planning Commission Project Narrative
Bldg. 74-75 Replace Fire Alarm Antenna
Naval Support Activities Bethesda
August 30, 2022

The sponsoring agency for this project is the Naval Facilities Engineering Systems Command Washington, acting for the project proponent. POCs for these organizations are as follows:

Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Washington District
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This Project Report has been prepared for Bldg. 74-75 Fire Alarm Antennas at Naval Support Activity (NSA) Bethesda. This report has been prepared for submission to the National Capital Planning Commission for preliminary and final review and approval.
**Project Description:**

The current alarm panel in place at the Uniformed Services University does not communicate with the Naval District Washington Dispatch System. The proposed project includes upgrading the alarm panels inside Buildings 74 and 75 and installation of fire alarm antennas in order to create an automated connection between the fire alarm systems and the Washington Navy Yard Dispatch. The antennas to be installed are 3 feet tall and would be mounted on opposite sides of the buildings. The project also includes minor updates to the internal fire system inside of the buildings.

**Description of the Texture and Color of Antenna Materials to Be Used:** The antennas will be black aluminum rods to minimize the visibility. Tall trees surround large portions of the buildings, which will further limit the visibility of the antennas.

**Discussion of the Alternatives That Were Considered to Meet the Telecommunications Needs of the Submitting Agency or the Service:** USU considered an upgrade fire panel without being connected to the Dispatch. However, per the NSA Bethesda Fire Department, upgrading the system without meeting the communication standards would be in violation of Navy policy. In order to meet life safety standards, the fire alarm system must be integrated with the WNY Dispatch. Due to the location of antennas on other Buildings in the USU complex, it was not feasible to tie the new panels into the existing antennas.

**Environmental Documentation:** NSA Bethesda completed a CATEX for the proposed action. See Attachment C.

**Section 106 Review:** Buildings 74 and 75 on the USU campus are outside of the NSA Bethesda National Naval Medical Center and Armed Forces Radiobiology Research Institute Historic Districts. The buildings are not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Therefore, this action would not have an effect on historic properties.

**Photos:** See Attachment D for photos of the antenna locations.
**Additional Review and Regulations:**

This project adheres to HERO/HERP/HERF Certification. Please see Attachment B for further details.

**Commitment to Perform Periodic Upkeep of the Antenna Installation to Ensure its Continued Safe Operation, Particularly After Severe Weather Events:** The fire panels are maintained by CNIC facilities maintenance budgets, including emergency repairs.

**Additional Documentation**

The following drawings and documents are included with this submission:

Attachment A: Map
Attachment B: Antenna and system information
Attachment C: CATEX
Attachment D: Photos