



# United States Department of the Interior



## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Mall and Memorial Parks


900 Ohio Drive, S.W.

Washington, D.C. 20024-2000

January 6, 2017

### Memorandum

To: Signatories, Invited Signatories, and Consulting Parties

From: Gay E. Vietzke, Superintendent 

Subject: Washington Monument Security Screening Facility Final Document Submittal and Determination of Effect, Stipulation 1(c) of the 2014 Memorandum of Agreement

In accordance with the 2014 Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) among the National Park Service, the National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC), the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the District of Columbia State Historic Preservation Officer (DC SHPO), the purpose of this letter is to provide notification of the final document submittal and to record our final determination of effect for the Washington Monument Security Screening Facility Project in Washington, DC. In advance of obtaining final approval from NCPC and the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA), the National Park Service has determined that the plans submitted on December 30, 2016, effectively represents the proposed final design documentation and does not result in new adverse effects or intensify known adverse effects on historic properties established in the 2014 MOA (see attachments).

Since the completion of the MOA, the design of the Washington Monument Security Screening Facility project has been slightly modified to address security concerns and changes in the heating and cooling system requirements for the entire Washington Monument. Through on-going consultation with the National Park Service (NPS) and US Park Police, the ingress and egress doors of the building were separated to provide a more circuitous route, rather than allowing a path of direct access toward the monument. Other changes to the physical appearance of the building include a granite curb to meet the plaza, mullion placements, and the lowering of the connecting hyphen roof (see attachments). In response to the poor condition of the existing steam system and the heat-rejection equipment for the chilled water systems currently serving the Washington Monument, it was also determined that the entire system for both the Visitor Screening Facility and the Monument would be geothermal. This proposed change will result in an increase in approximately sixty additional wells located in a ground-coupled geothermal borehole field west of the monument. Although the field will be placed to avoid conflicts with underground utilities and the Jefferson Pier, based on the 2011 geoarcheological investigation, a well-preserved Ap-horizon and ancient paleolandscape may be impacted. While the NPS believes that the proposed design refinements will not result in new adverse effects or intensify the previously identified adverse effects, further geoarcheological testing will be conducted prior to construction to address archeological concerns. Twelve additional borings will be made in the area of the proposed geothermal borehole field to

assess the condition of the landscape and to identify additional archeological resources. Finally, as previously stated in the MOA, the NPS will include provisions in the construction permit for the treatment of unanticipated archaeological discoveries, including human remains, during excavation, construction, or other ground disturbing activity resulting from the construction of the Visitor Screening Facility.

As specified in Stipulation 1(d) of the MOA, the NPS respectfully seeks your concurrence within 30 days of our final determination of effect. This determination and the final design documentation will also be posted on the NPS Planning, Environment & Public Comment (PEPC) website for a 30-day review and comment period, ending February 5, 2017. We look forward to continuing to work with you as we prepare to submit the plans for final approval for the February CFA and NCPC meetings.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Catherine Dewey, Chief of Resource Management, at 202- 245-4711 or [catherine\\_dewey@nps.gov](mailto:catherine_dewey@nps.gov).