National Mall and Memorial Parks Date: 03/07/2017

## Memo To File

## A. Project Information

Park Name: National Mall and Memorial Parks

**PEPC Project Number: 16139** 

Project Title: Design and Construct the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial

**Project Location:** 

County, State: Washington, District of Columbia

Project Leader: Glenn DeMarr

## B. Description of the Current Action (Project Description)

The National Park Service (NPS) and the Eisenhower Memorial Commission (the Commission) propose to establish a national memorial to Dwight D. Eisenhower on a site located at Maryland and Independence Avenues, and 4th and 6th Streets in southwest Washington, DC in proximity to the National Mall and US Capitol Building. The Commission, created in October 1999 by Public Law 106-79, is charged with memorializing Dwight D. Eisenhower's military achievements, Presidential accomplishments, and lifetime of public service. The site is located on federal lands owned by the NPS, the District of Columbia, and the General Services Administration (GSA). The National Capital Planning Commission encouraged redevelopment of the site as a major memorial as part of its December 2001 Museums and Memorials Master Plan. NPS is the lead federal agency for this project. The GSA is a cooperating agency. In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, the NPS and the Commission prepared two sequential Environmental Assessment's (EA), the first one, for site selection, dated June 2006; the second, on the memorial design at that site September 2011. The 2006 EA was adopted by the NCPC which issued a mitigated FONSI August 31, 2006, and by the EMC and NPS in developing the analysis in the 2011 EA. Both EA's were used in the NHPA Section 106 process, which began in 2006 and culminated with the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement in March 2012 following years of consultation meetings.

Since receiving final design approvals from the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) on June 18, 2015 and National Capital Planning Commission (NCPC) on July 9, 2015, the Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial Commission proposes the following three changes to the memorial plans based on consultation with the Eisenhower family:

- 1. Revising the artistic image on the tapestry, and the symbolic context of the story of Eisenhower from a landscape scene of Abilene, Kansas, Eisenhower's hometown, to a contemporary view of the Normandy beaches, where the D-Day landing occurred under Eisenhower's command during World War II.
- 2. Relocating the statue of young Eisenhower from the Memorial Overlook to the Lyndon B. Johnson Eisenhower Promenade adjacent to the Department of Education entrance to strengthen the thematic relationship between the memorial and the Department of Education. The statue is seated on a low wall with an inscription from Eisenhower's Abilene Homecoming speech.
- 3. Removing four canopy trees adjacent to the memorial core to increase the views of the revised tapestry image.

Based on the initial analysis of the design changes to the proposed Dwight D. Eisenhower Memorial, the National Park Service (NPS) anticipates that these changes will not result in new adverse effects or intensify the previously identified adverse effects to historic properties. Furthermore, as part of the NEPA process, the proposed modifications will have no impacts on what was already evaluated in the Environment Assessment completed in 2012.

## C. Conclusion

I certify that the existing NPS NEPA document has been reviewed and there are no substantive differences between the current proposal and its associated environmental impacts and the proposal and impacts as described in the existing NEPA document and associated decision document.

Superintendent: Date: 4/21/17