



United States Department of the Interior

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Fort Sumter National Monument
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, South Carolina 29482
(843) 883-3123



Fort Moultrie
1214 Middle Street
Sullivan's Island, South Carolina

Charles Pinckney National
Historic Site
1254 Long Point Road
Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 18, 2011

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to replace a deteriorated roof on the Museum at Fort Sumter, and use this opportunity to establish a renewable energy demonstration project at Fort Sumter National Monument. The purpose of this project is fourfold:

1. Replace the twenty year old roof.
2. Install solar panels or solar laminate on the new roof that will supply some of the electrical power needed at the fort.
3. Install hydrogen fuel cell equipment that will provide backup electrical power when the solar panel's power source and the public utility power source go down.
4. Demonstrate to fort visitors how renewable energy sources can supply the power needs of a site, and educate visitors about the need to reduce our consumption of fossil fuels.

This will be a partnership project with the United States Department of Energy (DOE) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). National parks are ideal places to showcase the Federal Government's commitment to promoting energy-efficient and renewable energy technologies and practices. DOE is well positioned to demonstrate for both the American public and private industry the opportunities that currently exist to accelerate the transition to a sustainable energy future.

Background: In November 2008 the NPS joined with the DOE to establish an innovative partnership called Energy SmartPARKS. The objectives of the program include:

1. Deploy renewable and efficient energy technologies throughout the national park system
2. Teach park visitors about the benefits of renewable energy and energy efficiency
3. Reduce overall energy consumption and quantify savings
4. Reduce carbon emissions in all aspects of park operations
5. Develop and expand partnerships with the private sector, nonprofit organizations, and educational institutions to further the benefits and goals of Energy SmartPARKS

Fort Sumter National Monument is considering two steps to implement this project:

1. Install the solar panels on top of the Museum roof. The Museum was constructed in 1961 on top of one of the gun emplacements of Battery Huger. Battery Huger is the Endicott Period battery constructed by the Army inside Fort Sumter in 1899. The panels would be placed FLAT within an existing depression on top of the replacement roof. The panels would be visible while standing on the top level of Battery Huger. An interpretive wayside would be placed near this equipment that would explain how it works and what it does.

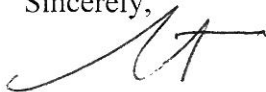
2. There are two possible locations in Battery Huger for the hydrogen equipment: 1. near the existing heating/ventilating/air conditioning equipment, and 2. on the artillery hoist balcony. Neither of these locations are in prime visitor interpretation areas. An interpretive wayside would be placed near this equipment that would explain how it works and what it does.

An Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect for replacing the roof and installing the energy equipment will be prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) to provide the decision-making framework that 1) analyzes a reasonable range of alternatives to meet project objectives, 2) evaluates potential issues and impacts to park resources and values, and 3) identifies mitigation measures to lessen the degree or extent of these impacts.

The National Park Service encourages public participation throughout the NEPA\NHPA process during which the public has two opportunities to formally comment on the project: once during initial project scoping and again following release of the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect. We are currently in the initial scoping phase of this project, and invite you to submit your written comments online at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment website at <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/fort-sumter-renewable-energy>. Any comments, suggestions, and ideas for this proposal are greatly welcome.

If you are not able to submit comments electronically through this website, then you may also submit written comments to us at the address on the letterhead. Please provide all comments by **May 8, 2011**. These comments will be considered during preparation of the Environmental Assessment/Assessment of Effect. Before including your address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment – including your personal identifying information – may be made publicly available at any time. We will make all submissions from organizations, businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses available for public inspection in their entirety. Although you can ask us in your comment to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so. We look forward to hearing from you, and thank you for your continued interest in Fort Sumter National Monument.

Sincerely,



Tim Stone
Superintendent