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United States Department of the Interior





NATIONAL PARK SERVICE C&O Canal National Historical Park 1850 Dual Highway, Suite 100 Hagerstown, Maryland 21740

DECETVED A SEP 2 2 2014

BY:_____

IN REPLY REFER TO: 1.A.2 (Resources)

September 18, 2014

Ms. Elizabeth Cole Administrator, Project Review and Compliance Office of Preservation Services Maryland Historical Trust 100 Community Place Crownsville, MD 21032

Dear Ms. Cole:

The Maryland Historical Trust has determined that this undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

BMHT awaits forther consultation on the individual projects, as finding and planning proceed

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In accordance with the Council of Environmental Quality, the National Environmental Policy Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act, Chesapeake & Ohio Canal National Historical Park is forwarding a copy of *Restoration of Canal Operations at Hancock, Maryland, Environmental Assessment* for your review. This document is out for public review from September 8, 2014 through October 10, 2014. The document has also been posted electronically on the National Park Service's web-based program "Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC)." The web address is http://parkplanning.nps.gov/choh.

Based on consultation with the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), the National Park Service (NPS) has found that the development plan described in the environmental assessment is part of "nondestructive project planning" for these prospective undertakings, and as such does not "restrict the subsequent consideration of alternatives to avoid, minimize or mitigate [a specific] undertaking's adverse effects on historic properties" in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.1(c). Accordingly, the NPS finds that no historic properties would be affected by the development of this development plan in accordance with 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). Further, the NPS commits in this decision to complete the Section 106 review for each undertaking that may stem from the Management Plan in accordance with the Programmatic Agreement among the NPS, the ACHP, and the National Conference of State Historic Preservation Officers for Compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA (2008) and the ACHP's regulations.

NPS, in consultation with the ACHP, has identified your organization as a possible consulting party under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and requests that after reviewing the EA, if you wish to be considered a consulting party, that you identify for us any projects in this development plan that you may wish to receive additional information about as project design and implementation proceed.

If you have any questions, please contact Ahna Wilson, Cultural Resource Program Manager, at ahna_wilson@nps.gov, (301) 714-2236 or the above address. Comments can be registered in PEPC or sent to Ms. Wilson. Please forward any comments by October 10, 2014.

#2na Be for the plan itself

Thank you for the time to review this project.

Sincerely,

Kevin D. Brandt Superintendent

Kevin O. Brandt

Enclosure