



United States Department of the Interior
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
CARLSBAD CAVERNS NATIONAL PARK
3225 National Parks Highway
Carlsbad, NM 88220



H4217

November 12, 2015

Dear Interested Party:

The National Park Service has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the CAVE Underground Lighting Replacement Project Environmental Assessment (EA). Intermountain Regional Director Sue Masica signed the FONSI on November 3, 2015.

The purpose of the project is improve staff and visitor safety, increase energy efficiency, protect the proposed Underground Historic District and Cultural Landscape, and reduce labor and budgetary costs associated with the park's utility infrastructure. The EA examined two alternatives in detail, addressed the environmental impacts of each alternative, and identified a Preferred Alternative. The FONSI explains why the Selected Action (Alternative B) will have no significant impact on the human environment. It is based on the EA and the comments received from the public, interested parties, agencies, and staff during the comment period, which concluded on March 23, 2015. The FONSI summarizes the public comments received, lists the responses to those comments, and identifies the changes made to the text in the EA as a result of public and agency comments. These errata, which are attached to the EA, are intended to correct or clarify statements in the EA other than typographical and minor editorial errors, and to address public comments received during the public review period.

The Selected Action is to replace the existing underground lighting system at Carlsbad Caverns National Park with an energy-efficient, low maintenance, light-emitting diode (LED) system. This project represents final phases of a new electrical/lighting system in the cavern that is currently underway. The project would be located in the Natural Entrance/Main Corridor, Kings Palace, and the Big Room.

The approved FONSI to replace the Underground Lighting System is on file at park headquarters and can be found at: <http://parkplanning.nps.gov/CAVE>.

Together, the EA, the FONSI and the errata represent the National Park Service's approved action to replace the underground lighting at the park. We thank you for your interest and concern for the future of Carlsbad Caverns National Park.

Sincerely,

Douglas S. Neighbor
Superintendent

