

## **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT**

The National Park Service (NPS) proposes to improve the public safety and accessibility of the Statue of Liberty National Monument (Park) in a manner that preserves its historic character and the visitor experience.

An important national symbol, the Statue of Liberty (consisting of the Statue itself, a granite and concrete pedestal on which it stands, and Fort Wood, which contains a museum) is one of the most popular tourist destinations in the United States. Liberty Island is visited by nearly 4,000,000 people each year, 560,000 of whom have access to the pedestal and museum, and 87,000 of whom have access to the Statue's crown.

Before re-opening the crown on July 4, 2009, the NPS completed several life safety improvements, including installation of handrails along the helical staircases and rehabilitation of doors to improve visitor access and meet some safety codes. The Statue, however, is not currently compliant with life safety and accessibility codes. Action is needed to upgrade infrastructure, circulation, and emergency egress in order to improve code compliance and achieve an acceptable level of emergency response capability.

The improvements proposed in the current project include repairs and upgrades to various fire protection, lighting, mechanical, and structural components, and provisions for safe egress from the Statue in an emergency. Proposed actions will be substantially limited to the pedestal and Fort Wood. Improvements proposed in the current project are being addressed in an Environmental Assessment (EA) and Assessment of Effect (AoE) document, in compliance with the National Environmental Protection Act (NEPA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

By implementing the range of proposed actions, the NPS wishes to achieve the following objectives:

1. Improve public safety in the Statue by addressing life safety and accessibility code issues.
2. Implement infrastructure improvements to enable efficient emergency egress from the Statue.
3. Minimize disruption to visitor use and experience.
4. Preserve the integrity of the historic resources within the Statue and on Liberty Island.

The NPS welcomes your comments, which are needed for the EA/AoE and the development of plans for the proposed actions. The NPS will carefully consider public comments and use them to inform project planning and alternatives development. However, the NPS will not respond directly to individual comments. Please submit your comments by April 12, 2010 at the NPS Planning, Environment, and Public Comment (PEPC) website (<http://parkplanning.nps.gov/STLI>). You may also submit written comments to The Statue of Liberty National Monument, Ellis Island Receiving Office, Jersey City NJ 07305, attn: Park Planning. We appreciate your interest in this process and look forward to your comments.

Sincerely,

David Luchsinger

Superintendent  
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