



# United States Department of the Interior

## NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

National Mall & Memorial Parks  
900 Ohio Drive, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20024-2000



D66 (NCR-NAMA)

March 18, 2010

Mr. Reid Nelson  
Director  
Office of the Federal Agency Programs  
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation  
1100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W., Suite 803  
Washington, D.C. 20004

Dear Mr. Nelson:

On March 18, 2010 the National Park Service (NPS) presented to the Commission of Fine Arts (CFA) the final design preferred alternative for the rehabilitation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the surrounding area. The presentation addressed specific design options resulting from the February 18, 2010 presentation to the Commission of Fine Arts, along with concerns expressed by the consulting parties at the February 17, 2010 Consulting Party Meeting #4. A copy of the presentation submitted in advance of the March CFA meeting has been posted on the NPS Planning, Environment and Public Comment (PEPC) website ([www.parkplanning.nps.gov](http://www.parkplanning.nps.gov)). The specific design issues and areas of concern were also documented in the March 17, 2010 Programmatic Agreement (PA), and are:

1. The design of security barriers and circulation systems at the interface of the Reflecting Pool with the East Plaza of the Lincoln Memorial will be designed comprehensively and coordinated to minimize adverse effects on the cultural landscape and to provide for the removal of all temporary barriers and a selected number of permanently installed bollards at the East Plaza, the addition of universally accessible paths, and the replication of a missing concrete walk at the southeast end of the Reflecting Pool.
2. The design, scale, color, and materials of the paving for the dirt or "social" paths adjacent to the granite coping to the north and south of the Reflecting Pool will be compatible with the granite coping of the Reflecting Pool but not appear to be an extension of the coping.
3. New light standards, to be installed on the outboard side of the north and south elms walks will be designed in a size and of materials that minimally intrude upon the scale and visual relationship of landscape features. The installation of the new light standards will be coordinated with the re-installation of benches and waste receptacles that have been refurbished or replaced-in-kind.
4. The location and design of the new equipment and structures required for the modified water system will blend as harmoniously as possible with the existing scale and context of adjacent cultural landscapes and will be located outside the primary viewsheds of the Reflecting Pool area.

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### Undertaking

The CFA reviewed the final designs for the NPS preferred alternative for the security barriers and circulation systems at the East Plaza of the Lincoln Circle and west end of the Reflecting Pool. These designs have been previously presented to consulting parties.

Two alternatives were presented to the CFA for the paving materials proposed to be adjacent to the granite coping along the north and south sides of the Reflecting Pool. These alternatives were also previously discussed with consulting parties. The alternatives included stone dust and gray concrete with a fine exposed aggregate finish, similar to one used at the Korean War Veterans Memorial. The gray exposed aggregate concrete is the NPS preferred material for the new walkways along the Reflecting Pool coping. The proposed walk width is 13'-4", not including coping. This width will allow 5-8 people to walk comfortably side-by-side.

The light standards proposed for installation along the north and south elm walks are a refinement of the previously presented type preferred by the NPS, and as shown to consulting parties at the February 17 meeting. The revised proposal for the light fixture is a simplified tapered pole.

As outlined in the February 17 consultation meeting, the water system treatment building is proposed to be located adjacent to the area associated with U.S. Park Police (USPP) Stables. The 40 ft. by 60 ft. building will be clad with insulated brown metal panels to visually recede in the landscape and blend with the existing service buildings. Additional trees and shrubs will be planted to screen the building from both Ash Road and Independence Avenue.

The CFA unanimously approved the final designs, with the following provisos:

- The final height of the soil and turf behind the curved security walls will be determined during construction.
- The proposed grey aggregate concrete was approved and the final color selection will be mocked-up in the field during construction for CFA review and approval.
- The CFA recommended that the NPS pursue an attractive renovation of the USPP stable area.

### Finding of Effect

Although the rehabilitation of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool will result in an overall adverse effect to historic properties, it is the opinion of the NPS, for which I seek your concurrence, that the proposed designs for the new paving materials, the elm walk light standards, and water system treatment building neither create new adverse effects nor intensify previously identified adverse effects. For your convenience, a concurrence signature line is included at the bottom of the letter.

The NPS is committed to preserving the historic integrity of the Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool and the surrounding area, and avoiding, minimizing and mitigating adverse effects is of paramount concern. Under the terms of the PA (see Section 2(b)ii and 2(b)iv, I look forward to receiving your reply regarding concurrence within three business days of receipt of this letter on March 24, 2009.

If you should have any questions or concerns, please contact Perry Wheelock at 202-619-7088.

Sincerely,



John Piltzecker  
Superintendent  
National Mall and Memorial Parks



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I Concur

CC signatories to the programmatic agreement (PA),  
CC Andrew Lewis, Louise Brodnitz, Nancy Witherell