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# ASSESSMENT OF ACTIONS HAVING AN EFFECT ON HISTORIC PROPERTIES

## A. DESCRIPTION OF UNDERTAKING

1. **Park:** National Mall and Memorial Parks

### 2. **Project Description:**

**Project Name:** National Independence Day Celebration 2019

**Prepared by:** Catherine Dewey **Date Prepared:** 07/03/2019 **Telephone:** 202-245-4711

**PEPC Project Number:** 89233

#### **Locations:**

County, State: District of Columbia, DC

#### **Describe project:**

The National Park Service (NPS) at the National Mall and Memorial Parks (NAMA) is hosting the annual National Independence Day Celebration on the Fourth of July.

This year's celebration includes a new event, Salute to America. In this event, President Donald J. Trump honors America's armed forces with music, military demonstrations, flyovers and much more. Participants include the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), the Armed Forces Chorus, the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Team and many others. From what is currently known, the Salute to America event will happen on the front steps area of the Lincoln Monument, however the details of the event are still evolving in the days leading up to the celebration. Due to this new event the fireworks launch area had to be moved to create a secure area. The firework launch and safety zone were moved to West Potomac Park. The secure area includes Constitution Ave from the Potomac River to 14th Street, south along the Tidal Basin, around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and all of West Potomac Park (see attached map).

Set-up for the celebration started June 15, 2019 and will continue until July 4, 2019. Break-down takes place at the commence of the fireworks display and will take approximately 10 days. Several tents will be installed throughout the secure area, for checkpoints and medical stations. Tents will be set up outside of the drip line of trees, where possible, and will be supported by cement blocks. Sound poles with speakers for music relay may be placed throughout the secure area. Several 4000w light towers (with generators) and 56w generators will provide lighting for visitors, tents and during cleanup after the fireworks. These towers and generators will be set up on hard surfaces and or within secondary containment, and both generators and combo generator/light towers will be sumped prior to refueling to reduce the risk of an accidental spill. Several hundred portable toilets will be placed in various locations throughout the park. Portable toilets will maintain a 50ft minimum distance from any body of water; this includes Congressional Gardens Lake, Lincoln Memorial Reflecting Pool, Tidal Basin, Washington Channel and Potomac River, to minimize any potential release of sewage into the waterways. Many 30 and 8 -cubic yard dumpsters will be located throughout the Mall for trash and recycling collection. Approximately 85,000 linear feet of pedestrian barriers will be located in areas integral for ensuring visitor safety and site security. Approximately 35 golf carts will be used during the event to move supplies and personnel. The fireworks display will take place July 4th soon after 9 pm and will involve the set up, inventory, inspection, wiring and firing. The fireworks display is expected to be the larger than past years. Efforts to protect park resources include the use of turf protection pads to be used under the trailer wheels, an evacuation plan as been put in place as well as a fire protection plan. Debris associated with fireworks within the safety zone will be removed by contractors and NPS staff. NPS staff will also be responsible for clean-up of the rest of the park areas. Some clean-

up efforts will take place right after the firework display is done, however majority of it will take place the days after. If the fireworks display is delayed due to rain or other reasons the continuance plan is to host the event July 5 soon after 9 pm.

**Area of potential effects (as defined in 36 CFR 800.16[d])**

West Potomac Park

**3. Has the area of potential effects been surveyed to identify historic properties?**

No  
 Yes

Source or reference:

**4. Potentially Affected Resource(s):**

**Archeological Resources Affected:** No

**Historical Structures/Resources Affected:** Yes

**Cultural Landscapes Affected:** Yes

**Ethnographic Resources Affected:** No

**5. The proposed action will: (check as many as apply)**

- No Destroy, remove, or alter features/elements from a historic structure
- No Replace historic features/elements in kind
- No Add non-historic features/elements to a historic structure
- No Alter or remove features/elements of a historic setting or environment (inc. terrain)
- No Add non-historic features/elements (inc. visual, audible, or atmospheric) to a historic setting or cultural landscape
- No Disturb, destroy, or make archeological resources inaccessible
- No Disturb, destroy, or make ethnographic resources inaccessible
- No Potentially affect presently unidentified cultural resources
- No Begin or contribute to deterioration of historic features, terrain, setting, landscape elements, or archeological or ethnographic resources
- No Involve a real property transaction (exchange, sale, or lease of land or structures)
- Other (please specify): \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Supporting Study Data:**

(Attach if feasible; if action is in a plan, EA or EIS, give name and project or page number.)

**B. REVIEWS BY CULTURAL RESOURCE SPECIALISTS**

The park 106 coordinator requested review by the park's cultural resource specialist/advisors as indicated by check-off boxes or as follows:

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No Reviews From: Curator, Archeologist, Historical Architect, Historian, 106 Advisor, Other Advisor, Anthropologist, Historical Landscape Architect

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### C. PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR'S REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

#### 1. Assessment of Effect:

No Potential to Cause Effects  
 No Historic Properties Affected  
 No Adverse Effect  
 Adverse Effect

#### 2. Documentation Method:

**A. Standard 36 CFR Part 800 Consultation**

Further consultation under 36 CFR Part 800 is needed.

**B. Streamlined Review Under the 2008 Servicewide Programmatic Agreement (PA)**

The above action meets all conditions for a streamlined review under section III of the 2008 Servicewide PA for Section 106 compliance.

**Applicable Streamlined Review Criteria**

(Specify 1-16 of the list of streamlined review criteria.)

**C. Undertaking Related to Park Specific or Another Agreement**

The proposed undertaking is covered for Section 106 purposes under another document such as a park, region or statewide agreement established in accord with 36 CFR 800.7 or 36 CFR 800.14.

**D. Combined NEPA/NHPA Process**

Process and documentation required for the preparation of an EA/FONSI or an EIS/ROD to comply with Section 106 is in accord with 36 CFR 800.8.c.

**E. Memo to Project File**

#### 3. Consultation Information

SHPO Required: No

SHPO Sent:

SHPO Received:

THPO Required:

THPO Sent:

THPO Received:

SHPO/THPO Notes:

Advisory Council Participating: No

Advisory Council Notes:

Additional Consulting Parties: No

**4. Stipulations and Conditions:** Following are listed any stipulations or conditions necessary to ensure that the assessment of effect above is consistent with 36 CFR Part 800 criteria of effect or to avoid or reduce potential adverse effects.

**5. Mitigations/Treatment Measures:** Measures to prevent or minimize loss or impairment of historic/prehistoric properties: (Remember that setting, location, and use may be relevant.)

No Assessment of Effect mitigations identified.

**6. Assessment of Effect Notes:**

**D. RECOMMENDED BY PARK SECTION 106 COORDINATOR:**

**Compliance Specialist:**

**NHPA Specialist**

Catherine Dewey

Catherine C. Dewey

Date:

7/3/19

**E. SUPERINTENDENT'S APPROVAL**

The proposed work conforms to the NPS *Management Policies* and *Cultural Resource Management Guideline*, and I have reviewed and approve the recommendations, stipulations, or conditions noted in Section C of this form.

**Signature**

**Superintendent:**

[Handwritten Signature]

Date:

7/3/19



## Categorical Exclusion Form

**Project:** National Independence Day Celebration 2019

**PEPC Project Number:** 89233

**Description of Action (Project Description):**

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This years celebration includes a new event, Salute to America. In this event, President Donald J. Trump honors America's armed forces with music, military demonstrations, flyovers and much more. Participants include the Old Guard Fife and Drum Corps, the U.S. Army Band ("Pershing's Own"), the Armed Forces Chorus, the United States Marine Corps Silent Drill Team and many others. From what is currently know, the Salute to America event will happen on the front steps area of the Lincoln Monument, however the details of the event are still evolving in the days leading up to the celebration. Due to this new event the fireworks launch area had to be moved to create a secure area. The firework launch and safety zone were moved to West Potomac Park. The secure area includes Constitution Ave from the Potomac River to 14th Street, south along the Tidal Basin, around the Thomas Jefferson Memorial, and all of West Potomac Park (see attached map).

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**Project Locations:**

**Location**

**County:** District of Columbia      **State:** DC

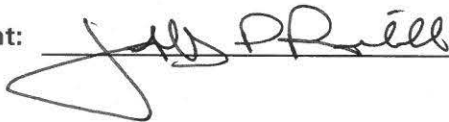
There are no required mitigations identified.

CE Citation:

CE Justification:

Decision: I find that the action fits within the categorical exclusion above. Therefore, I am categorically excluding the described project from further NEPA analysis. No extraordinary circumstances apply.

Signature

Superintendent:  Date: 7/3/19

# 2019 Independence Day Celebration

U.S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service



**LEGEND**

- Access Point - Open at 10am
- Medical Aid Station
- Safe Haven
- Family Reunification Area