

Historic Preservation Consultation Meeting
Nuclear Ship *SAVANNAH* National Historic Landmark
January 16, 2024, 2:30-4pm EDT
(MS Teams Only)

Participants:

- Erhard W. Koehler, Manager, N.S. *Savannah* Programs, MARAD
- Jean Trefethen, Environmental Program Manager, NMSS, NRC
- John Kelly, Retired DOE, past president of ANS
- Gail Marcus, past president, ANS
- Jed Porter, Architect, NPS Region 1, North Atlantic - Appalachian
- Liz Casso, Preservation Officer, Project Review and Compliance, MHT; SHPO
- Bob Adams, President, NS Savannah Association
- Anne Jennings, Cultural Resource Specialist, Tidewater, Inc.
- Ed Tupin, Health Physics Society
- James Stemm, Curator, National Museum of Nuclear Science & History
- Dan O'Rourke, ANL
- Michael Moan
- Paul Johnston, Curator of Maritime History, SI
- Chris Daniel, Program Analyst, ACHP
- Art Cole, N/S *Savannah* Association
- Wendy Coble, MARAD, Acting FPO
- Diana Diaz Toro, Project Manager, NRC
- Matt Schulte, President Steamship Historical Association
- Hannah E Pell, TMI-2 Licensing Engineer EnergySolutions
- Barbara Voulgaris, Sustainable Design Consortium
- Neil Sheehan, NRC Public Affairs Officer

See Acronym List at the end of the document

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes Review (November 21, 2023)
- III. Program Update
- IV. Status of PA Stipulations
 - a. NOA / RFI
 - b. Disposition Alternatives Study
 - c. LTP
- V. Other Business / Adjourn
- VI. Next Meeting: March 19, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

Erhard opened the meeting and noted that the ship was closed, and the meeting was online only. Attendees introduced themselves on Teams.

Following the introductions, Erhard noted a few significant things that had occurred since the last meeting. We held site visits associated with the NOA/RFI in December, and attendees had some useful information on where the ship could be berthed in the future. He also noted a recent article in NY *Newsday* about the SS *United States*, and that there is a conservancy that is trying to save the ship and has long sought a redevelopment outcome. The *United States* is berthed in Philadelphia now, and there is a dispute about the rent which may lead to its eviction. The article mentioned the possibility of the ship relocating to Miami, which is notable as that is a location which was brought up as a potential future home for *Savannah* during the site visits. Erhard noted that this is not competitive, there may be a place for two ships in Miami, and as for *Savannah*, everything is in the early stages of consideration. Nonetheless, the future of *Savannah* does somewhat depend on what happens with the *United States*, as that ship tends to take precedence over other historic ships.

In addition, Erhard noted that we plan to extend the NOA/RFI comment period to April 1st and add another site visit on February 24th. The federal register notice is being reviewed by legal and expected to be posted in the federal register on or before January 29th. It will be circulated to the PRG once approved by MARAD.

Minutes Review

The November 21, 2023 minutes were shared via e-mail prior to the meeting and there were no comments received either via e-mail or during the meeting. Erhard noted that minutes will be posted on the docket and website. The draft version of the NOA/RFI extension and meeting notice may also be posted at this time.

Program Update

The LTP received its acceptance review from the NRC December 15, 2023. No additional information was requested upfront, and the NRC will now do its more detailed technical review of the document. Based on the preliminary schedule, a public meeting is expected to be held in April with final approval by September 2024. Erhard noted that the LTP had not yet been posted on ADAMS. Neil indicated that there have been several LTPs submitted recently, and that he would investigate this and get back to Erhard. Erhard also noted he will be sharing the LTP with the EPA (as it relates to TSCA compliance), and this will be done after it is posted on ADAMS.

Erhard noted that we are nearing the end of the dismantlement phase, and working towards final status surveys, which are expected to start in the springtime. There is still decontamination work to be done in the foundational structure under the CV which had previously been inaccessible. They will be removing and disposing of grating in the CV and will replace it with Coast Guard marine rated grating, which will be similar to what was there. They will also be making minor changes to create a safer and more natural flow through the space for visitors now that some elements have been removed. This will involve adding ladders. The expectation is that this work will be done in the next few months. Erhard noted that as of now we are still on track with license termination by December 2025.

Programmatic Agreement Stipulations

NOA/RFI

As discussed earlier, Erhard noted that the response period will be extended, and he continues to encourage people to formally respond. Erhard noted that there have not yet been any responses on which method of conveyance might be preferable. Erhard also noted that there has been revival of interest in the possibility of developing nuclear-powered ships in the future, which leads to the consideration of continued government ownership of *Savannah* as it relates to that.

Disposition Alternatives Study

The study is still being worked on before it will go to Doug Harrington for review. Doug is acting in Kevin Tokarski's role, who retired at the end of last year. John Kelly asked about the LTP and if the NRC had accepted it. Erhard responded that it had (as described in the Welcome and Introductions section).

Other Business

Chris noted that the ACHP Section 3 report is going through final review, and it will include an update and photos of *Savannah*, including that the PA has been executed. The report will be digitally available, which will enable it to be shared widely to generate interest in the ship. Chris will share the report with the PRG when it is available.

Erhard reviewed the three mitigation measures included in Stipulation V of the PA. He noted Barbara is going to work on the collections management plan. They are going through the archival records now in anticipation of eventually transferring these to NARA. Additionally, due to interest in nuclear powered ships, they are also pulling records which may be relevant, and noted how this illustrates the contemporary value and use of the collection.

Erhard also noted he is considering adding an additional mitigation measure, which would be the development of a maintenance manual for the ship, based on the SOI standards for historic vessels. He noted that the manual could include routine things like replacing asbestos tile with vinyl tile that matches the general appearance of the original. Anne noted that the hope of the manual is that these types of activities could be excluded from individual Section 106 review.

Chris liked the idea and thought it was a good idea as mitigation, but that it did not necessarily fall under the existing PA which doesn't have a prescribed process for 106. An amendment could be considered as Barbara recommended. He also noted that he doesn't want to waste an opportunity to create this document, and does feel confident in MARAD's stewardship, but cautioned that it may not fit within the PA as written. Ed noted he liked the idea in concept and that it is worth exploring. Erhard noted they have had the Fission mural and teak wall coverings conserved, and there are procedures for those which will be part of the manual. The manual would also capture all work done to date.

Erhard noted that the next meeting is on March 19, 2024. The NOA/RFI comment period will still be open in March and will have more to report from site visits. We will also make it our aim to have a more definitive disposition study by the March meeting. He also noted that the annual report to the NRC is due before March 1st, and that will be shared with the group when it is available.

Action Items:

- Anne to send meeting minutes
- Neil to look into the status of the LTP and when it will be up on ADAMS
- Anne to send Federal Register Notice for NOA/RFI Extension to PRG when approved or post (anticipated late January)
- Anne/Erhard to distribute NRC Annual Report to the PRG when available (anticipated early March)
- Chris to distribute ACHP Section 3 report when available
- All members:
 - please continue spread the word about the NOA/RFI
 - Consider a maintenance manual as mitigation

Acronyms:

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADAMS	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System
ANL	Argonne National Lab (DOE)
ANS	American Nuclear Society
CV	Containment Vessel
DOE	(US) Department of Energy
DOI	(US) Department of Interior
DOT	(US) Department of Transportation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FPO	Federal Preservation Officer
FRN	Federal Register Notice
LTP	License Termination Plan
MARAD	Maritime Administration (DOT)
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NARA	National Archives and Record Administration
NMSS	Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NRC)
NPS	National Park Service (DOI)
NRC	(US) Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls
PRG	Peer Review Group
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SIA	Society for Industrial Archaeology
SOI	Secretary of the Interior
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act