

Historic Preservation Consultation Meeting
Nuclear Ship *SAVANNAH* National Historic Landmark
March 19, 2024, 2:30-4pm EDT
(Hybrid on-board NS *Savannah* and MS Teams)

Participants:

- Erhard W. Koehler, Manager, N.S. *Savannah* Programs, MARAD
- 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, NS *Savannah* Association
- Wendy Coble, Historian and Acting FPO, MARAD
- Matt Schulte, President Steamship Historical Society of America
- Barbara Voulgaris, Sustainable Design Consortium
- Anna Holloway, Supervisory Historian, MARAD
- Matt Schulte, Executive Director, SSHSA
- Konnie Westcott, ANL

See Acronym List at the end of the document

Agenda:

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes Review (January 16, 2024)
- III. Program Update
- IV. Status of PA Stipulations
 - a. NOA / RFI
 - b. Disposition Alternatives Study
 - c. LTP
- V. Other Business / Adjourn
- VI. Next Meeting: May 21, 2024

Welcome and Introductions

Erhard opened the meeting, and noted he and Ed Tupin were onboard the ship, while everyone else attended virtually. He introduced Anna Holloway, who is MARAD's new supervisory historian and will ultimately be MARAD's FPO. Everyone went around and introduced themselves.

Minutes Review

The January 16th minutes were shared via e-mail prior to the meeting and no comments received either via e-mail or during the meeting.

Program Update

Erhard noted that we sent out an email with a status update on the reactor coolant system aft loop piping, which MARAD attempted to decontaminate and preserve because it would have added interpretive value to the CV. MARAD obtained estimates from a couple of different companies, but no one was able to give a commitment that it would be able to be decontaminated to a free release standard. Although we went to great lengths, and there were some initial promising results, eventually the decision was made that the piping could not be decontaminated, and it will be disposed as waste. Bob noted that piping could be relatively easy to replicate, and Erhard agreed that it is, and there is also a mockup of the reactor. Erhard indicated that we do have sample clean pipes, which could be cut to show a segment of what the piping looked like and that there are select aspects of the system that were retained, such as the large pipe hangers.

Erhard reported that the LTP was received and accepted by the NRC in December. As of now, they are working towards holding a public meeting the evening of May 8th onboard the ship. NRC will be posting a notice of meeting in the federal register, and when that happens, we will share it with the PRG.

Erhard stated that most of the dismantlement is done, and the current focus is getting ready for the final status surveys to confirm the site meets radiological release criteria, which will be followed by confirmatory surveys by the NRC. Disposition is still anticipated early 2026.

Erhard noted that there has been a reduction in the appropriations for the decommissioning and disposition, which may impact some of what we can do at the end of the process. Chris noted that in the event there are stipulations in the PA that may not be able to be met, or if lesser funding may constrain things, we should discuss this sooner rather than later. Erhard doesn't anticipate it would be an issue but agreed that in the event there are any issues, it will be brought to the group for discussion. In addition, he gave an example as to how lesser funds could be worked around – for example, in the event the ship is scrapped and we need to salvage significant items, we could either remove items from the ship upfront, or if that is not possible, we could incorporate that into the scrapping process.

Programmatic Agreement Stipulations

NOA/RFI

Erhard noted that we have sent out notices about the NOA/RFI process to the PRG via email, which included extending the comment period to April 1st and we had an info session/site visit on February 24th with about 28 people. It was a good day, good discussions, and there were a few kernels of

interest. Erhard noted that the purpose of the RFI is to seek information from people who may be interested in taking the ship, but we are not looking for a formal proposal. We have interest from the city of Savannah, and we expect them to submit. There is also interest in keeping the ship in Baltimore, and we are exploring Providence, RI and Miami, FL as possibilities. We hope to be able to demonstrate to MARAD HQ that there is a high level of interest in preservation of the ship. We are also still exploring continued federal use of the ship .

Erhard shared that we had a productive call with the executive director at OMSI, a science museum in Oregon that also operates a historic sub, to get perspective from them on the relationship between a science museum and ship. Although they are unable to take on *Savannah* for a variety of reasons, they offered valuable guidance. Similarly, we met with executive staff at the Intrepid Museum, who also provided valuable guidance. We also spoke with the Eisenhower Foundation, and Erhard will be meeting with the executive director of Historic Ships Baltimore tomorrow and the director of the MD Science Center in April. The Baltimore Sun will be at the ship this week to do a photo essay that will be published in an upcoming Sunday edition of the paper, probably within two weeks.

Disposition Alternatives Study

Erhard noted that we are very close to getting the study to Doug for review at MARAD HQ. Currently, we are looking for options for continuing federal ownership of the ship, especially considering the increasing interest in climate change and its effects on transportation industries. There is a goal of zero greenhouse emissions by merchant ships by 2050. Gail noted that this is a very aggressive goal. John asked about looking into ammonia as fuel, which Erhard noted is a transitional fuel. Erhard also noted that China is looking at molten salt reactors. As these ideas are explored, because *Savannah* was a nuclear-powered merchant ship, there could be federal opportunities to use the ship to potentially host a prototype reactor by some entity. Erhard indicated that he plans to have the study ready for the next PRG meeting.

John asked if we looked at Navy nuclear reactors, and Erhard noted that there have not been any discussions between MARAD and the Navy.

Mitigation Stipulations

Erhard noted that mitigation included in Stipulation V is in progress. Barbara will be working on a mitigation strategies document. In the event the ship is scrapped or reefed, architectural salvage will need to be considered. These strategies will be developed by MARAD and will be shared with the PRG for review and comment. Erhard noted that there is no timeline for this.

Erhard indicated that we reviewed the Thematic Context developed by Dan a long time ago. There are a few stylistic edits, and we want to clarify one part of it, and then it will be ready to be released. We are also working on the Collections Management Plan. The archival records will not be released until the ship is decommissioned and the license terminated, so that there can be a complete record of the ship.

Erhard reported that we provided the Annual Report to the PRG last month via email and asked if any questions. There were none.

Other business

Erhard noted that there is a CAMM conference in April. Paul noted that registration is about to end, it will be held at the at the Constitution Museum and there will also be tours. He hopes to deliver a paper on items from the Titanic he recently collected. Erhard shared that he made a presentation on the ship last year and will not be presenting again this year. Erhard also noted that Maritime Day is on May 19th and invited the PRG to come down and visit that day. He also asked Chris about having the ACHP use the ship as a meeting space and promoted the ship as a meeting space. Erhard also said that the ship may participate in Fleet Week in June, which is also a good time to visit the ship. Finally, Erhard noted that Donald Norcross, a congressman from New Jersey's first district expressed an interest in touring the ship and that is being arranged through MARAD.

Erhard noted that the next meeting is May 21st and encouraged anyone interested to attend in person. The meeting ended at roughly 3:45PM EDT.

Action Items:

- Anne to send meeting minutes
- Anne/Erhard to send notice for NRC Public Meeting when announced.
- Anne/Erhard to send additional info about Maritime Day (May 19) and Fleet Week (June) when available.
- All members: please continue spread the word about the NOA/RFI

Acronyms:

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| ACHP | Advisory Council on Historic Preservation |
| ADAMS | Agencywide Documents Access and Management System |
| ANL | Argonne National Lab (DOE) |
| ANS | American Nuclear Society |
| CAMM | Council of American Maritime Museums |
| 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 |
| OMSI | Oregon Museum of Science and Industry |
| PA | Programmatic Agreement |
| PCB | polychlorinated biphenyls |

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| 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 |