



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

OFFICE OF THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY
(INSTALLATIONS AND ENVIRONMENT)
1 000 NAVY PENTAGON
WASHINGTON DC 20350-1000

April 9, 2009

John M. Fowler
Executive Director
Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
1100 Pennsylvania Ave NW, Suite 803
Washington, DC 20004

Dear Mr. Fowler,

Thank you for your letter of February 26, 2009 regarding the non-time-critical removal action to be conducted to abate hazardous substances contained in the structure of Hangar 1 located at the former Naval Air Station Moffett Field. Hangar 1, an important historic resource, is individually eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Your letter revisited certain recommendations previously made by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP) in its October 6, 2008 final comments on the Navy's proposed Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (CERCLA) removal action to minimize and mitigate the potential adverse effects on Hangar 1.

The response to ACHP's final comments included in the December 2008 Action Memorandum for the removal action included a statement regarding the Navy's commitment to coordinate the Navy CERCLA cleanup undertaking with NASA's reuse undertaking in a manner consistent with ACHP's recommendation. However, your recent letter requests that the Navy make this commitment "more specific and to coordinate the timing of its undertaking with NASA to ensure a seamless transition from removal action to active reuse with little to no time where the frame is left standing without siding or roof." Navy has been actively coordinating its removal action planning efforts with NASA by first seeking NASA's support for Navy's recommended removal action decision prior to finalizing the decision in the Action Memorandum, and more recently seeking NASA's review of and input on the removal action scope of work and schedule. Navy has also sought other NASA assistance in administrative details of the project to ensure a smooth transition from Navy remediation to NASA restoration efforts, but our efforts to form a viable partnership have been impeded by recent NASA decisions. In a March 5, 2009 position paper, NASA, noting its inability to obtain adequate funding for external residing, proposed an amendment to the December 12, 2008 Memorandum of Understanding between the Navy and NASA which would reverse NASA's prior commitment to reside Hanger 1.

Although we will continue to strive to coordinate our CERCLA removal action efforts with NASA's restoration and reuse responsibilities, please be advised that the Navy's primary responsibility in conducting the CERCLA removal action is to reduce risks to human health and the environment associated with the release or potential release of hazardous substances present in the construction materials of Hangar 1. The current protective coating on Hangar 1 is nearing the end of its warranty and is a temporary response action only. Hangar 1 is also an upland source of contamination of another environmental site where the Navy will be conducting a remedial action. Therefore, given the challenges expressed by NASA, the Navy cannot commit that the coordination of the timing of our undertaking with NASA's will allow for a single delivery schedule as recommended by ACHP.

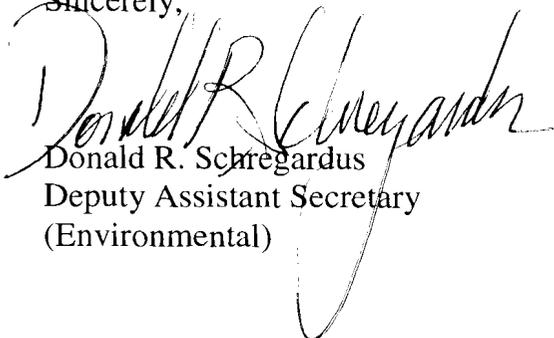
The Navy intends to follow ACHP's recommendation to engage the local community in the creation, development and implementation of the proposed mitigation measures. Several of the selected mitigation measures which include Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation, oral histories, interactive compact disk (CD), and inventory-catalogue of Hangar 1 collections, have already been prepared by NASA on behalf of the Navy. The local community and others were an important part of these products. The oral histories include interviews with individuals who worked in the hangar during the dirigible Era, Army Era, Blimp Era, Jet Fighter Era, and P-3 Orion Era and will be provided to the Moffett Field Museum. The CD includes a three-dimensional interactive representation of the hangar in each historic era designed for a wide range of the interested public. It includes a narrative description and photographs of the hangar, portions of oral histories, materials collected and developed by the HAER efforts, and video clips. The CD will be distributed to the Moffett Field Museum, historic preservation societies, veterans groups, schools, libraries, restoration advisory board members, and other interested parties. NASA has also indicated that the CD will be available for purchase at the NASA gift shop.

The ACHP's recommendation that the Navy "establish a working relationship with the local school districts" has been considered. The Navy is not able to commit to such an endeavor, because such an effort extends far beyond the scope of the Navy's CERCLA undertaking. Perhaps NASA, as the current Federal Facility operator with cultural resource management responsibility for Hangar 1, is in a position to engage with local school officials on the incorporation of relevant information into school curricula.

The Navy will keep ACHP informed throughout the CERCLA process through distribution of the removal action work plan and subsequent removal action completion report. It is anticipated that NASA and ACHP will be working closely together on NASA's reuse undertaking.

If you have any questions or require further assistance, please contact Mr. John Hill, Navy Base Realignment and Closure Program Management Office West Base Closure Manager for former Naval Air Station Moffett Field, at (619) 532-0985.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Donald R. Schregardus". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "D" and a long, sweeping underline that extends below the printed name.

Donald R. Schregardus
Deputy Assistant Secretary
(Environmental)