

Attachment 11I(1)

Explanatory Note for the National Park Service Report May 3, 2010

Attached is the National Park Service's (NPS) National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Report as required under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, Section 1609(c). The NPS was approved for ARRA funding under three Treasury Appropriations Funds: Operations of the National Park System; Construction and Major Maintenance; and Historic Preservation.

New Entries on the NPS report- For ease of tracking, all new entries were entered at the bottom of page 2 of the report, beginning at row 917 to ensure that the rows of the spreadsheet were retained as previously reported.

- New projects and/or NEPA actions on page 2- There were 25 new projects that, because ARRA funds were determined to be sufficient to fund additional projects, were moved from the over-target to the in-target project funding list and are being reported for the first time. There were also an additional 5 new NEPA actions associated with existing projects that were added to the spreadsheet, resulting in a total of 30 new entries to the NPS report.

NEPA not applicable- One project entitled "Construction- 151254: APPA Mitigate Rockfall Hazard at Lehigh Gap Palmerton Superfund Site" is located within a designated National Priorities List Superfund Site and will be addressed under CERLCA, and consequently does not require NEPA review. Therefore, it was not entered on page 2 of the spreadsheet.

Projects with Multiple NEPA actions- There are some instances where more than one NEPA action has been applied to the same ARRA project. Some NEPA documents are being tiered, with various levels of NEPA compliance being completed. There are other instances where multiple actions have been grouped together as one project in order to manage the ARRA program more effectively (this is especially the case for smaller, lower-dollar projects being combined for ease of financial tracking and organization). When there is more than one NEPA action being applied to the same ARRA project, each NEPA action is listed as a separate entry on page 2 of the report. This results in more NEPA actions than ARRA projects.

- An example of smaller, lower dollar projects being combined is the Intermountain Region's project titled "Green Renewable Energy Efficiency Network." This project encompasses 13 similar types of actions at different parks in the region. The entry on row 501 captures the 10 parks that have completed their NEPA compliance, while row 877 captures those parks that are still working on completing their NEPA analysis.

Compliance Documents Completed Prior to ARRA- For some projects, compliance documents were completed several years ago. In addition to reporting the original NEPA action, a memo to file, or "look back" has been completed, verifying that the proposed action has already been analyzed in site-specific detail in a previous NEPA document, that no different impacts or changes to the project are expected, and that environmental conditions have not changed.

Withdrawn projects- There have been 32 NPS projects withdrawn from ARRA for the following reasons:

- other sources of funding were used in lieu of ARRA funding (rows 24, 66, 112, 156, 197, 364, 549, 598, 601, 656, 681),
- there was no longer a need for the project (rows 41, 59, 85, 108, 157),
- project scope was larger than expected; will be re-scoped and funded in the future (rows 97, 442, 525)
- contracting could not be completed prior to May 15th deadline (row 136, 416, 283, 580),
- the project needed additional planning, coordination and/or compliance which would not be complete in time to meet ARRA time requirements (rows 227, 374, 558, 567, 671, 716),
- the project was included on the initial ARRA list erroneously (row 500), or
- the park was not ready to implement the project (rows 599, 684).

Difference between reported obligation amounts and Recovery.gov- The figures provided on page 1 of the spreadsheet for total obligations do not take into account interagency agreements. Therefore, the numbers will not correspond to those being reported on Recovery.gov.

Changes in NEPA type

- Deferred Maintenance- 150705: HAMP Construct a Collections Storage Building to Replace Two Functionally Obsolete Facilities- (row 438) was previously reported as a pending environmental assessment (EA). After completion of the scoping process, it was determined that a categorical exclusion (CE) was appropriate for this project and was completed on February 9, 2010.
- Construction- 150682: GOGA Energy Infrastructure Improvements on Alcatraz Island NHL (row 909) was previously reported as a pending environmental assessment (EA). After completion of the scoping process, it was determined that a categorical exclusion (CE) was appropriate for this project and was completed on January 22, 2010.

Projects moved from in-target list back to contingency list

The following projects have been moved from the in-target list to the contingency (over-target) project list, but have not been withdrawn from consideration for ARRA funding. The project titles were retained in page 2 of the spreadsheet, but all NEPA information has been removed. In future reports, these projects will either be moved back onto the in-target list and their NEPA status will be added back in, or they will be withdrawn and noted accordingly on page 2 of the spreadsheet.

- Deferred Maintenance- 59515: GOGA Rehabilitation of the exterior envelope and the Heating & Ventilation system of Building E (row 46)
- Deferred Maintenance- 83462 & 105490: GOGA Install New Boiler and Rehabilitate Existing Heating System in Park Headquarters (row 87)
- Deferred Maintenance- 148295: MUIR Reahbilitate Facilities to Meet ADA Requirements (row 388)
- Deferred Maintenance- 152057: FOPO Remove Accessibility Barriers to Meet ADA Requirements (row 456)

- Deferred Maintenance- 154653: MIIN Repair Boundary Fence Along Canal (row 513)
- Trails- 145440: MIIN Maintain Trails (row 653)

Pending NEPA Actions- NPS continues to make progress with regard to the completion of NEPA actions for ARRA projects. The percentage of pending NEPA actions has been reduced from 12% to 5% during this reporting period. There are 49 out of 958 NEPA actions whose status is currently pending (41 CEs and 8 EAs). Nearly all of these pending NEPA actions are expected to be completed during the next reporting period. Reasons that projects remain in a pending status include:

- Some of these are new projects being reported for the first time.
- Parks are awaiting the completion of the Section 106 process and/or other environmental reviews and permits before completing their NEPA compliance.
- In some cases, project designs have needed refinement and additional detail before the NEPA action can be completed.

Of the 49 pending projects, 46 of them have been pending for more than one reporting period. Please refer to Attachment A of this memorandum for a detailed explanation as to why each NEPA action remains pending and the projected compliance completion dates.

Examples of NEPA Benefits

The NPS has provided the following examples of how NEPA has been beneficial:

Example 1

Rehabilitation of Shirley House at Vicksburg National Military Park (NPS Spreadsheet page 2, row 701)

The current proposed action is to rehabilitate the exterior of the house and replace damaged or missing historic fabric to match its 1860's appearance. The main level of the house will also be restored to its 1860's appearance to the greatest extent practical, and opened to the public. The rooms of the first floor will be used to house exhibits on themes approved in the park's Long Range Interpretive Plan. The attic and basement of the house will be preserved as-is and used for mechanical equipment, but would not be open to the public. No heating or cooling system would be installed in the structure. Only ventilation via ducts (no cooling) would be available in summer. Additional modifications would include installation of mechanical, security, fire detection, and fire suppression systems. These modifications also would provide for a safe means of visitor egress, and would help ensure the health, comfort, safety, and security of visitors and park staff, as well as complying with applicable building and safety codes.

The historic Shirley House is currently inaccessible to visitors and access is limited to only those park employees performing necessary repairs and inspections. Given its present condition, visitors cannot not enter the building or fully appreciate its historic significance. The park originally proposed to adaptively re-use the structure for offices or for a visitor contact station. However, as a result of the NEPA process and comments received during public scoping, the original scope of the project was modified to focus more on preserving, rehabilitating, and restoring the historic fabric of the structure and providing a more historically accurate setting for

visitors. The preferred alternative will allow the Shirley House to be opened to the public while at the same time protecting the integrity of the historic structure and the surrounding cultural landscape.

Example 2

Timpanogos Cave Exit Shelter and Stairs, Timpanogos Cave National Monument (NPS Spreadsheet page 2, row 328) – Environmental Assessment

The Timpanogos Cave tours exit the cave along a steep south wall of American Fork Canyon. The area has experienced numerous “close calls” from rock fall hazards in the monument’s 88 year history and a shelter was constructed in 1972 to protect visitors. While this structure has provided a measure of protection to both visitors and staff, “close calls” have continued on the trail just beyond the roof structure since that time. To provide additional hazard abatement, an extension to the roof was planned in 2009. During the planning and design process, a USGS Geologist was brought in to study the area and provide recommendations. During this visit, much larger pending rock fall hazards were identified. This led the monument to identify and consider alternatives that would direct visitors and staff away from the identified hazard area, including relocating the shelter to a safer location nearby.

The detailed analysis of the area and the evaluation of potential environmental impacts in the NEPA process led the park to discover that potential hazards from rock fall were much greater than originally anticipated. This analysis led to the development of alternatives that will improve visitor and staff safety.

Example 3

Replace Waterlines at Fort Barry from Balloon Hanger to Field Road, Marin Headlands, Golden Gate National Recreation Area (NPS Spreadsheet page 2, row 180) – Categorical Exclusion

The project will replace and relocate waterlines in various locations in the Marin Headlands at Fort Barry. The waterline serves the Fort Barry area, providing critical fire suppression and potable water to the residents and public that lives in and visits the area.

As part of the NEPA process, staff from all resource disciplines at the park reviewed proposed projects to assess potential impacts and identify ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate potential impacts to park resources. The review of this project resulted in the identification of a number of mitigation measures that were incorporated into the project to protect nesting birds, habitat for the endangered Mission Blue Butterfly, wetlands, and archeological resources. The review also identified ways to provide notification to the public and minimize traffic impacts during construction.

Example 4

Diamond X Ranch Student Intern Center and Keller House Stabilization, Santa Monica Mountains National Recreation Area (NPS Spreadsheet page 2, row 736) – Environmental Assessment

The project will replace a learning center, intern housing and employee housing that were destroyed by a wildfire. The project will also remove hazards that resulted from the wildfire and make the area safe for visitors

The NEPA process allowed for public and regulatory agency input on the project, as well as input from regional and park experts. As a result of the review, the project will be more protective of park resources. Because of the NEPA review, the final project included 30 mitigation measures designed to protect the dark night sky, viewsheds, vegetation, water quality, archeology, and natural resources.

Example 5

Repair Damaged Culverts and Associated Headwalls (NPS Spreadsheet page 2, row 459) – Categorical Exclusion

The project is to repair damaged culverts and headwalls along the Park Loop Road. One of the culverts to be repaired under this project spans Hunters Brook, a high-quality trout fishery and sensitive resource of concern. In this location, paving stones were used to armor the stream bank. Due to stream movement and erosion over the years, the paving stones have fallen into the stream channel, causing additional stream bank erosion and sedimentation into the trout stream.

The NEPA scoping process for this project resulted in the development of an alternative that will restore the health of Hunters Brook while preserving the historic character of the road that passes over the brook. The road and associated culvert and headwalls are part of the Park Loop Road system, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. This solution was developed through consultation with a number of agencies, including the Army Corps of Engineers, the Maine Department of Environmental Protection, the Maine Department of Inland Fisheries and Wildlife, and the Maine Historic Preservation Officer. If not for the NEPA and permitting processes, it would likely have been a "band-aid" repair and not the long-term solution that was needed to restore the health of the stream.

Attachment - NEPA Actions Pending Over Multiple Reporting Periods

Row	Project Title	NEPA type	Reason NEPA Action Remains Pending/ Status	Projected NEPA completion date
22	Deferred Maintenance- 22318: NERO Stabilize and Maintain Historic Vegetation Throughout the Northeast Region	CE	CE pending completion of National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 review and completion of scoping for last two parks (project includes 10 parks) to verify compliance.	5/3/2010
49	Deferred Maintenance- 62917: HAFE Repair/Upgrade Park Intrusion-Fire Alarm Systems in Historic and Modern Buildings	CE	CE pending completion of design.	8/1/2010
70	Deferred Maintenance- 77721: STEA Replace Unsafe Overhead Cranes in Historic Backshop	CE	Finalizing Section 106 compliance with SHPO.	5/1/2010
211	Deferred Maintenance- 126167: APPA Rehabilitate "The Perch" Shelter, Randolph Mountain Club, NH	CE	CE pending completion of NHPA Section 106 review; awaiting response from SHPO.	4/30/2010
254	Deferred Maintenance- 133903: MABI Add a 10KW Hydroelectric Power Plant to Historic Pogue Line	CE	CE pending completion of design.	8/30/2010
278	Deferred Maintenance- 137291: HAFE Renovate Interior of Historic Anthony Library at Historic Storer College	CE	CE pending completion of NHPA Section 106 review; awaiting response from SHPO.	5/3/2010
339	Deferred Maintenance- 144017: GETT Rehabilitate Daniel Killingle House	CE	Awaiting final design drawings to complete compliance	4/30/2010
345	Deferred Maintenance- 144613: HAFE Upgrade Fire and Security Alarm Systems of the Harpers Ferry Center	CE	CE pending completion of design.	8/1/2010
407	Deferred Maintenance- 149355: CHAT Replace/Rehabilitate Hewlett Field River Access	EA	CE pending completion of design.	4/30/2010
447	Deferred Maintenance- 151299: MABI Upgrade Historic Structures for Energy Efficiency	CE	CE pending completion of design.	7/15/2010
498	Deferred Maintenance- 153983: ADAM Install Photovoltaic System for Headquarters and Maintenance Building	CE	CE pending completion of design.	6/21/2010
528	Deferred Maintenance- 154805: GRCA Rehabilitate HVAC at Fee Management and Visitor Interpretation Center Buildings	CE	CE pending completion of scoping and NHPA Section 106 review.	4/30/2010
538	Deferred Maintenance- 154827: GRCA Replace Doors and Paint Exteriors of Historic South Rim Facilities	CE	CE pending on-site review and subsequent completion of NHPA Section 106 review.	4/30/2010
582	Trails- 78850: MABI PLC Repair Historic Carriage Roads	CE	CE pending final treatment plans.	5/1/2010

Row	Project Title	NEPA type	Reason NEPA Action Remains Pending/ Status	Projected NEPA completion date
649	Trails- 143396: SAIR Modify Paths, Rehabilitate Main Parking Lot & Add Bus Pullover for Accessibility & Safety	CE	Scope of work changed; compliance being updated.	4/30/2010
679	Trails- 154799: GWMP Rehabilitate Trails and Remove Exotic Plants.	CE	CE pending archeology clearance and completion of NHPA Section 106 review.	6/1/2010
686	Trails- 154950: APPA Rehabilitate Appalachian Trail (multiple projects)	CE	CE pending completion of design and park review.	4/30/2010
727	Construction- 121528: SAMO Establish Gateway Interagency Visitor Center at Historic Gillette Ranch Property	EA	Public review ended mid-March. Signed FONSI expected in mid-April	4/15/2010
785	Abandoned Mine Lands- 60131, 77762, 151085, 15167, 151769, 151770: SAGU and CORO Install Gates and Backfill Mines to Protect Visitors and Preserve Resource Habitat	EA	FONSI preparation and response to comments. Awaiting Biological Opinion from FWS.	4/16/2010
792	Abandoned Mine Lands- 137342: GRSA Reclaim Gravel Pits and Associated Disturbed Lands in Sand Creek	CE	Awaiting completion of Section 401 and 404 permit processes prior to approving CE.	4/30/2010
793	Abandoned Mine Lands- 139752, 148432, 148500, 150024: DEVA Install Gates to Protect Visitors and Preserve Resource Habitat at Multiple Remote Locations	EA	FONSI preparation and response to comments underway.	4/10/2010
798	Abandoned Mine Lands- 148162: BITH Remove Two Oil and Gas Wells and Restore Natural Landscape	EA	FONSI being reviewed by the Region.	4/2/2010
804	Abandoned Mine Lands- 148532: GRBA Improve Visitor Safety and Restore Natural and Cultural Landscapes at Johnson Lake Mine	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	5/7/2010
805, 807	Abandoned Mine Lands- 148785: WRST AML: Nelson, Radovan and Peavine Prospect Adit Closures	CE	CE pending completion cultural resource surveys and NHPA Section 106 review.	6/1/2010
828	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155630: Bennett College, Ethel Black Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	6/30/2010
829	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155484: Central State University, Emery Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	5/15/2010
830	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155628: Cheyney University, Melrose Cottage	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	7/2/2010
831	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155626: Clark Atlanta University, Trevor Arnett Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	6/30/2010

Row	Project Title	NEPA type	Reason NEPA Action Remains Pending/ Status	Projected NEPA completion date
832	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155627: Dillard University, Camphor/Hartzell Complex	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	7/15/2010
833	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155624: Elizabeth City State University, Moore Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	6/30/2010
834	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155490: Fisk University, John Wesley Work House	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	4/14/2010
835	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155625: Florida A&M University, George M. Sampson Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	5/1/2010
837	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155685: Howard University, Miner Normal School	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	5/30/2010
839	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155489: Langston University, Cottage Row Historic District	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	8/13/2010
841	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155487: St. Paul's College, Fine Arts Building	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	4/14/2010
842	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155631: St. Paul's College, Saul Building	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	8/16/2010
843	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155493: Talladega College, Foster Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	6/30/2010
844	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155622: Tougaloo College, John W. Boddie House	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	7/12/2010
846	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155621: Xavier University, Administration Building	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	5/1/2010
854	Deferred Maintenance- 135582: MIMA Preserve the Battle Road Unit Agricultural Fields	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	5/1/2010
875	Historically Black Colleges and Universities- 155629 Alcorn State University, Belles Lettres Hall	CE	CE pending completion of the NHPA Section 106 process.	7/9/2010
887	Deferred Maintenance- 144243: FOST Upgrade Utility Systems Parkwide	CE	CE pending final archeological information.	5/1/2010
890	Deferred Maintenance- 143313: SAIR Rehabilitate Four Saugus Iron Works Sluiceways & Slitting Mill Hutch	CE	Awaiting supporting archeological survey before completing CE.	4/30/2010
913	Construction- 152272: KEWE Rehabilitate Union Building-Phase 2	EA	Preparing FONSI and response to comments.	4/9/2010

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