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Date: November 6, 2015 at 10:11:50 AM EST
To: Allyson Brooks [SHPO, email redacted]
Cc: "Wallis, Renee B CIV Navy Region NW, N40" <renee.wallis@navy.mil>, "Lazo, Terilynn H CIV NAVFAC NW, EV" <terilynn.lazo@navy.mil>, "Mosher, John G CIV COMPACFLT, N465JM" <john.g.mosher@navy.mil>, "Grant, Dave M CIV NAVFAC NW, OP3E22" <dave.m.grant@navy.mil>
Subject: **NWTT Section 106 Review**

Dear Dr. Brooks -

I am writing to let you know that after careful consideration the Navy has concluded that Section 106 review for the NWTT undertaking is complete. As you may know, the issue was elevated to the headquarters level due to the risk that NHPA review would not be completed in time to meet the critical mission requirements associated with NWTT. It's important to add this is not a decision we make lightly. We recognize the sustained, constructive efforts of your office to support the many Navy actions subject to NHPA compliance in Navy Region Northwest. At every Navy location and in every instance, our goal is to reach consensus through careful and thorough consultation. In transmitting the attached letter regarding the completion of consultation, I want to assure you personally and on behalf of the Northwest team that we take our responsibilities under NHPA very seriously, and we likewise value our relationship with your office.

As reflected in the letter, the pivotal factor in the Navy's finding is that the 30-day review closed for the determination of effect without a response from SHPO. Our records show that the consultation period for the determination ran from JUL 28-AUG 28, 2015 and closed with no objections from the consulting parties. We recognize that subsequently, during September and October, your office raised several questions about NWTT other Navy actions, and we worked to provide substantive responses to support the completion of Section 106 review within the available time. We carefully considered the possibility that a concise programmatic agreement would satisfy Section 106, and we discussed that scenario with the ACHP. Based in part on feedback from the Council, we concluded that an adequate, compliant PA would necessarily provide all parties to the NWTT consultation sufficient time for review and comment--and would therefore take far too long. More fundamentally, we found that Navy's documentation and consultation on the APE, known historic properties, and potential for adverse effects fully support a substantive determination of no adverse effect. Although we prefer and are often able to continue consultation to reach consensus regardless of the regulatory timelines, the operational requirements of this testing and training program do not afford that option.

The Navy embraces the responsibility to work cooperatively with SHPO, the tribes, interested parties, and the public to provide information and consider the potential

effects of our actions in the Northwest region. The Council has suggested, and we are open to engaging in a broader review of historic properties and Navy operations in Washington through our Northwest team.

Thank you for your consideration of this important issue. Please let me know if you have questions or concerns.

Respectfully,

Bill

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