



November 6, 2015

Mr. Larry M. Foster, Director, Environmental Readiness  
Department of the Navy  
Commander  
United States Pacific Fleet  
250 Makalapa Drive  
Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3131

Mr. William R. Manley  
NAVFAC HQ Cultural Resources Lead  
Navy Deputy Federal Preservation Officer (acting)  
Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374

In future correspondence please refer to:

Log: 021314-41-USN

Re: Military Readiness Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) DEIS

Dear Messrs. Foster and Manley:

The Washington State Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation (DAHP) is in receipt of your notification letter of November 5, 2015 regarding Section 106 review for the U.S. Navy's Northwest Training and Testing (NWTT) Environmental Impact Statement. We are stunned to read that the U.S. Navy has decided that 106 consultation regarding this proposal is complete. We are writing to express our strong objection to this decision.

While we appreciate the Navy's working with DAHP on NWTT from 2012 to the present, the communications cited in your letter dismiss the numerous and ongoing exchange of emails, telephone calls, and conference calls made in a good faith effort to sort out the complexities of the proposal and gain a better understanding of the potential affects to cultural resources. Please note:

- Our letter to you of May 22, 2015 concurring with the NWTT Area of Potential Effect (APE) specifically noted and reiterated that our concurrence on the definition of the APE would be subject to change based upon new information and comments and concerns expressed by "interested/affected parties including Tribes, local governments, and property owners within or near the APE."
- Our September 1, 2015 email to the Navy asking for additional information stating that "we are unclear about where aircraft will be taking-off and landing sites and the impact of noise levels from those aircraft on historic properties below those flight patterns (i.e. Ebey's Landing National Historic Reserve). This was deemed sufficient written communication to the Navy communicating SHPO's concerns.
- September 2, 2015 email from the Navy describing its "analysis of aircraft activities only includes the Special Use Airspace that is assigned to the Navy over water, or that extends from over water areas to over land areas...and though many of the aircraft that



use the training and test areas in the NWTT EIS are based at NAS Whidbey Island, the operations at the airfield are separate and distinct from the airspace areas assigned for the training and testing.”

- Subsequent to this exchange, a conference call was convened on September 8, 2015 to try to clarify questions about airspace uses.
- In a follow-up email, the SHPO requested clarifications on the determination of effect letter. A specific request was to “include the noise analyses from any pertinent EIS’ that align with this undertaking. While the APE is in water, the planes still have to get from the runway to the training area and that is the effect we are trying to understand.”
- In a follow-up telephone call, it was our understanding that in the interest of time, a programmatic agreement (PA) could be written that would satisfy Section 106 consultation for NWTT. However, we were not apprised of your decision not to pursue the PA until William Manley’s email of November 6, 2015.
- October 20, 2015, the SHPO, accompanied by Governor Inslee’s staff, met at NASWI with Captain Michael Nortier. Our understanding from this meeting was that consultation would continue and the public would be engaged in the process.
- While we recognize the Navy’s Tribal consultation on this proposal, we are not aware that there has been any public outreach by the Navy to obtain comments from other interested parties that may be affected by NWTT.

To reiterate, we are disappointed in your decision to move forward without concluding Section 106 consultation on this project. From our standpoint, this decision is particularly astonishing given the outcome of our meeting with Captain Nortier. Again we object to this abrupt termination of the consultation process that was not completed. We ask that you reopen consultation and continue as promised at our October 20 meeting at NASWI. We also request a more robust public and tribal consultation process.

Sincerely,



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