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DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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Reply In Reference To: NASA_2015_1120_001

Keith Venter
Historic Preservation Officer
Facilities Engineering Branch
NASA Ames Research Center
Mail Stop 213-8
Moffett Field, CA 94035

RE: Arc Jet Complex, Steam Vacuum System Boiler Replacement Project, NASA Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA

Dear Mr. Venter:

Thank you for your November 12, 2015, letter regarding the proposed undertaking in at NASA Ames Research Center (ARC). NASA is consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. §306108), as amended, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800. Along with the letter, NASA also provided maps and photographs of the project area and DPR 523 evaluation forms for several properties within the Area of Potential Effect (APE).

The proposed undertaking, as described, involves construction of a new boiler plant (to be known as N234B) to replace the function of an existing boiler plant in support of the Arc Jet Complex. The new building will be located on the east side of Mark Avenue, across the street from the Arc Jet Complex. A 30,000-gallon tank and a 40,000-gallon tank currently occupy the site of the new building. Both tanks will be relocated, one to a location on a paved lot behind Building N271 and the other to an area east of Building N242. Existing boiler equipment within Building N234A will be removed. A new boiler shop building will be constructed north of the new building (to be known as N234C). The HVAC system in Building N231 will be upgraded and the exterior will be repainted. Minor ground disturbance will include steam pipe utility trenching, grading, drainage improvements, and site restoration.

NASA defined the APE as the project footprint and the surrounding first tier of buildings. An archaeological survey of the APE revealed no resources or sensitivity because of previous ground disturbance. Based upon a survey from May 2015, NASA's letter identified six buildings over 50 years old and provided determinations of eligibility for them, as described below. The other buildings were not described or evaluated.

Arc Jet Complex: NASA finds the Arc Jet Complex to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A and Criteria Consideration G, with a period of significance of 1962 – 2011. Contributors are Building N234, the Steam Vacuum System (SVS), and Building N238, which has also been determined individually eligible for listing under Criterion A and Criteria Consideration G at a National Level with a period of significance of 1973 – 2011, and a

nomination is underway. Although Building N234A (the SVS Boiler and building) are also part of the Arc Jet Complex, NASA finds it ineligible and not a contributor because it is an auxiliary feature and not directly associated with the significance of the complex.

Building N242 – Structural Dynamics Laboratory: NASA finds Building N242 eligible for listing in the NRHP under Criteria A and C with a period of significance of 1965 – 1972.

Building N231 – Hypersonic Helium Tunnel: NASA finds Building N231 significant under Criterion A, but ineligible for listing because it does not retain integrity. One of the large helium recovery tanks has been removed and an addition has doubled the size of the rear portion of the building.

Building N144 – Warehouse: NASA finds Building N144 ineligible for listing in the NRHP.

NASA has applied the Criteria of Adverse Effect (36 CFR § 800. 5(a)(1)) and has concluded that the undertaking would not have an adverse effect on historic properties located within the APE. No historic properties will be directly affected. The setting of the Arc Jet Complex and Building N242 will not be adversely affected by construction of the new building or removal of existing features. No archaeological resources are known to exist within the APE, but if any are encountered, NASA will follow procedures outlined in its draft Integrated Cultural Resources Management Plan and 36 CFR 800.13.

After reviewing the information submitted to my office, I offer the following comments:

- The project as described constitutes an undertaking.
- The proposed APE appears sufficient to take direct and indirect effects into account.
- I concur that the Arc Jet Complex is eligible for listing in the NRHP for the reasons listed and with the contributors specified. I recommend categorizing this historic property as a historic district.
- I concur that Building N234A is not eligible as a contributor to the Arc Jet Complex Historic District.
- I concur that Building N242 is eligible for listing in the NRHP for the reasons listed.
- I concur that Buildings N231 and N144 are not eligible for listing in the NRHP.
- I do not object to the proposed Finding of No Adverse Effects for the undertaking as described.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, FEMA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer