

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities
Arlington National Cemetery
Consulting Parties Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

AGENCY ATTENDEES

Army National Military Cemeteries (ANMC)	Caitlin Smith	Cultural Resources Program Manager (CRM)
	Becky Wardwell	Media Chief, Public Affairs Office
	Elizabeth Leonard	Outreach Specialist, Public Affairs Office
	Jennifer Van Vleck	Public Affairs Specialist and Historian (Contractor)

FEDERAL CONSULTING PARTIES

Air Force District of Washington (AFDW)	Darren Padilla	Air Force Memorial (AFM) Strategic Advisor
Commission of Fine Arts (CFA)	Sarah Batcheler	Assistant Secretary
	Daniel Fox	Senior Advisor
	Carlton Hart	Senior Urban Planner
National Capitol Planning Commission (NCPC)	Lee Webb	Federal Preservation Officer
National Park Service (NPS), George Washington Memorial Parkway (GWMP)	Megan Bailey	Cultural Resources Program Manager

OTHER CONSULTING PARTIES AND ATTENDEES

Arlington Department of Community Planning, Housing & Development	Mical Durak	Historic Preservation Associate Planner
Arlington House Descendants' Family Circle	Susan Vogel	Descendent & Family Circle Representative
National Trust for Historic Preservation	Robert Nieweg	Senior Vice President
Society for History in the Federal Government (SHFG)	Kenneth Felix	President
Virginia Department of Transportation (VDOT)	Robert Burton	Land Use Area Manager, Permits
	Timothy Belcher	Assistant District Location and Design Engineer
	Marc Cioffi	Transportation Land Use Development
Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA)	Catherine Jones	Senior Transportation Planner
Military Women's Memorial (MWM)	Amy Sorvillo	Memorial Director
	Clare Tomasetti	Chief of Staff/COO
No affiliation provided	Stacy [No last name provided]	No title provided

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

EXTERNAL CONSULTANT TEAM

Chronicle Heritage	Lillian Azevedo	Mid-Atlantic/Tarboro Office Principal
	Candice Strawley	Architectural Historian
	Kate Hatfield	Associate Architectural Historian
Mabbett & Associates	Laura Sliker	Senior Project Manager

SLIDE 1

Laura Sliker, Mabbett (Consultant): Hopefully you can hear me. Thank you for your patience. We're just having some technical issues, but we'll begin the meeting in a moment.

Elizabeth Leonard (ANMC): Good morning, Laura. I can hear you loud and clear.

Laura Sliker, Mabbett (Consultant): Thank you.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Good morning. Can everyone see me and hear me? Can I get some confirmation in the chat?

Sarah Batcheler (CFA): Yes.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Thank you. Kate, is that a raised hand for a comment or just a confirmation?

Kate Hatfield (Consultant): Just a confirmation, sorry.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Nope, that's great. Thank you. Okay, well, these are always fun. Apologies for the technical difficulties and delays as we try to work out the bugs. But hopefully everybody's seeing our slides. Okay. All right. My script is a little squished now, but we are going to make it work. So good morning. I don't want to waste anybody else's time. I am going to ask at the top here, if you can use the chat feature, please do take advantage of it by entering your name and your affiliation or organization into the chat box. That will help us keep track of everybody today and take attendance. And I would like to let everybody know here at the top, you probably got a notification that today's meeting is being recorded. OK. Sorry, more pivots. Okay. I've got to switch my view one more time. Put this back where it was. Okay, I promise I will pick up the pace soon. So good morning. Thank you for attending this meeting of consulting parties regarding the programmatic agreement for the operation maintenance and repair activities at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia. Before we begin, I want to cover a few administrative items.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

SLIDE 2

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): This slide shows how attendees can set up closed captioning in Teams if you need that support. To turn on closed captioning, click on the show live captions buttons. You can find this on the top of your screen under more than language and speech. As presenters speak, words will continue to scroll across the bottom of your screen. You can turn this function off by clicking the hide captions button in the same area of your screen.

SLIDE 3

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Before we discuss the programmatic agreement, I also want to set out some ground rules for this meeting. During the discussion portion of today's meeting, participants can raise their hand to provide comments or questions. All attendees should keep their microphone and camera off until they are called on to speak. Once called, you will have the ability to unmute your microphone and camera.

Questions or comments may also be typed into the chat, and I will read them aloud for the group when we get to the discussion portion. I'm going to hold responding to questions while we are giving our background briefing. Once we have gone through all the commenters with raised hands, one time through, and we've read the comments in the chat, if we have the time, I'll then call on anybody who's on the phone. I don't think I see anybody on the phone yet, but hopefully my team will give me some support there.

And the same protocol, we'll then call those on the phone to come off mute so that they can also participate. Again, the audio and visual portions of this meeting are being recorded and a transcript is being written to help with the writing, with the record of this meeting. We hope to post the results of this meeting onto our website to help with the completion of the comment period. If you do not wish to be part of the public record of this meeting, please do not make any comments written or verbal during the meeting. Lastly, should you have any issues hearing or seeing during the presentation, enter your questions in the chat box. Or for other technical issues with teams, please type your issue into the chat box. We've got team members who can help support you. Those on the phone should try one of the other numbers in your team's e-mail confirmation if you have difficulties.

And then let me check one more time before we move on if anyone has dialed in on the phone. But I'm not seeing any phone numbers yet. All right. Okay, thank you. We appreciate your assistance and patience while we address these administrative items at the start of the meeting. I'm now going to move into the briefing portion.

SLIDE 4

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): All right, Good morning. I am Caitlin Smith. I am the Army National Military Cemetery's Cultural Resources Program Manager, and I'm the compliance lead for our National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 compliance efforts. Assisting me today are a few

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

moderators and public affairs officers in the background. We're going to start today's meeting with introductions, a review of the role of consulting parties and expectations for participation. And then we're going to give an overview of the PA and the Section 106 process to date. We're going to discuss the proposed agreements and then we'll open the floor for questions and comments and conclude with next steps.

SLIDE 5

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): So on the next two slides, we have a listing of organizations and individuals who are invited to participate as consulting parties. You should have received a copy of this list by e-mail. We've been making a note of the attendees in the chat. So rather than call on folks who are not in attendance, I'm going to call on those we see in attendance, and we'll do a quick mic check to make sure everyone's, we aren't having any additional technical difficulties. So I'm going to look here.

Sorry, as I bounce around. All right, so I see from the National Capital Planning Commission, Lee.

Lee Webb (NCPC): Good morning, I'm Lee Webb. I'm the Federal Preservation Officer at the National Capital Planning Commission. Thank you for including us.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Thank you. And I see the Commission of Fine Arts.

Sarah Batcheler (CFA): Yes, this is Sarah Batchelor, Assistant Secretary at CFA.

Carlton Hart (CFA): Yeah, Carlton Hart, Senior Urban Planner at CFA.

Daniel Fox (CFA): Fox also here, CFA.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Thank you. We have the Air Force District Washington Air Force Memorial.

Darren Padilla (AFDW-AFM): Good morning, everybody. You have Mr. Darren Padilla. I'm the Strategic Advisor to the Commander of Air Force District of Washington.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Thank you. We have the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

Robert Nieweg (National Trust): Hi, good morning. It's Rob Nieweg. I'm Senior Vice President at the National Trust. Happy to be here. Good morning.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): The Society for History in the Federal Government.

Kenneth Felix (SHFG): Good morning, this is Kenneth Felix. I'm the president for the Society for History and the Federal Government.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): And we have the Virginia Department of Transportation.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

Robert Burton (VDOT): Hi, Robbie Burton, the Land Use Area Manager for permits, and Marc Cioffi with the Transportation Land Use Development.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): And then we have a number of individuals from our contractor team. So we have support from Chronicle Heritage and support from some of our Arlington National Cemetery staff, in particular our public affairs office. Lilli, can you scroll to the next invited consulting parties slide?

SLIDE 6

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Thank you. Right, so these are all the parties we identified and invited. Is there anyone else who we haven't heard from yet? Anyone we missed? You want to enter your information in the chat? Come off mute. Okay, I'm not seeing anyone. All right, so we'll move on. Okay.

SLIDE 7

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): All right. So, I think a lot of you are familiar with this information but knowing that we have parties with different levels of familiarity with the Section 106 process, we thought it was valuable to go over the rights of consulting parties. So today, we are meeting to discuss the development of a programmatic agreement for operations, maintenance, and repair activities at Arlington National Cemetery. We are soliciting thoughts, ideas, and suggestions to properly analyze and move through each step of the Section 106 process. The goal for today's meeting is to answer questions regarding our agency's development of a programmatic agreement for specific covered activities. For those new to the consultation process, please note that consulting parties have particular rights. These include sharing their views, receiving and reviewing pertinent information and documentation to support consultation, offering ideas, and considering possible solutions together with the agency and other consulting parties.

The agency will take this feedback into consideration when evaluating and designing the proposed PA. A note that the agency is not obligated to carry out the preferences and recommendations of invited consulting parties.

SLIDE 8

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): All right. So, you will hear me refer to our agency a few ways today. So, our overarching organization is Army National Military Cemeteries. Shorthand would be ANMC. And we operate our two national cemeteries, Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Virginia and U.S. Soldiers' and Airmen's Home in Washington, D.C. Today, we're focusing on Arlington National Cemetery.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

Arlington National Cemetery is both the most hallowed ground of our nation's fallen and one of the most visited public sites in the Washington, D.C. area. It's a fully operational national cemetery since May of 1864. We on average conduct 24 to 27 funerals each work day [*Correction: The speaker misstated the days of the week. ANC conducts between 24 to 27 funeral services each weekday, except on federal holidays. Funeral services are held Monday through Friday.*]

In fiscal year 2025, we interred over 5,200 service members, veterans, and eligible family members. Today, the cemetery is the final resting place of approximately more than 400,000 veterans and their dependents [*Correction: The speaker misstated this figure. As of the date of this meeting, nearly 430,000 active duty service members, veterans, and their families are buried at ANC.*]. In addition to fulfilling our primary burial mission, the cemetery hosts more than 3,000 cemetery ceremonies per year, including the National Memorial Day Observance and the National Veteran's Day Observance.

Listed on the National Register of Historic Places since 2014, Arlington National Cemetery, and the shorthand would be ANC, ANC receives more than 3 million visitors each year. Our visitors come to pay their respects to loved ones, to visit sites like the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier, and to explore these hallowed grounds. Grounds that since 2018 have been recognized as a Level III Arboretum.

Arlington is a microcosm of the United States' history, a memorial landscape that represents the diversity of the United States. The cemetery includes those who have served our nation from the Revolutionary War through to the present. Every grave marker contains a story, from five-star generals and admirals to enlisted service members and their families. All are honored here.

ANMC's just over 200 civilian and military employees work hard to balance all of our missions while meeting Army installation standards and providing as seamless and positive an experience as possible for those who enter these hallowed grounds.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 9

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): The agency executes a robust construction program to help sustain, restore, and modernize our infrastructure. In support of this, the agency successfully opened the Millennium Expansion in September 2018. This 27-acre expansion provided over 27,000 additional burial opportunities and progress continues today with our ongoing southern expansion, which will provide over 80,000 new burial opportunities by 2029. These expansions, which predate our prior 2014 operations, maintenance, and repair activities, are being incorporated into the updated programmatic agreement, or PA, that we are discussing here today.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

SLIDE 10

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Our agency's engineers and cultural resource stewards navigate cemetery expansion and modernization while preserving our historical legacy. Our cultural resources program has the privilege of caring for many nationally significant historic properties, including portions of three National Register historic districts that are connected with ANC, 7 recorded archaeological sites on our property, and our cultural resources program annually inspects more than around 260 individual and contributing historic assets that are contained within the ANC National Register Historic District. And on this slide, you start to see a sampling of those historic properties, including archaeological objects.

Next slide.

SLIDE 11

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): ANC's historic properties include sculpture, monuments, memorials, grave markers, buildings, structures, circulation systems, archaeological sites, vegetation, landscapes, and viewsheds. You should have seen in the attachments for the PA that we have in this current 2026 draft updated the full list of identified historic properties.

SLIDE 12

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Arlington National Cemetery represents the American people for past, present, and future generations by laying to rest those few who have served our nation with dignity and honor while immersing millions of guests per year in the cemetery's living history. And that's what brings us together today. To effectively meet our responsibilities, ANMC seeks to execute a new programmatic agreement that will continue to provide a streamlined review process for those standard operations, maintenance, repair activities undertaken by our dedicated military and civilian team who sustain these hallowed grounds.

SLIDE 13

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): I know many of you know this, but for those new to the process, we're going to talk a little bit about the Section 106 process and options for compliance. So, let's talk about why a programmatic agreement is appropriate for use at Arlington National Cemetery. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act provides federal agencies with a variety of ways to comply with the law while undertaking covered activities. So, pulling this from the ACHP's website, here's an overview of some of the program alternative options. And the one we are talking about today is programmatic agreements.

Next slide, please.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

SLIDE 14

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): So why is a programmatic agreement appropriate? Programmatic agreements are appropriate for multiple or complex federal undertakings where effects to historic properties cannot be determined in advance, or especially for us, for federal agency programs that have routine management activities. And it allows us to tailor the standard Section 106 process to better fit with our agency management and decision making. This program PA sets out the measures for our agents that our agency will implement to resolve potential adverse effects through avoidance, minimization, or mitigation. The program PA creates a Section 106 process that differs from the standard review process and that will apply to all undertakings under a particular program.

Reasons justifying program PAs include having a program that has undertakings with similar or repetitive effects on historic properties to avoid the need for a separate Section 106 review for each project. And in this case, these would be our regular operations, maintenance, and repair activities.

SLIDE 15

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): ANC has successfully operated under such a PA since 2014. So, to give you some background, Arlington National Cemetery, again, was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in April of 2014. Shortly after, in July of 2014, the agency executed a 10-year PA for operation, maintenance, and repair activities.

So that was set to expire in 2024. In 2025, we executed a one-year bridge PA. In 2026, we amended and extended this for one more year. And this bridge PA is set to expire in February of 2027.

SLIDE 16

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): So, with that end date in mind, the agency initiated consultations with the Virginia Department of Historic Resources, our state historic preservation office, on November 25th of 2025, and shortly after with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation in December of 2025.

We then hosted a series of entitled party meetings with the DHR and the ACHP. We had our first meeting in December of 2025, our second in January of 2026, and our third in February of 2026. The result of that was this pre-final draft that you are seeing today. This proposed PA we are reviewing incorporates feedback from both the DHR and the ACHP.

The parties in this meeting received an initial invitation on May 29th, 2026, and a draft of the PA was sent to all of you. We also have posted the draft on the agency's public notices website and initiated at the same time a public review and a consulting parties review of the draft PA. Today we are having

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

our consulting parties meeting on July 7th, and then our 45-day initial comment review period closes next week on July 13th, 2026.

SLIDE 17

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): The proposed PA offers a streamlined review process for covered activities. Those not covered by this PA still undergo the standard review process, which involves all the steps of identifying Area of Potential Effect, identifying historic properties, assessing those effects, consultation with the state preservation office, consulting parties, and the public.

In contrast to that, the streamlined process applies to our routine low-impact activities, and these are simply documented internally by our Cultural Resources Program and do not require further consultation or review.

SLIDE 18

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): So, to contrast the two. This slide details examples of undertakings that would fall under the streamline review process versus that standard Section 106 review with additional, external consultation. So on the streamline process, things covered by RPA are things like routine grounds and cemetery maintenance activities, working in areas where there is prior ground disturbance, upkeep of roads, sidewalks, and utilities, minor landscaping and vegetation work, temporary or reversible installations, in-kind replacement and repair of buildings and structures, certain minor visitor/site features, like benches and signage.

Projects that don't fit under the current streamline PA still must go through the standard section 106 review process. So, these would be things like new construction and expansion, ground disturbance and sensitive areas, changes to historic fabric that would not be in-kind, impacts to visual, to the viewshed, projects with potential adverse effects. Some examples of these that many of you are consulting with us now on are things like Southern Expansion or Entry Corridor Redevelopment. When we do full depth road reconstruction and realignment, when we're moving a road, demolition and reconstruction of things like drainage ways. These are all things we are currently consulting on through the standard process.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 19

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): So, everyone here should have this agreement in hand. I'm probably not going to read through all of these, but when you review the draft PA, you will see it follows a standard format. All these things on this slide are typical sections and clauses in a programmatic agreement. The major one being the stipulations, which we're going to dive into just in a little bit more detail.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 20

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): To make it a little easier for the consulting parties who are here today reviewing this document, I want to highlight for you some of the changes between our 2014 PA and the current draft 2026 PA. So, some things to look out for. We have updated things like the name of the agency and our titles. So, reflecting the reorganization to make the or agency's name Army National Military Cemeteries, things like that. We've updated references to various laws and regulations and incorporated program comments like the Army program comments on housing. We've updated the types of undertakings that we are listing in the attachments. We've updated training requirements for our staff. We've specifically called out in this PA how we treat discarded and unused grave markers because there are regulations that apply in those instances. We've clarified clauses regarding ground disturbing activities and more clearly incorporated burials since that is our primary mission and since it was not clearly called out in the prior 2014 agreement. Times have changed in the last 10-12 years. So, we've updated the types of regular maintenance and repair activities. This includes things like new technology, things like Wi-Fi and IT programs, updated security requirements, and updated environmental requirements. As noted earlier, we've updated the list of historic buildings and structures in the inventory. We've incorporated those newer expansions: Millennium and Southern Expansion, and we've updated the list of potentially contributing viewsheds, again, to incorporate those expansions, expansions of Millennium, Southern Expansion, the Entry Corridor. We've incorporated into all our lists the new structures, which we anticipate to be completed with the southern expansion. And since 2014, we have conducted a new archaeological survey of the property so that new archaeological potential survey replaces the prior one and updates the recommendations.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 21

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): So just a few slides where I'm going to pull out some very specific examples. So, we mentioned that the agency identity has been updated and the legal citations have been updated. So, here's some direct comparisons between name changes, changes in organizational structure, new legal citations.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 22

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): One of the new sections you will see in the new PA is an emergency actions section. This was missing from our prior PA. So, this new stipulation provides clear

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

procedures for use during emergencies. And this includes emergency consultation procedures and emergency review timelines. And this would assist when we have emergency situations like threats to life, public health, safety property or hazardous conditions and these are things that have to be responded to within 30 calendar days. A good example of this would be the discovery and remediation of hazardous materials.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 23

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): I've said this a few times and I'll say it once more, we have updated historic resources inventory from the 2012 assessment to a 2025 assessment and you'll see that in attachment C. Again, we've kept the prior resources that were identified previously and we've expanded on it. Since the cemeteries has expanded, we now have incorporated a lot of the features of the Air Force Memorial complex, we've identified resources that we think are potentially individually National Register eligible things like the Air Force Memorial complex, the President Kennedy grave site and the Memorial Amphitheater. We have projected forward and looked at what's being built with Southern Expansion things like the reconstruction of the Sheridan Gate and incorporated those into the list of identified properties. And while of course we protect the sensitive information, we have updated the archaeological resources attachments.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 24

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Another inventory that we have kept from the prior PA is the inventory of resources that are exempt from review and folks sometimes have questions about how this is used so I'm happy to dive into this further. How we have been using this is there was a list of resources- objects, structures, landscape features, site furniture that are contributing to the district mostly because they were here- part of the landscape, part of the National Cemetery but they are non-historic they're modern maybe they're not compatible with the cemetery design standards and we've updated this list of exempt features. And here are just two examples from that list with some visuals to help you understand: one is our post 1960s security gates so a lot of these are electronic gates. These are non-historic gates of various styles and then below that you'll see an example of a utility bunker, so this is a below grade structure with supplying power to the Kennedy grave site. So, it's things like this. It's things like the temporary tram shelters or benches and trash cans, things of that nature.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 25

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): And we've touched on this, but we have updated our archaeological discovery procedures. This slide goes into a little bit of detail on that. Part of the reason we've made these updates in consultation with the DHR and the ACHP is because we are an active cemetery,

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

we do a lot of groundbreaking and it was sort of unclear in the prior PA how to apply some of these archaeological discovery procedures to our burial practices, how to integrate them. Since the cemetery has screening procedures already in place because we already have a lot of prior ground disturbance and because we frequently find objects like modern animal bones, abandoned utilities, and discarded and unused grave markers. And we have policies in place for these. We wanted to better integrate them and clarify how to incorporate that. So, a lot of the language you're seeing in there has to do with those common finds we have, like grave markers.

Next slide, please.

SLIDE 26

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Similarly, the new PA updates the human remains and curations provisions. A lot of these reflect updated policies and incorporate them.

So, updated standards for that. Also updated curation requirements. So, it simplifies it to ANMC must meet the 36 CFR part 79 standards and gives us a little more flexibility in where we store and curate the things that we do find.

SLIDE 27

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): All right, so now that we've provided an overview of some of the draft PA's content and highlighted a couple things, we're now going to turn the meeting over to the consulting parties. So, we're going to pause and allow for some questions and comments on what we've discussed so far.

So, participants may raise your hand so that we can call on you so you can provide your feedback. Once called, you'll have the ability to state your name and your organization, unmute your microphone, and if you like, you can also turn on your camera. Once you've finished your response, if you can please go back on mute that would be helpful. You can also type questions or comments into the chat, and we'll read them aloud for the group. And then once we've gone through all the commenters with raised hands one time and read all that comes in the chat, I'll check again. I don't think we have anyone on the phone, but we would, of course, call on anyone on the phone.

All right, Dan, I see your hand is raised.

Daniel Fox (CFA): Hi, Caitlin. Thanks. This is Dan Fox from the Commission of Fine Arts. Thanks for reviewing part of this so far. I have two comments. One is just to say that the adoption of a PA would not obviate the need for Commission of Fine Arts Review, which I know you know, but just letting everybody know that there would still be adherence to our review process, which is not a part of the standard 106 review process. So just noting that. And the other one is a question about the emergency clause or that section of the PA.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

I'm concerned that if there isn't a kind of a clear definition of what constitutes an emergency, that, not you, but someone could potentially abuse that idea of an emergency, and...You know undertake work that would otherwise need a more robust consultation process, so...Who determines what an emergency is and is there a way that it can be defined that all the consulting parties can agree on?

So that's my comment and question.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Thank you.

So, let me...Just gonna pull that up for myself. So yes, understood. We can look at ways to clarify that, I think. We looked for some recommended language. This is not wholly invented by the agency or some quote unquote sort of standard language for an emergency clause that gives that balance of enough structure, but also enough flexibility. We can look at...if we incorporate more specific examples or... your triggers. So, the way it is defined right now is... "An emergency situation is a disaster or emergency declared by president, tribal government, or governor of the state." I think that's pretty clear. I think where I could see your point for being more open to interpretation is the second part "or other immediate threats to life, public health, safety, property, or creates a hazardous condition."

Daniel Fox (CFA): Right, hazardous condition, right? That is... you know, sometimes there are things that happen due to deferred maintenance, for example, that, you know, I understand that there may still be a present you know, threat or emergency, but it just makes me... this gives me pause. So I appreciate that you're looking into how other agencies have used this and hopefully there's a...

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Mhm.

Daniel Fox (CFA): Something we can all agree on.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Certainly. So probably in our, so we will re-look at that, but I will probably continue discussions with DHR and ACHP on recommendations for other successful emergency clauses they have seen as a basis.

The next hand I see is Lee Webb.

Lee Webb (NCPC): Yes, thank you, Caitlin, and thank you for the presentation and going over the intent of this draft PA. And my comment is similar to Dan's. Just a recognition that while the National Capital Planning Commission does not have a Section 106 responsibility for projects at Arlington National Cemetery since they fall in what we call the environs. We certainly would not sign a PA, but we still have review of projects that would fall under our authorities. I have language that I was going to send as comments for you to consider adding in the preamble of the PA that basically just recognizes both the review authorities of NCDC and CFA. It's an unusual situation that you have two other federal agencies that do have authorities to review projects of a federal agency. So just even though this is for section 106 purposes, it might be helpful just to include that

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

language in the preamble. And I can also send language for you to consider to be included in a stipulation that basically just speaks that it does, you know, whatever is deemed activities that are streamlined through this PA for Section 106 purposes does not negate the responsibility of ANC to submit those to the commissions for their review if they're under those types of activities. So I just wanted to note that and I'll send the comments for you to consider by the end of the week. Thank you, Caitlin.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Great...

Lee Webb (NCPC): ...and I'm sure the language will be pretty much the same language if you've seen the comments I submitted for the Pentagon's PA that we had a meeting for, I don't know, a couple of months ago. So, I think I shared that with everyone who was a consulting party. So that should be about the same language that I'll submit to you, Caitlin, for suggestions to be included. Thank you.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Great, thank you. Okay, so any other questions, comments, looking for raised hands or comments in the chat? Sarah?

Sarah Batcheler (CFA): Yes, thanks. Sarah Batcheler, Commission of Fine Arts. So, I had a question about the resources that are exempted from review under 106. And it's a little bit unclear to me. I'm not I'm not familiar with the 2014 or not enough to be able to speak to the agreement. Has that changed at all? What are some examples? You gave some examples of like the underground thing, but it seems again, this is getting to something that Dan mentioned also, more precision in the language would be helpful, and perhaps for the consulting parties some comparison if you're making any changes from it seems like you are from the 2014 agreement here and also some examples of what will be included in each one. The...So it's essentially understanding exactly where the line is between things that are exempted and things that are not exempted. Because as we know, these agreements can be interpreted in a variety of ways. And they're intended to be, you know, longest term agreements and staff changes and people don't have the institutional knowledge unless it's kind of baked into the agreement itself.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Sure. Yeah. So, we can certainly look at more clarifying language. So, one of the things to note is that we didn't, because we've success...we feel, the agency feels, we've successfully operated under the 2014 PA...we didn't explode the format. So, we modified it but mostly worked within it. So, there are some things that we're trying to clarify and update but could probably use still some work. The... so that attachment E, the way we use that is in combination also with...I think it's our final attachment. Sorry, as I flipped through the hard copy that might be lettered wrong. It's showing as attachment. I have to check that. And at the very end of my copy, unless I printed this wrong, is our streamlined 106 assessment form that we've made in-house. So, this is what I use as the cultural resource manager to document when we've used the streamline process. And so, it is used in combination with that list in E because we look at whether the

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

proposed project- maintenance project is, what kind of resource is it impacting? Is it something on attachment C that's historic, or is it something on attachment E that is non-historic, more modern? And then we assess the level of effect. You know, is it isolated to just the non-historic object or does it have bigger impacts like on the viewshed? So, the things in attachment E are, as we noted in the slides, mostly non-historic, more modern things that are usually very functional. So, a lot of those security gates that require lots of maintenance for the CAC card readers, and then to be repainted and their post. Most of the things when you go to the attachment, you're going to see they're 1960s or newer and they are not especially unique and some are not very well designed. They're very functional things. So, a lot of gates, electronic gates, and a lot of our non-historic fencing we have put on this list. Any of our historic iron fencing is going to be in attachment C as historic and contributing. In E, a lot of our aluminum, more modern fencing is in there. Any of our chain link fencing is on that list or it's going to be the walls that have been identified as sort of like modern recreations and not historic. It's going to be highly modified interiors that are not considered contributing to historic resources. It's going to be things like our parking garages, very functional structures that haven't been identified as having any other significance, any historic significance. Temporary structures that were maybe meant to be temporary and things like our mobile structures, non-historic circulation, so our modern brushed concrete sidewalks versus, which have been separated from our earlier aggregate sidewalks like Crooks Walk that are considered historic circulation paths. These are more modern, non-historic circulation paths. Modern drainage ways and then a lot of site features, so a lot of modern benches, trash cans, lights, things of that nature. These are things that haven't been identified as having any historic value, that are not particularly unique, and that we would like a little more flexibility in maintaining. Or if we need to replace or remove one, we don't want to consult every time we want to remove a modern trash can. So we use that list in conjunction with the internal review form, where we go through the process of...you know, describing the project and identifying if the impacts are just to that thing, just to that bench, or do they have larger impacts on the landscape or adjacent historic properties. And so, we use this form to sort of assess these smaller projects internally and make sure that they're not having adverse effects on the larger historic district or on an individually eligible historic property.

So I don't know if that clarifies that at all.

Sarah Batcheler (CFA): Yes, that's helpful. Thank you.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): Okay, but we can also work on perhaps clarifying that intro language to that Section E.

And Lee, I saw you in the chat. Thank you. We very much appreciate your time today.

Lee Webb (NCPC): Thank you, Caitlin. Thanks, everyone.

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): And I see the Society for Federal Government also dropped off. Thank you.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

Any other questions or points of clarification the group would like to discuss?

Looking for hands or comments in the chat. Not seeing anything. Okay. All right. So, I'm not seeing any other questions.

Lilli, if you want to go to our next slide, let's give everyone an update.

SLIDE 28

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): All right, so next steps in the process. So, we are asking for your initial written comments by 13th of July next week. We wanted to make sure we had this meeting at least a week out. We will, after this meeting, try to get on our website the transcript and the meeting minutes so that all parties can see what was discussed today. And we're hoping this all helps facilitate getting consulting party comments in by July 13th.

We will then go through those comments and try to resolve and respond to them. And we will go back to the entitled parties, to the DHR and the ACHP with our recommendations, with our revised draft. Once all the parties have come to agreement, it will be circulated for signature with the entitled and any concurring parties. And again, those entitled parties are the agency, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the State Historic Preservation Office.

We also go through a rigorous internal review process. It goes through, obviously, our legal counsel and the Army headquarters and the Army Federal Preservation Officer for review once, and then we are aiming, of course, to have this new agreement in place before our bridge agreement expires on February 6th of next year. Otherwise, we would look to extend and amend that bridge PA. But we are hopeful that we can have a new, better and improved agreement in place.

So that is where we are at. I'm going to put one last call in for questions or comments before we go to our final slide. All right, I'm seeing none.

SLIDE 29

Caitlin Smith (ANMC CRM): All right. So, thank you. We very much appreciate your participation in today's consulting parties meeting. We're going to continue to remain in contact through e-mail. We will continue to post updates on the ANC public notices website, which is shown here on the slide. And again, we're going to put the results of this meeting up onto that website as soon as possible. Also shown here is my e-mail box where you can send your questions and comments. Please feel free to reach out to me if you have any questions ahead of the close of that comment period, which, final reminder, concludes on July 13th next week and all comments that are submitted will be included in the project's administrative record, including the comments that were provided in today's meeting.

**Draft Programmatic Agreement for Operation, Maintenance, and Repair Activities Arlington
National Cemetery
Consulting Party Meeting Transcript
7 July 2026
Virtual Meeting Hosted on Microsoft Teams**

And with that, that concludes our consulting parties meeting. I'm going to leave this up for a few more minutes if anyone wants to take a picture or write any notes. Otherwise, thank you again for your time and your patience with our technical difficulties and for your continued support of Arlington National Cemetery.

Thank you. Thank you again to everyone who attended. I'm going to conclude the meeting.

End of Recording: 1 hour 3 minutes 43 seconds