

## Transcript of Presentation: Virtual Public Scoping Meeting (August 23, 2023)

**Renea Yates, Director Office of Army Cemeteries:** Good evening. I'm. Renee Yates, the Director of the Office Army Cemeteries. I will be the moderator for today's virtual public scoping meeting. Before we begin. I wanted to cover a few administrative items.

The slide shows how attendees can set up the closed captioning in zoom turn on coast captioning. If you're using a mobile Zoom app click on the closed captions button. If you're using Zoom on a laptop computer, click on the show captions button. You can find these buttons on the bottom of your screen. As presenters speak - words will 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.

Before we discuss the project at Arlington National Cemetery, I want to set out some ground rules and etiquette for this public meeting. First, all attendees will have their microphones off during the duration of the meeting, until such time as those who pre-registered to provide oral comments will be called. Once called, they will have the ability to use their microphone. At that point, each person will have no more than one minute to provide their verbal comments about the project.

We have many members of the public who have asked to speak tonight. In the unlikely event that there is extra time. At the end of the public meeting, I will open the floor to a limited number of others who didn't get the opportunity to pre-register to speak tonight but would now like to do so. If you're interested in having that opportunity. Please state that you want to make a verbal comment tonight into the chat box now, or at any time during this meeting,

I ask everyone to please be courteous and respectful of others' opinions and statements. I would like to stress that if anyone makes rude or inappropriate comments, they will be removed from this zoom meeting, and will not be allowed to re-enter. The audio and visual portions of this meeting are being recorded and a transcript is being written, all of which will be made available on the project website at a later date. 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, you should have any issues in hearing or seeing the presentations, entering questions into the chat box or any other technical issues with Zoom, please type your issue in the chat box. Throughout today's meeting, the public can submit any questions or comments into the chat box. We will keep a record of all chat box submissions.

Those who are not familiar with Zoom and would like to use your chat box, this slide provides some instructions on where to find the chat icon. You will want to click on that icon to open your chat box. You will then be able to type your comment or question into the chat box, and once you've finished typing, please be sure to click, enter to submit what you have typed.

I appreciate your patience as we work through these necessary topics on how the meeting will work, and how you can provide written comments.

Now, I'd like to introduce our first presenter today, Colonel Andrew Wiker, Director of Engineering, Arlington National Cemeteries, and he will be officially kicking off the meeting. Colonel Wiker, thank you for being with us this evening.

**Colonel Wiker, ANMC Director of Engineering:** Thank you, Ms. Yates. I'm glad to be here to support the team and hear from the public. This is an important project requiring a very thoughtful approach in order to comply with the Congressional mandate and Secretary of Defense's implementation guidance to remove the Confederate Memorial. Arlington National Cemetery must comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, known as Section 106, and the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Public engagement represents an important component in this deliberative process.

I am honored to introduce our presenters for this meeting. They have worked hard to provide a meeting that is designed to provide information about this project and encourage public involvement. You have already heard from our Moderator today, who has gotten us off to a good start. Ms. Renee Yates is the Director of the Office of Army Cemeteries. Our cultural lead is Ms. Caitlin Smith, the Cultural Resources Program Manager for Army National Military Cemeteries, which includes Arlington National Cemetery.

I invite you to visit the project website, where you can understand more about the proposed action and learn how and when the public can get involved. The project website is shown on this slide, and it is <https://www.arlingtoncemetery.mil/About/Confederate-Memorial-Removal>. There is also a project email that is also included on the slide. Although we will accept comments received through the email address, I encourage you to access the comment form mentioned previously from the project website. The project email, as shown, is [anc-commemorative-works@army.mil](mailto:anc-commemorative-works@army.mil).

**Renea Yates, Director Office of Army Cemeteries:** Thank you, Colonel Wiker. Now, I'd like to provide everyone a quick summary of what we will cover during this virtual public meeting. Our compliance team will provide an overview of the project and share details about the Confederate Memorial. This will be followed by an explanation of how the National Environmental Policy Act process works, and why an environmental impact statement (EIS) is required for this project.

Then we will discuss the section one hundred and six process for this effort, as well as the various public involvement policy that are related to both NEPA and Section 106.

Following those presentations, I will open the floor for those who noted in the registration form that they wanted to provide an oral comment during this public meeting.

Finally, I will provide a brief overview of the next steps for the project and note when other opportunities for public involvement will take place.

This scoping meeting provides an opportunity for us to share information on the project and process. It also provides an opportunity for the public to write input to be considered during the development of the project. We are interested in hearing from you today. In particular, we're hoping to get some insights from you on the questions shown on this slide.

For the National Environmental Policy Act:

The Congress and the Department of Defense require the Army to remove the bronze elements of the Confederate memorial. How should the army remove the bronze elements? What should the Army do with the bronze elements of the memorial? What environmental impacts could result from these actions? What should be done to reduce the environmental impacts from these actions?

For more information on NEPA, please see the Citizens Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act Having your voice heard." at [https://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens\\_guide\\_to\\_nepa.html](https://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html)

For National Historic Preservation Act:

The Confederate Memorial contributes to the Arlington National Cemetery's National Register, Historic District. It may be and it may be individually available, eligible for listing on the National Register of historic places. Do you agree or disagree with this assessment of individual eligibility? Why or why not. Are there other properties in this area of potential effects that potentially might be eligible for National Register that the Army has not identified? Will the removal of the Confederate memorial cause an adverse effect to ANC's historic district or other historic properties? What are ways the Army could avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects to ANC's historic district or other potentially eligible historic properties?

For more information on the Section 106 process, please see "Protecting Historic Properties of Citizens: Guide to the Section 106 Review". It can be found at <https://www.achp.gov/citizens-guide-section-106-review>

Now I'd like to introduce Caitlin Smith, our Cultural Resource Program Manager for the Army National Military Cemeteries. She will provide an overview of the project and share some background information about the Confederate Memorial.

**Caitlin Smith, ANMC Cultural Resources Manager:** Thank you, Ms. Yates. ANMC is here tonight to provide you, the public, with information on the proposed project to remove a monument that commemorates the Confederate States of America from Arlington National Cemetery. I would first like to provide you with background information as to how the project came about, and then I will describe the regulatory processes that the army must complete before executing a potential undertaking. In 2021, Congress established the Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that commemorate the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America, otherwise known as the Naming Commission. In addition to changing the names of several military installations, the Naming Commission, recommended several actions with regard to the Arlington National Cemetery, Confederate memorial.

The Naming Commission recommended that the bronze statue atop the monument be deconstructed and removed, leaving the granite base and foundation in place to minimize the risk of inadvertent disturbance to graves. The Naming Commission's recommendations became law in late 2022. This Federal law requires that these recommendations be implemented by January 1, 2024.

ANMC understands that the removal of the Confederate memorial must be conducted in a manner that ensure the safety of the people who work at and visit the cemetery, while also protecting surrounding graves and monuments. The entire process, including disposition, must occur according to applicable laws, policies, and regulations. These will be described in great detail later in this presentation, but first let me briefly describe the monument and its location within the cemetery for those that may not be familiar with it.

The monument under discussion is located within section sixteen of Arlington National Cemetery, a section which contains the remains of Confederate soldiers. The graves and markers are arranged in concentric circles, with the inscriptions facing toward the center of the circle. There are 441 Confederate-style, government-issued, white marble, grave markers and one private marker in the section for a total of 442 grave markers.

The Confederate Memorial sits in the center of the circle, with four of the graves adjacent, one at each side, including that of the memorial sculptor, Moses Ezekiel. A circular drive separates this section from the rest of the cemetery. The memorial stands approximately thirty-three feet tall, and features, a thirty-foot tall bronze sculpture, a top, and approximately three-foot tall, polished granite base. The top of the sculpture is a larger-than-life female figure that represents the south. One of her hands rests on a plow, and the other holds a laurel wreath. This figure stands upon a pedestal of four urns, each representing one year of the Civil War.

Underneath the urns, a frieze decorated with fourteen shields, represents each of the eleven Confederate States and the three Border States of Kentucky, Maryland, and Missouri. Just below these shields a bronze ball relief depicts thirty-two mostly life-sized sculptures portraying mythical gods alongside Southern soldiers and civilians including two enslaved African Americans, a man and a woman. This bar relief depicts the sculptor's own interpretation of the antebellum's Southern society as it related to enslavement and the Civil War. The large bronze base includes three inscriptions and the name of the German boundary where the bronze was cast.

The next portion of this presentation will provide you with an overview of the two interconnected compliance processes that ANMC must follow and complete before any Federal undertaking or action occurs. ANMC is currently executing a coordinated NEPA and an NHPA compliance effort to ensure our Federal agency meets the requirements of all applicable laws, policies, and regulations. In the next slides, I will explain which each process entails, clearly outlining the steps involved, and how you, the public, can keep engaged throughout the process.

These processes are designed to ensure that the public has a voice in the Federal decision-making process before any Federal undertaking or action occurs. Again, your participation is a key component of this deliberative compliance process. All interested members of the public and federal tribal State and local agencies are invited to participate before undertaking a Federal action. All Federal agencies, including the Army, must ensure compliance with NEPA - also known as the National Environmental Policy Act. This ensures that all Federal agencies explore reasonable alternatives to the proposed action that potential impacts to the environment are thoroughly analyzed, and that the public has an opportunity to provide input.

As part of the NEPA process, the Federal agency must identify the purpose and need for the project. The purpose of this project is for the Army National Military Cemeteries to remove the bronze elements of the Confederate Memorial, because it commemorates the Confederate States of America. The need for this project is to comply with the recommendation from the Naming Commission that addresses, military installations and monuments, that honor or commemorate the Confederacy, stating that all such installations should be renamed, and any monuments removed. The commission requested that the bronze statue atop the memorial be removed, leaving the granite base and foundation in place to minimize the risk of inadvertent disturbance to graves. They requested that the Department of the Army consider the most cost-effective method of removal.

As was stated previously, the Commission's recommendations became law in late 2022, and must be completed by January 1, 2024. ANMC is analyzing the environmental impacts that could result from implementing the proposed action for any reasonable alternatives. The agency does this by developing an environmental impact statement, also referred to as an EIS for the project.

In this case, the impacts are related to the decision to remove the bronze elements, the disassembly of the bronze elements from the stone base, and the storage and potential future relocation and reassembly of the bronze elements.

Obtaining public feedback through efforts such as this public meeting is part of the NEPA requirements. Through the EIS process, the agency will solicit relevant input from all interested parties. The agency will make this information available to all stakeholders through the ANC website. Updates will be publicized via the Federal Register, the ANC website, and social media platforms.

These actions are in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality and EPA regulations, and the Army's implementing regulation, Environmental Analysis of Army Action. The purpose of the EIS is to inform decision-makers and the public of the likely environmental consequences of the action and alternatives. The EIS will explore the project's potential environmental impacts, both beneficial and adverse on a variety of resources.

Some of the resource areas that might be analyzed are impacts to threaten or endangered species, air and water quality impacts, impacts to historical and cultural sites, social and economic impacts to local communities, aesthetics, noise and vibrations, and health effects. Once an impact has been identified, the agency will need to identify and list best management practices "BMPs" and mitigation measures to offset an impact.

Again, for more information. Please visit our website.

The public is invited to comment on what beneficial or adverse environmental impacts could result from these actions, and what should be done to reduce the impacts. The draft EIS will evaluate potential alternatives to the proposed action and evaluate the potential impacts of each. To create the draft and then final EIS, ANMC is soliciting public comments throughout the NEPA and Section 106 processes.

It would be especially useful during the scoping process to receive public comments that provide ideas for future storage and interpretation of the bronze elements, among other substantive comments related to the identification of significant environmental issues and impacts on historic properties within the Area of Potential Effects. These types of substantive comments will be considered within the Draft EIS.

The EIS will examine several potential alternatives. Different disassembly alternatives could include deconstructing the Memorial in a manner to minimize damage. The elements would be documented, inventoried, catalogued, crated, and prepared for transportation and long-term offsite storage. The work would be consistent with the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties and the Code of Ethics and Guidelines for Practice of the American Institute for Conservation. This method would best facilitate possible reconstruction in the future. Another disassembly alternative might be rapid deconstruction, without the same requirements for protection, documentation, and storage.

Once the bronze elements have been disassembled, they may be stored in a location determined through the EIS and Section 106 processes. We seek comments on methods of, and locations for, storage, along with possible alternatives for reassembly in the future. This future state might include options for interpretation and education.

Because Congress requires the removal of the Memorial's bronze elements, the no action alternative does not meet their requirements. However, the NEPA EIS process requires the inclusion of a no action alternative against which the impacts of the other alternatives can be measured, and therefore it will be included in the EIS analysis.

I wanted to share with you the key Milestones associated with the NEPA EIS process. The eight boxes shown at the bottom of this slide depict the general flow of an EIS. The Notice of Intent officially announced the start of the NEPA EIS process. That occurred earlier this month on August 4th.

Currently, we are in the public scoping period – which goes through September 2nd. The comments received during the scoping period will be reviewed and considered as the draft EIS is developed. A completed draft EIS is estimated to be released in the Fall of 2023, which will provide information on the proposed action and alternatives, including existing conditions, affected environment, and environmental impacts. The release of this draft EIS will align with the next public comment period. As with the public feedback from the scoping period, any comments received during the Draft EIS comment period will be considered as the final EIS is being developed.

When the Final EIS is released, there is a required 30-day waiting period before the Record of Decision, also known as the ROD, can be finalized. Once the ROD is finalized, the proposed action may move to implementation.

Now that I have shared this NEPA overview and process information, I would like to talk about how the NHPA and the Section 106 Process tie into the NEPA EIS process, as the potential impacts to cultural resources form the biggest component of this EIS. Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act requires federal agencies to identify and assess the effects its actions may have on historic properties. If it is determined there are effects on historic properties, the agency is required to complete the Section 106 process before implementing the proposed project. Under Section 106, each federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues when making final project decisions. ANMC has determined that the proposed monument removal is a federal undertaking with the potential to cause adverse effects on historic properties, and therefore has begun the Section 106 process.

I would like to provide a brief overview of the process so you can better understand the steps involved, where we currently are, and what remains ahead of us.

**The First Step – Initiating the Section 106 Process.** In this step, the agency identifies who should participate as 'consulting parties.' Consultation is between the federal agency, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), and other consulting parties, including but not limited to the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation (ACHP), certified local governments, and members of the general public with an economic, social or cultural interest in the project.

**The Second Step – is Identification of Historic Properties.** Here the agency identifies the historic properties that could be affected by the undertaking. These are sites, structures, buildings, districts, and objects that are listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The federal agency

must do 3 things: 1) Identify possible historic properties; 2) decide whether the identified properties are listed on or eligible for listing on the NR; and 3) decide whether any of these historic properties are going to be affected by the project. If a historic property is identified, the information is submitted to the preservation office with the agency's determination of NR eligibility.

The Third step – is the Assessment of Effects. In this step, the federal agency determines if historic properties may be adversely affected. “Adverse effects” are those that diminish characteristics qualifying a property for inclusion in the National Register.

The Fourth and final step – is Resolution of Effects. In this final process step, if the agency and consulting parties find there are adverse effects to a historic property, then the agency and consulting parties must work to reach agreement on a resolution. To do this, the agency must explore measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate adverse effects to historic properties and reach agreement with the State Historic Preservation Officer (and the ACHP in some cases). If they agree on how to resolve the adverse effects, they then formalize this in a memorandum of agreement, or MOA. An executed and implemented MOA is a legally binding agreement that contains the stipulations and mitigations the federal agency must carry out in order to proceed with the project or undertaking.

Throughout the entire Section 106 process, the federal agency must consider public views and concerns about historic preservation issues. For more information on this project or to provide a written comment, please visit the ANC website.

The results of our Section 106 process are also an important component of the NEPA EIS. The process will feed information on impacts to cultural resources into the environmental impact statement. That is why ANMC is working these two compliance procedures in conjunction.

I would now like to update you on the Section 106 actions ANMC has taken to date.

The first step was for ANMC to initiate the Section 106 process with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, otherwise known as the Department of Historic Resources or DHR, which occurred on February 9, 2023. Next, ANMC engaged the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the ACHP, the federal agency responsible for historic preservation issues, for assistance with the Section 106 process. After initiating consultation with the DHR and ACHP, ANMC issued an invitation to consulting parties and the public through social media, the ANC website, and local news outlets.

To better understand Section 106 process, it must be noted that there are five main participants in the process: the agency official, the SHPO, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the consulting parties, and the public.

Consulting parties are a formal designation related to Section 106 and for this project include the State Historic Preservation Officer, representatives of local governments, and additional consulting parties. Additional consulting parties are defined as those individuals and organizations with a demonstrated interest in the undertaking, due to the nature of their legal or economic relation to the undertaking or affected properties, or due to their concern with the undertaking's effects on historic properties. In general, the public is not considered a consulting party, but the public is an active participant in the process, and the public's views are an essential component of an informed Federal decision-making process.

The list of consulting parties is not considered complete at this time, and it continues to be updated and revised as we receive new requests to be included or not included in the consultations. Interested parties can request to be a consulting party at any point during the Section 106 Process.

We are currently in the second step of the Section 106 process: identification of historic properties. In this step, we have determined an area of potential effects, or APE. The APE is the geographic area within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause alterations to the character or use of historic properties. This includes the location where the project may be visible and/or audible. This project is located in the Arlington

National Cemetery Historic District and involves work in previously disturbed areas. The A.P.E. for the proposed project is shown on this slide.

There are four previously listed or potentially National Register eligible historic resources within the APE. The previously listed resources are the Arlington National Cemetery Historic District, the Arlington House Historic District, and the Fort Myer Historic District. The potentially eligible resource within the APE is the Confederate Memorial. The APE also includes unlisted historic properties contained within the three historic districts that are adjacent to and within the viewshed of this proposed undertaking. This slide shows a list of historic structures and features contributing to the ANC, Fort Myer, and Arlington House historic districts, all of which are located within, or adjacent to, the APE. There are no known archaeological resources within the A.P.E.

For more information, please visit our website.

The public is invited to comment on the area of potential effects.

The determination of eligibility is also included in this stage of the Section 106 process. ANMC is consulting with the DHR to apply the National Register criteria to properties within the area of potential effects that have not been previously evaluated for eligibility. For this project, that includes the Confederate Memorial. To make this evaluation, the DHR required ANMC to complete a Phase II (Intensive-Level) survey report to evaluate the individual eligibility of the Confederate Memorial to the National Register.

This survey determined that the ANC Confederate Memorial is potentially individually eligible for listing in the National Register under: Criteria A, for its association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history, and, Criteria C, for its embodiment of distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or that represent the work of a master or possess high artistic values. Additionally, the memorial's integrity was assessed for seven aspects or qualities: location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

For more information and to read the report, please visit our website. The public is invited to comment on whether the memorial is, or is not, individually eligible for listing on the NRHP.

ANMC continues to consult with the DHR on the second step of the Section 106 process: identification of historic properties. As previously discussed, ANMC has provided the DHR with a list of historic properties in the Area of Potential Effects, or APE.

Following extensive research and reporting, ANMC has determined that the Confederate Monument is potentially, individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. ANMC is awaiting concurrence or comment from DHR on this determination. Once a final determination is made, and all historic properties have been identified that may be affected by this project, then ANMC can initiate the next step in the Section 106 process, which is the assessment of effects.

Throughout this process, ANMC seeks substantive public comments. For more information or to provide a written comment, please visit our website.

To review, ANMC is currently undertaking a coordinated NEPA and NHPA compliance effort, to ensure our federal agency meets the requirements of all applicable laws, policies, and regulations. Remember that the results of our NHPA Section 106 process form an important component of the NEPA EIS. The Section 106 process will feed information on impacts to cultural resources into the environmental impact statement. That is why ANMC is working these two compliance processes in conjunction.

NEPA and NHPA, in particular, are designed to ensure that the public has a voice in the federal decision-making process, before any federal undertaking or action occurs. Since public involvement is an important component of both, there are several comment periods built into the processes. The comments received will be incorporated into several products: a Section 106 MOA, a final EIS, and a Record of Decision.

Again, your participation is a key component of this deliberative EIS process. All interested members of the public, and federal, Tribal, state, and local agencies are invited to participate. The center section of this slide displays the three public comment periods for this project.

The public comment and scoping period formally began with publication of the Notice of Intent or NOI to prepare an EIS on August 4th. The scoping process is intended to focus the EIS on potentially significant adverse impacts and to ensure public participation in the EIS development. The scoping process allows for open discussion regarding issues of public concern and permits the consideration of relevant, substantive matters in the EIS.

ANMC will consider comments received during the public scoping period in preparing the Draft EIS. Further updates on the public comment process will be publicized via the Federal Register, the ANC website, and social media platforms.

The Draft EIS public review period will begin with the publication of a Notice of Availability in the Federal Register. This is anticipated to occur in Fall 2023. The Army will publicly announce information regarding the availability of the Draft EIS and the public review period. The Final EIS will take all comments into account. Mindful of the timeframe contained in section 370 of the 2021 NDAA, the Army expects to publish the Final EIS after all public comments on the Draft EIS are fully considered. The Army will complete the EIS process by issuing a timely Record of Decision following the Environmental Protection Agency's notice in the Federal Register that the Final EIS was filed.

I will now turn it back over to Ms. Yates to discuss in more detail the scoping process and what types of comments we are hoping to receive. Ms. Yates...

**Renea Yates, Director Office of Army Cemeteries:** Thank you for that overview of the public involvement process, Caitlin. At this point, we are going to pivot to discussing ways in which comments can be provided during this meeting - as well as afterwards. We appreciate the comments and questions that have been submitted through the chat box during the presentation. We will incorporate that information into the official record for this meeting. Questions that have not been address in the chat box, during this meeting, will be addressed in follow-on materials.

To get started, I will discuss more specifically the types of comments we are seeking during the scoping period, which began on Friday, August 4 and will continue through September 2. During the scoping period, federal, state, tribal, and local agencies, along with affected members of the public, are invited to participate in the identification of relevant issues that will influence the NEPA analysis, including alternatives, impacts, and mitigation measures. This public meeting is one piece of the process, as are the written comment submission options being made available.

Rather than general comments that are in favor or against the bronze elements' removal, we seek substantive comments, which are those that specifically describe potential new alternatives or impacts or suggest optional ways to meet the need for the project. All comments must be received by 11:59 pm (EST) on September 2<sup>nd</sup> to be considered within the draft EIS analysis. Comments may be submitted through the website shown here or emailed to [anc-commemorative-works@army.mil](mailto:anc-commemorative-works@army.mil). Under the "Related Documents" section of the project website is a link to the notice in the Federal Register, which includes the mailing address at which to send written comments. Any comments received after September 2 may be considered during the next phase of EIS development.

Shown on the screen is a copy of the online public comment form that you can access by visiting the ANC Removal of the Confederate Memorial website.

All public comment forms received on or before September 2 through the web form, as well as via email and mail, will be processed and analyzed for their applicability in helping to determine different alternatives and impacts related to the removal of the bronze elements of the Confederate Memorial at ANC.



To reiterate, this scoping meeting provides an opportunity for us to share information on the project and process. It also provides an opportunity for the public to provide input to be considered during the development of the project. We are interested in hearing from you today. In particular, we are hoping to get some insights from you on the questions shown on this slide.

**NEPA Questions:**

Congress and the Dept. of Defense require the Army to remove the bronze elements of the Confederate Memorial.

1. How should the Army remove the bronze elements of the memorial?
2. What should the Army do with the bronze elements of the memorial?
3. What environmental impacts could result from these actions?
4. What should be done to reduce environmental impacts from these actions?

For more information on NEPA, please see “A Citizen's Guide to the National Environmental Policy Act; Having Your Voice Heard”: [https://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens\\_guide\\_to\\_nepa.html](https://ceq.doe.gov/get-involved/citizens_guide_to_nepa.html)

**NHPA Questions:**

1. The Confederate Memorial contributes to ANC’s National Register Historic District and it may be individually eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Do you agree/disagree this assessment of individual eligibility? Why or why not?
2. Are there other properties in the area of potential effects potentially eligible for the National Register that the Army has not identified?
3. Will removal of the Confederate Memorial will cause an adverse effect to ANC’s Historic District or other historic properties?
4. What are ways the Army could avoid, minimize, or mitigate potential adverse effects to ANC’s Historic District or other potentially eligible historic properties?

For more information on the Section 106 Process, please see “Protecting Historic Properties: A Citizen's Guide to Section 106 Review”: <https://www.achp.gov/citizens-guide-section-106-review>

Before I call the first commenter, I would like to review our meeting etiquette and process for commenting.

For an individual to provide a verbal comment today, they were required to note that when they registered for this meeting.

For our comment approach today - Each commenter will be announced before they can come off of mute, turn on their camera and provide their comments. Each commenter is limited to one minute. At the end of the minute, the commenters microphone will be muted, camera will be disabled and we will move on to the next commenter. The right side of this slide shows how the commenter will come off of mute and activate their camera.

Once I have called your name, please click the “Raise Hand” button at the bottom of your screen to let us know where you are. The meeting host will then take you off mute and allow your camera to be active. You should state your name for the record. You will then have no more than one minute to provide your comment. At the end of that time limit, I will announce your time has expired and your microphone will be muted and camera disabled once more.

Should there be any time remaining at the end of this public meeting, then anyone who did not pre-register to provide a verbal comment might have the opportunity to do so. If you are interested in this possibility, please submit your name in the chat box at this time.

A full list of registered commenters will be displayed shortly so you will know the order in which you will be speaking. If you are calling into the meeting on your phone, you can press \*9 to virtually raise your hand. That will let the meeting host know where to find you. They will then let you off mute, enable your camera and ask that you identify yourself by first and last name for the public record. Then you will have no more than ONE minute to make your comment. At the end of that time limit, I will announce your time has expired and your microphone will be muted and camera disabled once more.

For today's meeting, the following public have requested to make an oral comment. This list reflects the individuals who requested to make an oral comment during today's public scoping meeting. We have many people who want to make a comment today. The order of this list was based on when the commenter submitted their registration for this meeting prior to 11:59 PM on Aug 22. We will follow the numbering order of this list. So, please take a moment and find your name on this list, if you requested to provide an oral comment during today's meeting. I will apologize in advance if I mispronounce anyone's name – you will be asked to state your name properly for the public record. Each commenter will have up to ONE minute to provide their comment, before we move on to the next commenter.

If you did not identify that you wanted to make an oral comment when you registered for today's meeting, please be sure to submit your comments in writing. The website that provides you access to the comment form has been shown previously and will be shown again before this meeting ends.

The top of this slide provides the instructions each commenter needs to follow before making a comment. Just a reminder to all our commenters that any disruption or disturbance to this meeting may result in removal.

*(Oral comments received during the meeting are provided in a separate document.)*

Before we close our meeting this evening, I wanted to take a moment to let you know what is happening over the next few weeks.

A reminder that the public scoping comment period will end 11:59 pm eastern time on September 2nd. Comments can be submitted through the comment form which can be accessed from the Confederate Memorial Removal Project website.

**Renea Yates, Director Office of Army Cemeteries:** Our NEPA team will be reviewing the comments as they work toward developing the Draft EIS, and our Cultural Resources team will continue their activities for developing the Assessment of Effects, as part of the NHPA Section 106 process. Looking a little further out on the horizon, we are anticipating the Draft EIS will be released for public review by the end of September. Be sure to add yourself to the email list to be notified of the draft release. Additional updates on the public comment process will be publicized via the Federal Register, the ANC website, and social media platforms.

I will now turn the floor over to Colonel Wiker to provide a few final remarks.

**Colonel Wiker, ANMC Director of Engineering:** We appreciate your participation in today's public scoping meeting. If you wish to participate further in the public comment scoping process, please visit the project website to access the comment form and be added to our email list. This website also provides a range of information about this project and the process.

If you have any additional questions related to the project or process, please send an email to the address shown on the bottom of the slide. Thank you for your time this evening.