DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

National Park Service

Environmental Statements; Availability etc; Gettysburg National Military Park

AGENCY: National Park Service (NPS), Department of Interior (DOI).

ACTION: Notice of availability of an environmental assessment on the proposed demolition and removal of the National Tower at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the Council on Environmental Quality regulations and National Park Service policy, the NPS announces the availability of a draft environmental assessment on the proposed demolition and removal of the National Tower at Gettysburg National Military Park, Gettysburg, PA. The purpose of this environmental assessment is to present the alternatives for removal of the tower and related impacts. Specific actions required for future site restoration are not described or analyzed within this document. The NPS is soliciting comments on this environmental assessment. NPS will consider these comments in making a decision pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA).

DATES: The environmental assessment will remain available for public comment through May 31, 2000.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Katie Lawhon, (717) 334–1124 extension 452 or write to Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park, 97 Taneytown Road, Gettysburg, PA 17325.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: On December 9, 1999, the Department of Justice filed a complaint in condemnation at the U.S. District Court in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. This action was the first formal legal step in the federal government's acquisition of the privately owned 307-foot observation tower, the land upon which it sits and its appurtenant rights-of-way. The action to acquire the National Tower, which overlooks the Gettysburg Battlefield, implements the decision made by the National Park Service as part of its 1990 Boundary Study and its 1993 Land Protection Plan to add the site to the park, acquire the land and the tower, and remove the tower.

Removal of non-historic structures in order to restore natural conditions is listed by the NPS as a categorical exclusion under the National Park Service procedures for implementing the provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). However, in the interests of disclosing the limited impacts associated with the demolition of the non-historic tower structure, this environmental assessment ahs been prepared for public and agency review. Alternatives analyzed in the draft Environmental Assessment include Alternative 1, (the Proposal), Tower Removal and Alternative 2, No Action. Under Alternative 1, the tower structure and its surrounding buildings would be demolished and removed. Demolition itself could be accomplished through a variety of methods. One alternative method would be to dismantle the structure in a piece-by-piece method through use of cranes and other mechanical methods. Another demolition method would be to use an implosion method to reduce the tower and associated structures into on-site debris and then remove the debris. Under all methods, the resulting debris would be removed by truck to approved scrap yards/resale facilities and landfills. Under Alternative 2, No Action, the tower property would be acquired as stated in previous planning documents. The NPS would close the National Tower to public access and use, but the tower would not be removed. This alternative is presented for baseline purposes of comparison. All interested agencies, organizations, and individuals are urged to provide comments on the draft Environmental Assessment. All comments received by the closing date will be considered by NPS as it completes its NEPA and NHPA compliance.

Dated: April 28, 2000.

John A. Latschar,

Superintendent, Gettysburg National Military Park.

[FR Doc. 00–11202 Filed 5–4–00; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4310–70–M

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Employment Standards Administration, Wage and Hour Division

Minimum Wages for Federal and Federally Assisted Construction; General Wage Determination Decisions

General wage determination decisions of the Secretary of Labor are issued in accordance with applicable law and are based on the information obtained by the Department of Labor from its study of local wage conditions and data made available from other sources. They specify the basic hourly wage rates and fringe benefits which are determined to be prevailing for the described classes of laborers and mechanics employed on construction projects of a similar character and in the localities specified therein.

The determinations in these decisions of prevailing rates and fringe benefits have been made in accordance with 29 CFR part 1, by authority of the Secretary of Labor pursuant to the provisions of the Davis-Bacon Act of March 3, 1931, as amended (46 Stat. 1494, as amended, 40 U.S.C. 276a) and of other Federal statutes referred to in 29 CFR part 1, appendix, as well as such additional statutes as may from time to time be enacted containing provisions for the payment of wages determined to be prevailing by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with the Davis-Bacon Act. The prevailing rates and fringe benefits determined in these decisions shall, in accordance with the provisions of the foregoing statutes, constitute the minimum wages payable on Federal and federally assisted construction projects to laborers and mechanics of the specified classes engaged on contract work of the character and in the localities described therein.

Good cause is hereby found for not utilizing notice and public comment procedure thereon prior to the issuance of these determinations as prescribed in 5 U.S.C. 553 and not providing for delay in the effective date as prescribed in that section, because the necessity to issue current construction industry wage determinations frequently and in large volume causes procedures to be impractical and contrary to the public interest.

General wage determination decisions, and modifications and supersedes decisions thereto, contain no expiration dates and are effective from their date of notice in the **Federal Register,** or on the date written notice is received by the agency, whichever is earlier. These decisions are to be used in accordance with the provisions of 29 CFR parts 1 and 5. Accordingly, the applicable decision, together with any modifications issued, must be made a part of every contract for performance of the described work within the geographic area indicated as required by an applicable Federal prevailing wage law and 29 CFR part 5. The wage rates and fringe benefits, notice of which is published herein, and which are contained in the Government Printing Office (GPO) document entitled ''General Wage Determinations Issued Under The Davis-Bacon and Related Acts,'' shall be the minimum paid by contractors and subcontractors to laborers and mechanics.