

Memorandum

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Be energy efficient!*

To: DEPUTY DISTRICT DIRECTORS
ENVIRONMENTAL
DISTRICT ENVIRONMENTAL
BRANCH CHIEFS
HERITAGE RESOURCES COORDINATORS

Date: December 23, 2003

File: Cultural

From: GARY E. WINTERS 
Chief
Division of Environmental Analysis

Subject: Section 106 Programmatic Agreement

The Programmatic Agreement for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (PA) will go into effect on January 1, 2004. The PA will provide significant streamlining measures which will greatly benefit the Department of Transportation's (Department) project delivery.

All the Department's projects with FHWA involvement, including Local Assistance projects, fall under the terms of the PA on January 1. In accordance with the agreement, the Department has committed to training all our cultural resources staff, certifying their professional qualifications, ensuring compliance with the PA's provisions, and preparing an annual report on all work completed under the PA.

As you know, as part of the continuing training and to ensure that our work is in compliance with the terms of the PA, all final documents for work done under the PA, including reports, checklists, and memos to file, must undergo a consistency review for purposes of quality assurance for the first six months under the PA. A small PA team will also schedule visits to each District during that first six months to address any questions or issues that may arise, provide additional training if needed, and review for consistency any documents retained in the District that had not yet undergone this review.

The Cultural and Community Studies Office (CCSO) will conduct the consistency reviews, which will examine documents for PA consistency only, and commenting only if potential "fatal flaws" are noted, unless the District specifically requests a full peer review. Review copies need to be submitted either electronically, or in hard copy to Greg King, Chief, CCSO. Individual districts may choose to send all documents in for CCSO review as they are generated, or they may choose to retain documents such as screening memos or memos to file that would not otherwise leave the District, holding them for later review during the PA team's visit.

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Page 2

If you have any general questions regarding implementation of the PA, please call the CCSO Chief, Greg King, at Calnet 453-0647, or for specific questions related to your District, call your Section 106 coordinator.