



FEMA

FEMA Notice of Virtual Public Meeting

Regarding the Section 106 Review Under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) and Adverse Effects for the Columbia Canal Project, City of Columbia, South Carolina under the FEMA Public Assistance (PA) Grant Program

Seeking Public Comment

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) is providing funding to the City of Columbia for repairs to the historic Columbia Canal, in Richland County, South Carolina using Public Assistance (PA) Funds. As a part of compliance responsibilities under regulations 36 CFR Part 800, for Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies, including the FEMA, to identify and consider the potential effects of its actions on historic properties through a collaborative framework for seeking and considering the views of the public on how potential adverse effects on historic properties resulting from a proposed Federal action should be addressed.

The City is proposing to conduct canal embankment and toe repairs, repair the lower canal breach, reshaping the lower canal channel (south of Klapman Bridge) to pre-disaster conditions. Connected actions include the establishment of temporary cofferdams and staging areas, temporary removal of utilities and the public bike trail to facilitate a safe-working environment. Upon completion of repairs, utilities, public bike trails and the canal will be re-established to pre-disaster conditions. The Columbia Canal with associated features is listed in the National Register of Historic Places (January 15, 1979). The project area as proposed, includes portions of the 19th century Canal Berm and Tow-Path; the CERSL&P Power House (1891); Columbia (Duck) Mill Powerplant, Flume, Forebay and Cut-Stone-Bridge Abutment (1894); Timber Bulkhead within the canal bed; and may include deeply buried deposits and features associated with the quarry, mill and related outbuilding features.

As proposed, the above repairs will constitute an Adverse Effect to Historic Properties under 36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1). FEMA in consultation with SC State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), interested Tribes, and other consulting parties are in coordination to resolve any adverse effects of the Undertaking as per Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Proposed mitigation of the adverse effects includes recordation, potential salvage of structural materials, public engagement, archaeological investigation; and updating the Columbia Canal National Register documentation.

Any Member of the public is encouraged to provide views on how the project may affect historic properties and the ways these effects may be avoided, minimized, or mitigated. Comments can be provided at the Virtual Public Meeting:

Virtual Public Meeting

To be Hosted via Zoom by the City of Columbia Planning Office

Date: Thursday, July 29, 2021

Time: 6:00 PM – 7:30 PM (Eastern Standard)

Project Details and Meeting Link: For more information about the project and for a link to the meeting, please visit [The Columbia Canal Repair Project Website](#)

To Register to attend Webinar: [Columbia Canal Virtual Public Meeting- Registration](#)

After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Direct Link to Webinar (Video Only): [Columbia Canal Virtual Public Meeting](#)

If attendance at the above webinar is not possible, the **public meeting will be recorded** and available via the [City of Columbia YouTube Page](#)

PUBLIC COMMENTS MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED VIA:

Mail: FEMA Region 4
Environmental Planning and Historic Preservation
3005 Chamblee Tucker Drive, Atlanta GA 30341

Email: fema-r4ehp106@fema.dhs.gov

To help develop a course of action for this project, FEMA is requesting your input by **August 11, 2021**. Should you have any questions regarding the above project, please contact Leslie E. Johansen fema-r4ehp106@fema.dhs.gov