



DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
1333 ISAAC HULL SE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20370-0001

IN REPLY REFER TO

5100
Ser 04I/077
08 Jun 18

Mr. John Linz
Commission Chair
Bedford Historic Preservation Commission
10 Mudge Way
Bedford, MA 01730

Dear Mr. Linz:

I am writing to notify your organization of a proposed Department of the Navy action to demolish historic buildings and structures that pose severe risks to human health and safety located at the northern tract of Naval Weapons Industrial Reserve Plant (NWIRP) Bedford, Massachusetts.

The regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act require federal agencies to consider the effects of proposed actions on historic properties. As part of the Section 106 process, federal agencies are required to solicit input from the public and interested parties with regards to identification of historic properties and ways to avoid, minimize or mitigate effects to historic properties.

The northern tract of NWIRP Bedford consists of nine (9) buildings and structures that contribute to the National Register of Historic Places eligible historic district. The majority of the buildings, constructed between 1954 and 1982, represent the significance of the site as a research and development facility during the Cold War era associated with the design and fabrication of weapons systems.

In 2000, the Navy declared the northern tract of NWIRP Bedford as excess and initiated the process for disposal through the General Services Administration. Since that time, the nine buildings on this excess property have remained vacant as the Navy conducts required environmental restoration on the northern tract. The Navy has no alternative use for these buildings. Trespassing juveniles and adults, however, have found a use, entering these buildings, despite various Navy security measures like signage, fencing, boarding up openings, and routine