

**Historic Preservation Consultation Meeting  
Nuclear Ship *SAVANNAH* National Historic Landmark  
May 21, 2024, 2:30-4pm EDT  
(Hybrid on-board NS *Savannah* and MS Teams)**

**Participants:**

- Erhard W. Koehler, Manager, N.S. *Savannah* Programs, MARAD
- Jean Trefethen, Environmental Program Manager, NMSS, NRC
- John Kelly, Retired DOE, past president of ANS
- Gail Marcus, past president, ANS
- Jed Porter, Architect, NPS Region 1, North Atlantic - Appalachian
- Liz Casso, Preservation Officer, Project Review and Compliance, MHT; SHPO
- Bob Adams, President, NS Savannah Association
- Anne Jennings, Cultural Resource Specialist, Tidewater, Inc.
- Ed Tupin, Health Physics Society
- Dan O'Rourke, ANL
- Konnie Westcott, ANL (left early)
- Michael Moan
- Paul Johnston, Curator of Maritime History, SI
- Chris Daniel, Program Analyst, ACHP
- Neil Sheehan, NRC Public Affairs Officer
- Anna Holloway, Supervisory Historian, MARAD
- Tanya Hood, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, NRC (left early)
- Betsy Merritt, Deputy General Counsel, National Trust

See Acronym List at the end of the document

**Agenda:**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes Review (March 19, 2024)
- III. Program Update
- IV. Status of PA Stipulations
  - a. NOA / RFI
  - b. Disposition Alternatives Study
  - c. LTP
- V. Other Business / Adjourn
- VI. Next Meeting: July 16, 2024

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Erhard opened the meeting, he was on the ship with Ed and Bob and there were no new members with us today, so we dispensed with introductions. Erhard noted that tomorrow is National Maritime Day, which was celebrated on the ship this past Sunday. We had six retirees from the ship onboard, some who hadn't seen the ship in years, and all were impressed with how good the ship looked and sounded. Bob Adams has been working on the music and entertainment system, and the outdoor speakers were operable and better than ever. Overall, there was a lot of positive feedback about the ship.

## **Minutes Review**

The March 19<sup>th</sup> minutes were shared via e-mail prior to the meeting and no comments received either via e-mail or during the meeting.

## **Program Update**

Erhard stated that the big news is that we have long morphed out of dismantlement and are into final status surveys. We had the public meeting for the LTP this month and a few PRG members attended. This meeting is a major milestone. The NRC has 18 requests for additional information which we are working on and will coordinate with Tanya.

Erhard mentioned that there is expected to be one last shipment of waste to leave the ship in July, and that as of next week he expects there will no longer be any radiologically controlled areas on the ship. This includes the CV which was just down posted last week which allowed visitors to go inside the CV on maritime day. He also noted that the grating in the CV is being replaced with modern reinforced plastic grating, which looks much the same. We have taken new pictures looking into the CV and will send to the PRG.

## **Programmatic Agreement Stipulations**

Erhard went over the stipulations. The comment period for the NOA/RFI closed April 1<sup>st</sup> and we received five responses which were distributed via email to PRG. We have a dialogue with the city of Savannah and he will be presenting to the Rotary Club July 15<sup>th</sup> and will also present to Ships of the Sea Museum that week. We are continuing to monitor activities in Rhode Island, Miami, Philadelphia. and Baltimore, and noted that the new director of the Port of Baltimore mentioned during his remarks on Sunday that the ship has been here 60 years and will be here another 60 years so will have to leverage that.

Erhard and Anne have continued to do outreach after the closing period and met with Stevens Institute in Hoboken and looked at the Jersey side of the Hudson and also Bayonne. We are also looking at one pier on the west side of Manhattan and have a contact at the NYC EDC to look into that. If that is not an option, there is no other spot in NYC that will likely work. We have been targeting science centers and have interest from Alabama, North Carolina, and Florida, so we now have a total of 8 port cities with interest in the ship which is encouraging. On the west coast, Erhard will be going out to the HNSA meeting in San Diego this fall and will do outreach there.

Ed mentioned the HPS meeting in July where he and Erhard will have a poster presentation called *NS Savannah: The Intersection of Decommissioning and Historic Preservation*. While Erhard is there, he will drive to Tampa to meet with the science museum there that expressed interest.

Erhard mentioned that we expected to have an article on the ship in the *Sun* but no word on when that will happen, and that the *Banner* has also expressed interest in a future article. We will also be publishing two articles in *Nuclear News* in the fall. Ed asked if these could also be published in HP News, and he will follow-up with the editor there and we will check in with *Nuclear News*. John Kelly noted that it may be possible.

Anne asked Michael Moan to follow-up on his Rhode Island outreach, and he noted that he will be reaching out to the papers soon and is looking at July 31<sup>st</sup> which is the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the ship's visit to Providence.

Erhard noted that we are still working on the Disposition Study and expect to get it in Doug's hands soon. This was delayed because one of MARAD's lawyers provided input that MARAD has the broad authority to transfer the ship to another federal agency that may request it, and may also enter a charter or lease on a best value basis without considering the highest rate of return. Previously we had understood that legislation may need to be enacted to allow this. We are also incorporating the findings from the NOA/RFI in the study which bolsters the preservation argument. He expects to get this to Doug soon, but noted that as of now, we are not sure if it will need to be reviewed by the Administrator before transmitting to the PRG – that will be determined by legal once they see it.

Erhard said that Barbara is working on the Collections Management Plan and the Mitigation Plan with Anna Holloway. Anna confirmed that these are underway and moving along. He also indicated that the Thematic Context is almost ready for the PRG and will work with Dan on one paragraph that needs a brief fix.

## **Other Business**

Erhard noted that he did not attend the CAMM conference in April, but Paul did who reported that it went well with almost 100 registrants, although there was no talk of *Savannah*.

Erhard reminded the group that NJ Congressmen Donald Norcross will be coming to the ship June 5<sup>th</sup> and although he has previously expressed an interest in the ship as a reef for diving, the hope is he will instead want to preserve it above water. He is the representative for Camden, which does not necessarily have the space for a ship.

Erhard noted that the next meeting will be July 16<sup>th</sup> and will be virtual only as he is travelling. He also mentioned that we are looking to discuss mitigation, including architectural salvage at the September meeting and encouraged those who can attend in person, as it will be easier to see these things while walking around the ship, rather than by photos.

John mentioned there are two Georgia ANS chapters and Ed that there is one HP chapter in Georgia, and it was determined that they should both coordinate to try to facilitate Erhard doing a presentation about the ship in its home state of Georgia and the possibility of it going to Savannah.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 3:20.

**Action Items:**

- Anne to send meeting minutes
- Anne/Erhard to send photos of the CV opened up
- Ed and John to coordinate about Georgia chapters of their respective groups to facilitate a presentation
- Ed to follow-up with HP News about using the Nuclear News articles
- Erhard/Anne to follow up with John Fabian about sharing Nuclear News articles

**Acronyms:**

ACHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADAMS	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System
ANL	Argonne National Lab (DOE)
ANS	American Nuclear Society
CAMM	Council of American Maritime Museums
CV	Containment Vessel
DOE	(US) Department of Energy
DOI	(US) Department of Interior
DOT	(US) Department of Transportation
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FPO	Federal Preservation Officer
FRN	Federal Register Notice
HNSA	Historic Naval Ships Association
LTP	License Termination Plan
MARAD	Maritime Administration (DOT)
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NARA	National Archives and Record Administration
NMSS	Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards (NRC)
NPS	National Park Service (DOI)
NRC	(US) Nuclear Regulatory Commission
PA	Programmatic Agreement
PCB	polychlorinated biphenyls
PRG	Peer Review Group
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SI	Smithsonian Institution
SIA	Society for Industrial Archaeology
SOI	Secretary of the Interior
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act