

**Historic Preservation Consultation Meeting  
Nuclear Ship *SAVANNAH* National Historic Landmark  
January 21, 2025, 2:30-4pm EDT  
(Hybrid on-board NS *Savannah* and MS Teams)**

**Participants:**

- Erhard W. Koehler, Manager, N.S. *Savannah* Programs, MARAD
- Jed Porter, Architect, NPS Region 1, North Atlantic - Appalachian
- Bob Adams, President, NSSA
- Anne Jennings, Cultural Resource Specialist, Tidewater, Inc.
- Ed Tupin, Health Physics Society
- Dan O'Rourke, ANL
- Paul Johnston, Curator of Maritime History, SI
- Anna Holloway, Supervisory Historian, MARAD
- Tanya Hood, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, NRC
- Betsy Merritt, Deputy General Counsel, National Trust
- Jean Trefethen, Environmental Program Manager, NMSS, NRC
- Wendy Coble, Historian and Acting FPO, MARAD
- Cathy Green President and Executive Director, NMHS
- Curt Junker
- Ricardo Schiappasse (joined late)
- James Stemm, Curator, National Museum of Nuclear Science and History
- Barbara Voulgaris, SDC
- Cathy Green, President & Executive Director, National Maritime Historical Society
- Ed Tupin, HPS

See Acronym List at the end of the document

**Agenda:**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes Review (November 19, 2024)
- III. Program Update
- IV. Status of PA Stipulations
- V. Other Business / Adjourn
- VI. Next Meeting: March 18, 2025

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Erhard opened the meeting and noted that because Betsy and Paul need to leave early, we would do quick introductions. He asked Curt Junker, who was joining us for the first time to introduce himself. Curt's background is as a ship officer, architect, and preservationist, and he is part of an effort to bring a SL-7 (Fast Sealift Ship), to Baltimore (potentially Port Covington) to serve as a community/expo center and museum, potentially as part of a coalition of ships, including *Savannah*. After he introduced himself, Erhard introduced those on the ship (Anna, Anne, Barbara, and Bob) and those online (Wendy, James, Jean, Paul, Jed, Betsey, Cathy, Dan, and Ed).

## **Minutes Review**

The November 19<sup>th</sup> minutes were shared via e-mail and no comments were received.

## **Program Update**

Erhard noted that Phase II of the decommissioning is complete, and we are close to completion of the final status surveys. It is anticipated that the surveys will be sent to the NRC in March. Erhard also indicated that we are waiting for NRC approval on the LTP, which is anticipated January 24<sup>th</sup>. Erhard mentioned that he recently presented at the NRC about decommissioning lessons learned and enjoyed the NRC's displays of *Savannah* memorabilia, noting that the NRC takes great pride in its association with the ship.

Erhard indicated that the city of Savannah began monthly meetings in January to discuss bringing the ship to the city. They have invited us to attend to answer questions, and we anticipate attending their January meeting. Hudson county in New Jersey remains interested. We continue to do outreach to Wilmington and Tampa, but these have less traction than the others. Erhard also discussed Baltimore as a possibility – either in conjunction with the SL-7 Curt mentioned or at another location.

Erhard mentioned that we have been submitting proposals for conferences and will be presenting at the Preserving the Recent Past 4 conference in Boston this March, at the New Jersey Historic Preservation conference in June, and at CAMM in April. We have also submitted proposals for the Society for Industrial Archaeology and the National Trust's Past Forward conference and will be submitting for the Society for History in the Federal Government. Cathy Green mentioned the National Maritime Heritage Conference this fall, which is also partnering with Historic Naval Ships Association, and Erhard indicated that we plan to submit a proposal for that as well. Paul noted that there is a North American Society for Oceanic History conference in Natchez in May and he provided the information for this in the Teams chat.

Anna provided an update on the Collections Management Policy, noting that it is nearing its final internal review, and that Barbara is working on the Architectural Salvage Plan, which will be an addendum to the policy. Barbara is also working on the photo survey which is also close to completion.

Erhard provided an update on the Disposition Study, which is still under internal review, and he has a meeting on Thursday at MARAD to discuss it. There are some issues with posting the study on the public-facing website, and he hopes to clear this up at the meeting and have it in the PRG's hands by the next meeting. He did note that this may put constraints on the timelines for the Disposition Plan and the RFP, and if we need to revise the timelines, we will reach out to the group to let them know.

Erhard also discussed the upcoming meeting and site visit schedule, noting that Anne had sent out the FRN announcing the PRG meeting schedule as well as the schedule for site visits in an email last December. Betsy asked when this was received, and it was suggested that the link to the FRN be provided in the minutes (see link under action items).

Curt asked how far along the city of Savannah is in their efforts, and Erhard noted that he is trying to not be too involved, as he doesn't want to influence any outcomes, and indicated he can provide him with the person who is organizing that efforts contact info.

Erhard noted that we continue to look for appropriate publications and are working with the National Trust to potentially feature *Savannah* in *Preservation* magazine and we expect to have articles in *Sea History* and *Sea Classics* in the near future. For *Sea History*, Erhard noted we received editorial guidelines and expect to do the maximum feature article, and Cathy requested we send a brief overview (one paragraph) that she can share with the editor to figure out what issue it will work best in.

Ricardo joined the call late, and Erhard noted that he had attended a past site visit and asked about his affiliation and interest in the ship. Ricardo noted that he works at the Jacksonville Port and is interested in the ship. He had reached out to the board of the International Propeller Club of the US to discuss the ship. Erhard said he would be happy to do a virtual presentation about the ship, and Anne will connect with Riccardo to try to arrange this.

Ed noted that HPS has a newsletter and journal and the conference this year will be in Madison, WI. Ed said he would send Anne information about the publications and will also look into the conference.

Finally, Erhard noted that he was sorry to miss Jed and other NPS folks who visited the ship in December, and hoped they enjoyed it, and Jed indicated that they did.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 3:30PM EST.

#### **Action Items:**

- Anne to send meeting minutes
- Ed to send info on HPS publications and conference
- Anne to coordinate with Riccardo
- Everyone: please continue to think of ideas for outreach (conferences, publications, etc.)
- December 13<sup>th</sup> Federal Register Notice: [Federal Register :: Decommissioning and Disposition of the National Historic Landmark Nuclear Ship Savannah; Notice of Public Meeting and Site Visit Schedule](#)

#### **Acronyms:**

A CHP	Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
ADAMS	Agencywide Documents Access and Management System
ANL	Argonne National Lab (DOE)
ANS	American Nuclear Society
ASTC	Association of Science and Technology Centers
CAMM	Council of American Maritime Museums
CV	Containment Vessel

DOE	(US) Department of Energy
DOI	(US) Department of Interior
DOT	(US) Department of Transportation
ESC	Executive Steering Committee
EPA	Environmental Protection Agency
FPO	Federal Preservation Officer
FRN	Federal Register Notice
HNSA	Historic Naval Ships Association
HPS	Health Physics Society
LTP	License Termination Plan
MARAD	Maritime Administration (DOT)
MHT	Maryland Historical Trust
MOA	Memorandum of Agreement
NARA	National Archives and Record Administration
NMHS	National Maritime Historical Society
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
SSHSA	Steamship Historical Society of America
TSCA	Toxic Substances Control Act