

**Historic Preservation Consultation Meeting  
Nuclear Ship *SAVANNAH* National Historic Landmark  
May 20, 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
- Paul Johnston, Curator of Maritime History, SI
- Anna Holloway, Supervisory Historian, MARAD
- Tanya Hood, Project Manager, Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards, NRC
- Wendy Coble, Historian and Acting FPO, MARAD
- Cathy Green, President & Executive Director, National Maritime Historical Society
- Chris Daniel, Program Analyst, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation
- Liz Casso, Preservation Officer, Project Review and Compliance, Maryland Historical Trust
- Diana Diaz Toro, Project Manager, NRC
- Gail Marcus, ANS
- Curt Junker

See Acronym List at the end of the document

**Agenda:**

- I. Welcome and Introductions
- II. Minutes Review (March 18, 2025)
- III. Program Update
- IV. Status of PA Stipulations
- V. Other Business / Adjourn
- VI. Next Meeting: July 15, 2025

## **Welcome and Introductions**

Erhard opened the meeting and dispensed with introductions as there were no new members.

## **Minutes Review**

The March 18<sup>th</sup> minutes were shared via e-mail; no one had any comments.

## **Program Update**

Erhard noted that we had a successful Maritime Day over the weekend, with events on Saturday and Sunday. Bob and Ed and a team of gratuitous services providers worked hard in the CV, which had been modified with platforms and ladders. These were primarily intended for safe access for workers in the space, but as with all of the work done in support of decommissioning, it was also done with a secondary purpose in mind - to allow public access through the space. It is still a work in progress, but thanks to Bob and Ed, a full size cutaway of the reactor was installed, and this weekend marked the first public presentation of the space. At least 568 people boarded the ship, 360 people did the CV tour, and Erhard noted that there were no bad reviews.

Saturday afternoon was the NSSA members day, plus invited guests, and featured a presentation and dedication of the CV. On hand that day was the son of the president of NY Ship and the son of the first PM of the *Savannah* program, who held offices with AEC and MARAD. Since they were present, they cut the ribbon and were the first to enter the space.

On Sunday, Elizabeth Hughes presented the 2025 MHT award for outstanding stewardship. Erhard was very appreciative of her remarks and was grateful to receive the award.

Chris noted that the ACHP also has an award and will talk to Anne about it.

Diana noted that Jean is retiring this summer, and she will be taking over for her. Erhard reminded the group that Diana is no stranger to the project; she has been a reviewer of LTP among other things.

Erhard noted that there is a lot of transition in the agency right now and are awaiting confirmation of a new administrator. There is also an EO to restore American dominance in shipbuilding. We will need to brief new leadership on Savannah, but we have had support for the concept of preserving the ship so far.

Erhard mentioned there was an article about the ship in a Savannah-based journal, it focuses on the ship potentially going home and mentions the working group down there. Anne will send the article to the PRG.

Erhard recently had a productive call with the EPA Region III coordinator, who feels confident that a standard compliance agreement will work for TSCA, and was pleased with all the work done to date to remove PCBs from the ship. Though since she is retiring, there will be a new person to work with in the future.

## PA Stipulations

Anna discussed we are working on the architectural salvage plan, which is nearing completion, and will then need to be routed through MARAD before it goes to the PRG.

Erhard noted that Todd Criteau at NPS retired, and he was contacted by Jarob Ortiz about some of the photos. He provided Paul with his contact info ([jarob\\_ortiz@nps.gov](mailto:jarob_ortiz@nps.gov)).

Erhard discussed the Disposition Study, which will part of the briefing for the new administrator, and will be repackaging a 2022 memo with information about the disposition process and the PA. That will need to be reviewed before the study can be provided to the PRG.

Erhard also mentioned that he is the nuclear subject expert for the Center for Maritime Excellence and just had a meeting this morning. There are still opportunities for *Savannah* to continue to remain in the government, and public access could still be maintained in that scenario.

There are also a number of articles coming out – the ship will be featured in the summer issue of *Sea History* (though it could not be confirmed or denied if it would be on the cover). Anne noted the ship will also be included in *Preservation* magazine as one of a number of historic ships.

Erhard mentioned our upcoming conferences. Next week, he, Anna, and Barbara will present in DC at SHFG on May 29<sup>th</sup>, he and Anne will present in Buffalo at SIA on May 31<sup>st</sup>, and he and Anne will present in New Jersey on June 5<sup>th</sup>. He noted we will also be submitting a panel discussion for National Maritime Heritage in Buffalo in the fall. Cathy noted that NMHS recently absorbed National Maritime Alliance, who in the past put on the conference and did advocacy, so those roles now fall to them. Ed told us that he will be presenting at HPS in the summer. Erhard also thanked Ed and HPS for providing gratuitous service providers who screened visitors going into the CV this weekend.

The next meeting is July 15<sup>th</sup>.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:15pm.

## Action Items:

- Anne to send meeting minutes
- Anne and Chris to discuss ACHP award
- Everyone: please continue to think of ideas for outreach (conferences, publications, etc.)

## Acronyms:

ACHP	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
EO	Executive Order
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
NMD	National Maritime Day
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