

# MEMORANDUM

# State of Alaska

Department of Transportation & Public Facilities  
Statewide Design & Engineering Services Division

TO: Regional Directors

DATE: April 11, 2011

TELEPHONE: 465-6958

FAX: 465-2460

FROM: Roger Healy, P.E.  
Chief Engineer 

SUBJECT: CE Directive – Cultural  
Resources Team

The intent of the attached directive (April 6, 2011) is to implement regional delegation for completing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for federal-aid highway program undertakings under Section 6004(a) of the *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy of Users (SAFETEA-LU)* and establish a Cultural Resource Team (CRT) to promote consistency within the Department on Section 106 issues.

Every federally funded Department project must consider Section 106 in project development at some level. Depending on project characteristics, this consideration may be routine, or may involve multiple consultation steps, with identification and evaluation studies, findings of eligibility and effect, and development of mitigation. Under the 6004 delegation, only professionally qualified individuals (PQI) meeting the Secretary of the Interior's qualification standards, or others under their direct supervision, shall carry out these duties on behalf of the Department. The Department has gone to great efforts to hire and support PQI staff. The Department must utilize these resources as much as possible, and this directive confirms that commitment.

## Regional Delegation

As of the date of this correspondence, all three Regions have PQIs within their staff and have expressed interest in assuming the responsibilities outlined in Regional Delegation protocol. Therefore, as of this date, all Regions are approved by the Chief Engineer for Regional Delegation of Section 106 processing on the 6004 projects. If Regional Directors do not wish to accept regional delegation, please inform me in writing.

### **Cultural Resources Team**

To promote consistency, build on the Department's PQI's specific areas of expertise, share information and lessons learned, the Department is creating a Cultural Resources Team. The mission of the team is to:

- Promote the Department's compliance with the NHPA and other related cultural resource matters;
- Promote the streamlining of NHPA compliance through consistent communications, programmatic agreements, and successful performance;
- Utilize each PQI's area of expertise to the maximum benefit to the Department;
- Promote Department-wide consistency in NHPA interactions and communications with other state agencies, federal agencies, community historic groups, ANCSA corporations, and federally recognized Tribes; and
- Recommend to the Chief Engineer policy and process changes that would further the above purposes.

### **Members**

The CRT membership will be as follows:

- All Department personnel who meet the Secretary of the Interior's professional qualification standards, and Statewide Environmental staff who are actively engaged in Section 106 projects, process, or policy;
- Statewide Environmental Manager;
- Other Departmental staff recommended by the team and approved by the Chief Engineer.

### **Communications**

To ensure consistent communications among Regions, Headquarters, and outside agencies, the following is recommended:

- CRT staff will discuss projects, process, communications, etc. via teleconference frequently. CRT staff will invite other agencies or staff as appropriate;

- Annual (or other frequency selected by Statewide Environmental Manager) meeting. At this meeting, the following departmental positions will attend to facilitate discussion regarding the Section 106 process within the overall project delivery process of the Department;
  - A Regional Preconstruction Engineer or their designee;
  - A Regional Environmental Manager (REM) or their designee;
  - Chief Engineer or their designee;
  - Other state or governmental positions that the CRT approves for attendance.

The Department and Regions have taken great strides to hire very qualified staff to provide expertise to the Department's compliance with the NHPA in project delivery. I encourage your support of these personnel and the formation of this team to further expedite project delivery.

**Attachment:**

CE Directive – 106 Process Review and Signature Authority (April 6, 2011)

**Distribution:**

Gary Davis, P.E., Southeast Regional Director, MS 2506  
Rob Campbell, P.E., Central Regional Director, MS 2525  
Steve Titus, P.E., Northern Regional Director, MS 2550-07  
Benjamin White, Statewide Environmental Manager, MS 2500  
Kristine Benson, Environmental Program Specialist, Statewide, MS 2500  
Janet L Brown, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer, Northern Region, MS 2550-07  
Bruce Campbell, Regional Environmental Manager, Northern Region, MS 2550-07  
Charles Correa, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer, Southeast Region, MS 2506  
Lars Gregovich, P.E., Preconstruction Standards Engineer, Statewide, MS 2500  
Linda Heck, NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Statewide, MS 2550  
Kassandra Kim Rice, P.E., Preconstruction Engineer, Central Region, MS 2525  
Laurie Mulcahy, Environmental Program/Cultural Resources Manager, MS 2538  
Katherine Price, Cultural Resources Specialist, Environmental Statewide, MS 2550  
Amy Sumner, Environmental Program Specialist, Statewide, MS 2500  
Taylor Horne, NEPA Program Manager, Environmental Statewide MS 2550