

ATTACHMENT J53

Historic Buildings and Sites

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As per the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR 800, entitled *Protection of Historic Properties*, the federal government must take into account the effects of its actions on cultural and historic resources, including (but not limited to) historic buildings/structures and archaeological sites.

Fort Belvoir contains a 200-plus acre historic district in the core of the South Post area, in addition to four individually eligible historic properties outside the district. In the historic district, over 300 buildings and structures are considered historically significant, including a 1917 water tower, and several utility buildings for electric, water, and wastewater systems. Work in or adjacent to the historic district has the potential to adversely effect the viewshed of the district. Additionally, Fort Belvoir has over 300 known archaeological sites, which may be effected by excavation, new construction, or other ground disturbing activities.

Utilities privatization will be considered an undertaking as per the NHPA and 36 CFR 800. Therefore, all aspects of the process that have the potential to impact cultural and historic properties must be reviewed. As the privatization process will likely transfer ownership of historic properties outside of federal control, a Memorandum of Agreement or a Programmatic Agreement will be needed to fully consider and, as applicable, mitigate adverse effects to cultural resources. An MOA or PA will also outline the long term treatment and care of properties transferred and retained to the private firm.

Consideration of Cultural Resources must take place in the earliest phases of the planning process to ensure timely compliance with the NHPA and a smooth transition of the utilities systems to a private firm. Failure to properly coordinate Cultural Resource concerns can result in additional costs in the forms of increased commitments to mitigation and in project delays.

Sample list of items (NOT inclusive) of Cultural Resource Concern that May be Affected by Privatization:

Facility number 188: 1917 Water Tower (needs periodic maintenance and upkeep, painting, etc; is possible to be demolished, prior approval required)

Transformer/power structures buildings constructed prior to 1955

Lift stations constructed prior to 1955

Lighting fixtures within the historic district

Excavation post-wide (archaeological sites)

Excavation within historic district (archaeological sites and viewshed impacts)

Installation of new facilities within historic district/within viewshed of historic district