

Laura Dean

From: ATF
Sent: Thursday, January 18, 2007 1:10 PM
To: Laura Dean
Subject: FW: Policy Comments

From: James_Bird@nps.gov [mailto:James_Bird@nps.gov]
Sent: Thu 1/18/2007 12:17 PM
To: ATF
Subject: Policy Comments

Dr. Tom McCulloch:

I am submitting the following comments regarding the proposed final draft of the ACHP Archaeology Task Force "Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Burials Sites..." pursuant to the December 20, 2006 request from ACHP Executive Director, John M. Fowler.

The draft is concise and clearly makes an effort to provide guidance for federal agencies in coping effectively with such a sensitive subject. My comments focus on certain wording of principle 4.

I believe that initial phrase of paragraph two, sentence one should be removed... "As this policy advocates..." It does not seem to add any weight to the rest of the principle statement. In light of the effort to preamble the policy, I do not think the principle needs additional justification.

I think sentence two could give greater emphasis to tribal concerns about impacts to burials if the sentence were written slightly different, "When a Federal agency determines, based on consultation with Section 106 participants, that impact is unavoidable, the agency should..." .

I think principle 4 could be strengthened by considering that avoidance is always appropriate, though not always possible. Paragraph three, sentence one could be more direct with a few changes by replacing appropriate with possible, striking any, and it may take.

Thank you for the opportunity to add my thoughts, word-smithing and comments to the public record on this important task.

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