

## Laura Dean

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**From:** Archeol AP. Project  
**Sent:** Friday, November 04, 2005 3:34 PM  
**To:** Laura Dean  
**Subject:** FW: Comments on Working Principals

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**From:** Catrina Whitley [mailto:catrina\_whitley@prodigy.net]  
**Sent:** Fri 11/4/2005 2:04 PM  
**To:** Archeol AP. Project  
**Subject:** Comments on Working Principals

Comments on: Working Principles for Revising the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's "Policy Statement Regarding Treatment of Human Remains and Grave Goods"

To Whom It May Concern:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the new Working Principles. I agree with each of the principles, but would like the new policy to ensure it does not discriminate on how it treats each burial, whether based on the age of the graves or race of the individuals in the graves, and that the deceased relatives are consulted prior to excavation or relocation. The Nations' historic graves and cemeteries are being moved for development purposes, such as lakes. All too often, individuals placed in the ground in wood coffins are being moved via backhoe, without proper documentation or archaeological methods. As for my understanding, Section 106 was developed to ensure the protection of our history. By moving graves in this manner, without proper archaeological methods, documentation and analysis, our future generations are losing a very important aspect of the archaeological context of this Nations' history. Burial provide a large amount of information about a culture and the only direct evidence about the individuals living in that culture, and I ask that our historic graves and cemeteries be part of your consideration when drafting the new policy. I ask that the new policy requires that *all* graves being disinterred due to disturbance be properly excavated using archaeological methods, documented, and (if descendants allow) scientifically studied by trained osteologists/bioarchaeologists.

Principal 6: I ask that the task force to consider only allowing individuals trained in the removal of burials and analysis of human remains to excavate/exhume burials. While this may seem to place an undue burden on CRM firms, government agencies, etc., the expertise is invaluable and may shorten the amount of time needed for analysis (through in-field analysis), assessing cultural affiliation or group identity, and amount of time needed for removal. If analysis is to occur, it can also potentially prevent any *necessary* removal of human remains and funerary objects from the site.

Finally, I would like to make a plea with the task force to please keep in mind the important and very valuable information that can be learned from the scientific study of human remains and funerary objects. While I agree that the consent of the descendants for analysis is essential, please continue to keep the opportunity for scientific study an option.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate. I hope the revisions are profitable.

Catrina Whitley  
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