

Subject: Arecibo Observatory: November 2018 Update on Implementation of the Programmatic Agreement
Date: Wednesday, November 7, 2018 at 3:47:03 PM Eastern Standard Time
From: Blanco, Caroline M
To: gmortiz@prshpo.pr.gov, Berenice Sueiro
CC: Hamilton, Kristen, Pentecost, Elizabeth A., Price, Lori/TPA, Zender, Kira/ATL, jloichinger@achp.gov, John Eddins

Dear Berenice and Gloria,

I hope this finds you well. I haven't heard many details lately about the status of recovery efforts in Puerto Rico, but I am hopeful that things are moving in the right direction.

I am writing to provide you with an update on the implementation of our Programmatic Agreement for Arecibo Observatory (PA) in accordance with stipulation I.C.

(see https://www.nsf.gov/mps/ast/env_impact_reviews/arecibo/arecibo_section106.jsp for the executed PA and related materials, including our last update to you). As I mentioned in my last update, on April 1, 2018, the National Science Foundation (NSF) made an award to the University of Central Florida (UCF) to serve as the new managing organization of Arecibo Observatory. As I also mentioned in my last correspondence, NSF ultimately intends to transfer ownership of Arecibo Observatory to UCF; that transfer, however, has not yet taken place. As a result, and because NSF is still evaluating the feasibility of a transfer, we have been moving forward to implement those provisions of the PA that are applicable under both NSF ownership and a transfer scenario.

Pursuant to Stipulation I.A.3. of the PA (applicable in the event NSF retains ownership of Arecibo Observatory) and Stipulation I.B.1. (applicable if NSF transfers ownership of Arecibo Observatory), NSF conducted a survey of the National Astronomy and Ionosphere Center (NAIC) Historic District to evaluate the eligibility of any buildings or structures that were not previously surveyed during preparation of the 2008 National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) nomination. The survey was conducted last June by NSF's contractor CH2M HILL. NSF is currently reviewing the findings in the draft survey report and, once we have finalized our eligibility determinations, will provide you with a final report, along with any applicable requests for concurrence on eligibility. If we receive your concurrence on additional contributing resources, NSF will then prepare and submit, in consultation with you, an updated NRHP nomination form to include the previously not included eligible resources in the NAIC Historic District.

As you may recall, the last WHEREAS clause on page 5 of the PA noted that, "if provided supplemental appropriations for hurricane relief and if feasible, NSF intends to fund the repairs of the Arecibo Observatory to its pre-hurricane condition." As I reported last May, NSF received a supplemental appropriation for hurricane relief. Out of that supplemental appropriation, NSF made an award to Arecibo Observatory for \$2 million for hurricane relief. We anticipate receiving a proposal from UCF in January for the remaining \$12.3 million. If we receive that proposal, NSF would plan to review it in the February or March timeframe and, if warranted, issue an award in the springtime. Hurricane-related repairs to Arecibo Observatory have already begun.

We look forward to working with you on any necessary updates to the NRHP nomination. After that important step has been completed, we will be reaching out to your office, the ACHP, and UCF

to discuss historic preservation issues at Arecibo Observatory pursuant to the terms of the PA.

Thank you for your continued collaboration, and I will be back in touch with you soon.

All the best,

Caroline

Cc: Jaime Loichinger, Acting Assistant Director/Program Analyst, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

John Eddins, Program Analyst, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

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