

Appendix J



USFWS

Farmhouse on Bay Bay National Wildlife Refuge

National Historic Preservation Act Consultation



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

Department of Historic Resources

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April 12, 2010

Mr. Thomas Bonetti, Senior Refuge Planner
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service - National Wildlife Refuge System
300 Westgate Center Drive
Hadley, MA 01035

Re: *Back Bay National Wildlife Refuge Draft Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) and Environmental Assessment (EA)*
Virginia Beach, Virginia
DHR File No. 2010-0604; DEQ #10-054F

Dear Mr. Bonetti:

We have received for review the document referenced above. The CCP and EA recognize the presence of historic and prehistoric resources with the Back Bay NWR and the potential for significant submerged resources in the immediate vicinity. Although an archaeological assessment of the NWR was conducted in the 1980s, this effort did not include comprehensive survey nor does it consider the archaeological potential of newly-acquired property.

It is essential that the USFWS consider the conservation and management of cultural resources along with the other important resources within the NWR. Potential impacts to historic properties from the proposed headquarters, re-alignment of New Bridge Road, and other development must be carefully considered and assessed in consultation with our office. It should be noted that all activities of a type that could impact historic properties if present must be coordinated with our office as there is no agreement between our agencies excluding any undertakings from review. The CCP and EA recognize this responsibility and DHR concurs with the plan presented in Chapter 2, pp. 2-3 – 2-4.

Finally, given the presence of archaeological sites associated with the Native American occupation of the area, the USFWS has a responsibility to identify and consult any Indian tribes with an interest in the area. The Virginia Council on Indians should also be invited to review and comment on this document. We look forward to working with the USFWS in the preservation of Virginia's natural and cultural heritage. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at roger.kirchen@dhr.virginia.gov.

Sincerely,

Roger W. Kirchen, Archaeologist
Office of Review and Compliance

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