DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY
NAVAL SEA SYSTEMS COMMAND
1333 ISAAC HULL AVENUE
WASHINGTON NAVY YARD DC 20376

IN REPLY REFER TO
4520
Ser 333/049
April 12, 2012

Christine Whitacre
Program Manager
National Park Service
Intermountain Region
Heritage Partnerships Program
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225-0287

Dear Ms. Whitacre:

SUBJ: BATTLESHIP TEXAS DRY BERTH PROJECT

This letter acknowledges receipt of the American Battlefield Protection Program National Park Service written request, dated April 5, 2012, for consulting party status regarding Section 106 consultation for the Battleship Texas dry berth project. Please accept this letter as confirmation of your consulting party status.

The Department of the Navy (Navy), as the lead Federal agency, initiated the Section 106 process for the Battleship Texas dry berth project in March 2011 pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations codified in 36 C.F.R. Part 800. Since then, the Navy and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) hosted two consultation meetings. Consultation meetings typically last no longer than four (4) hours in duration and all will be hosted in the Houston, Texas area. The length of the Section 106 consultation process varies on a case by case basis; therefore, we are unable to state with certainty, the number of meetings that will be necessary to complete the process. However, we encourage consulting parties to participate throughout the entire consultation process.

The next consultation meeting is scheduled for June 6, 2012 from 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.CDT at the office of AECOM, 5757 Woodway, Suite 101 West, Houston, Texas 77057. Participation via teleconference will be available, and dial-in instructions will be provided in an email shortly before the meeting.

The primary focus of the next consultation meeting will be the presentation by TPWD of the latest information pertaining to the dry berth design Option 5. Further, consulting parties will have an opportunity to present additional alternatives. Consulting parties should submit proposals for alternatives to

the TPWD no later than May 31, 2012. All proposed alternatives must, at a minimum, meet the preliminary evaluation criteria listed on the project website at www.dryberthtexas.com and additional requirements for donated ships listed on the Naval Sea Systems Command Inactive Ships Program website at www.navsea.navy.mil/teamships/Inactiveships/Donation/applicationinfo.aspx. Proposals should be submitted in an electronic format to consultingparties@dryberthtexas.com. Prior to the meeting, TPWD will post all proposals to an ftp website and send a reminder email with download instructions to consulting parties by the close of business on June 1, 2012, thereby allowing all consulting parties the opportunity to review the information prior to the June 6 meeting.

If you have additional questions, please contact Michael Strutt, Director of Cultural Resources for the TPWD at (512) 389-4736 or consultingparties@dryberthtexas.com; or Jim Poles, Environmental Project Manager for the Navy at (202) 781-0149 or james.poles@navy.mil.

Sincerely,

C. R. Pietras
CAPT USN
Program Manager
Navy Inactive Ships
Program (PMS333)