



ATOMIC HERITAGE FOUNDATION

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NPS Denver Service Center
Attn: Tracy Atkins. Project Manager
Manhattan Project National Historical Park
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, CO 80225-0287

Dear Tracy:

Congratulations on producing an excellent draft Memorandum of Agreement (“Agreement”) concerning the roles of the Departments of Interior and Energy in administering the Manhattan Project National Historical Park. The Agreement provides a good framework for the management and interpretation of the facilities and areas included in the park.

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to the interpretation of the Manhattan Project and its legacy, we look forward to working collaboratively with the National Park Service and the Department of Energy on the interpretation of the new park.

We understand that the National Park Service had a one-year deadline for the Agreement and thus cannot address every aspect of the park’s administration. One question not clarified is when facilities not administered by DOE might become part of the park and how they will be treated in the interim. For example, the boundary map defining the park does not include the community’s facilities within the Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory National Historic Landmark District (e.g., Bathtub Row and Fuller Lodge). How will the National Park Service treat properties not yet officially a part of the park?

We also understand the need to defer to the Department of Energy over national security concerns. However, in recent years the policies governing public access have become increasingly restrictive, especially at the Los Alamos National Laboratory. To allow greater public access to the Manhattan Project sites, we urge that the DOE consider adjusting policies, practices and even security boundaries to be more accommodating.

The draft Agreement reflects the legislative intent and seems to be a workable framework. The Atomic Heritage Foundation looks forward to working with you and others at the National Park Service and the Department of Energy as the new park unfolds.

Sincerely,

Cynthia C. Kelly
President