

NOTE: EPA proposes the text in this Appendix as part of the Proposed 2026 MSGP.

## Proposed Appendix F - Procedures Relating to Historic Properties Preservation

### F.1 Background

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) requires federal agencies to take into account the effects of federal “undertakings” on historic properties that are either listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. To address any issues relating to historic properties in connection with the issuance of this permit, EPA has developed the screening process in this appendix that enables facility operators to appropriately consider the potential impacts, if any, from the installation of stormwater controls that involve subsurface disturbance, on historic properties and to determine whether actions can be taken, if applicable, to mitigate any such impacts. Although the coverages of individual industrial facilities under this permit do not constitute separate federal undertakings, the screening process in this appendix provides an appropriate site-specific means of addressing historic property issues in connection with EPA’s issuance of the permit.

Before an operator is eligible for coverage under the 2026 MSGP (unless otherwise noted, all references to “eligible” or “eligibility” refer only to coverage under the 2026 MSGP), the operator must meet one of the certification criteria related to historic properties included in the permit. In the event an operator cannot meet any of the certification criteria included in the permit relating to historic properties, the operator must apply for an individual permit.

Per Part 1.1.5, you must meet one or more of the four criteria (A-D) to be eligible for coverage under this permit.

#### Key Terms

**Historic Property** – Prehistoric or historic districts, sites, buildings, structures, or objects that are included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, including artifacts, records, and remains that are related to and located within such properties.

**ACHP – Advisory Council on Historic Preservation**; an independent federal agency.

**SHPO** – The State Historic Preservation Officer for a particular state.

**THPO or Authorized Tribal Representative** – The Tribal Historic Preservation Officer for a particular Tribe, or if there is no THPO, the representative designated by such Tribe for NHPA purposes. Historic properties could have significance to more than one Indian Tribe; therefore, all Indian Tribes that attach religious and cultural significance to a historic property must be identified and included in the historic properties screening process.

**Area of Potential Effects (APE)** – The geographic area or areas within which an undertaking may directly or indirectly cause changes in the character or use of historic properties, if any such properties exist. The area of potential effects is influenced by the scale and nature of an undertaking and may be different for different kinds of effects caused by the undertaking.

### F.2 Activities with No Potential to Have an Effect on Historic Properties

A determination that a federal undertaking has no potential to have an effect on historic properties fulfills an agency’s obligations under the NHPA. EPA has reason to believe that the vast majority of activities authorized under the MSGP have no potential to have effects on historic properties. The purpose of this permit is to control pollutants that may be transported in stormwater runoff from industrial facilities. EPA does not anticipate effects on historic properties from the pollutants in the stormwater and allowable non-stormwater discharges from these industrial facilities. Thus, to the extent EPA’s issuance of this general permit authorizes discharges of such constituents, confined to existing stormwater channels or natural drainage areas; the permitting action does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties.

In addition, the overwhelming majority of sources covered under this permit will be facilities that are seeking renewal of previous permit coverage. These existing dischargers should have already addressed historic properties issues in the 2021 MSGP as they were required to certify

that they were either not affecting historic properties or they had obtained written agreement from the applicable State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) regarding methods of mitigating potential impacts. Both existing and new dischargers must follow the historic property screening procedures to determine their eligibility. Therefore, to the extent this permit authorizes renewal of prior coverage without relevant changes in operations, it has no potential to have an effect on historic properties.

### **F.3 Activities with Potential to Have an Effect on Historic Properties**

EPA believes this permit may have some potential to have an effect on historic properties where permittees construct and/or install stormwater control measures that involve subsurface disturbance and impact less than one (1) acre of land to comply with this permit. (With the exception of operators in Sectors G, H, and J, ground disturbances of one (1) acre or more require coverage under a different permit, the Construction General Permit.) Where you have to disturb the land through the construction and/or installation of control measures, there is a possibility that artifacts, records, or remains associated with historic properties could be impacted. Therefore, if you are establishing new or altering existing control measures to manage your stormwater that will involve subsurface ground disturbance of less than one (1) acre, you will need to ensure (1) that historic properties will not be impacted by your activities or (2) that you have consulted with the appropriate SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative regarding measures that would mitigate or prevent any adverse effects on historic properties.

#### **Examples of Control Measures Which Involve Subsurface Disturbance**

EPA reviewed typical control measures currently employed to determine which practices involve some level of earth disturbance. The types of control measures that are presumptively expected to cause subsurface ground disturbance include:

- Dikes
- Berms
- Catch Basins
- Ponds
- Ditches
- Trenches
- Culverts
- Land manipulation: contouring, sloping, and grading
- Channels
- Perimeter Drains
- Swales

EPA cautions dischargers that this list is non-inclusive. Other control measures that involve earth disturbing activities that are not on this list must also be examined for the potential to affect historic properties.

### **F.4 Historic Property Screening Process**

You should follow the following screening process in order to certify your compliance with historic property eligibility requirements under this permit (see Part 1.1.5). The following four steps

describe how applicants can meet the permit eligibility criteria for protection of historic properties under this permit:

**Step One: Are you an existing facility that is resubmitting for certification under the 2026 MSGP?**

If you are an existing facility you should have already addressed historic property issues. To gain coverage under the 2021 MSGP, you were required to certify that you were either not affecting historic properties or had obtained written agreement from the relevant SHPO or THPO regarding methods of mitigating potential impacts. As long as you are not constructing or installing any new stormwater control measures then you have met eligibility Criterion A of the MSGP. After you submit your NOI, there is a 30-day waiting period during which the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may review your NOI. The SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may request that EPA delay authorization based on concerns about potential adverse impacts to historic properties. EPA will evaluate any such request and notify you if any additional measures to address adverse impacts to historic properties are necessary.

If you are an existing facility and will construct or install stormwater control measures that will disturb less than one (1) acre, then you should proceed to Step Three. (Note: Stormwater discharges from your facility associated with construction activity disturbing one acre or more, or that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb one acre or more, are not covered under the 2026 MSGP unless in conjunction with mining activities as specified in Sectors G, H, and J of this permit. Construction activities disturbing one (1) acre or more are not eligible for coverage under this permit and may seek separate coverage under the Construction General Permit (CGP).)

If you are a new facility then you should proceed to Step Two.

**Step Two: Are you constructing or installing any stormwater control measures that require subsurface disturbance, and that disturbance will be less than one (1) acre?** (Note: Stormwater discharges from your facility associated with construction activity disturbing one acre or more, or that are part of a larger common plan of development or sale if the larger common plan will ultimately disturb one acre or more, are not covered under the 2026 MSGP unless in conjunction with mining activities as specified in Sectors G, H, and J of this permit. Construction activities disturbing one (1) acre or more are not eligible for coverage under this permit and may seek separate coverage under the Construction General Permit (CGP)).

If, as part of your coverage under this permit, you are not building or installing control measures on your site that cause less than one (1) acre of subsurface disturbance, then your discharge-related activities do not have the potential to have an effect on historic properties. You have no further obligations relating to historic properties. You have met eligibility Criterion A of the MSGP. After you submit your NOI, there is a 30-day waiting period during which the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may review your NOI. The SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may request that EPA delay authorization based on concerns about potential adverse impacts to historic properties. EPA will evaluate any such request and notify you if any additional measures to address adverse impacts to historic properties are necessary.

If the answer to the Step Two question is yes, then you should proceed to Step Three.

**Step Three: Have prior earth disturbances determined that historic properties do not exist, or have prior disturbances precluded the existence of historic properties?**

If previous construction either revealed the absence of historic properties or prior disturbances preclude the existence of historic properties, then you have no further obligations relating to historic properties. You have met eligibility Criterion B of the MSGP. After you submit your NOI,

there is a 30-day waiting period during which the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may review your NOI. The SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may request that EPA delay authorization based on concerns about potential adverse impacts to historic properties. EPA will evaluate any such request and notify you if any additional measures to address adverse impacts to historic properties are necessary.

If the answer to the Step Three question is no, then you should proceed to Step Four.

**Step Four: Contact the appropriate historic preservation authorities.**

Where you are building and/or installing control measures affecting less than one (1) acre of land to control stormwater or authorized non-stormwater discharges associated with this permit, and the answer to Step Three is no, then you should contact the relevant SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative to determine the likelihood that artifacts, records, or remains are potentially present on your site. This may involve examining local records to determine if historic artifacts have been found in nearby areas, as well as limited surface and subsurface examination carried out by qualified professionals.

If through this process it is determined that such historic properties potentially exist and may be impacted by your construction or installation of control measures, you should contact the relevant SHPO, THPO, or Tribal representative in writing and request to discuss mitigation or prevention of any adverse effects. The letter should describe your facility, the nature and location of subsurface disturbance activities that are contemplated, any known or suspected historic properties in the area, and any anticipated effects on such properties. The letter should state that if the SHPO, THPO, or Tribal representative does not respond within 30 days of receiving your letter, you may submit your NOI without further consultation. EPA encourages applicants to contact the appropriate authorities as soon as possible in the event of a potential adverse effect to an historic property.

If the SHPO, THPO, or Tribal representative sent you a response within 30 days of receiving your letter and you enter into, and comply with, a written agreement with the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative regarding how to address any adverse impacts on historic properties, you have met eligibility Criterion C. In this case, you should retain a copy of the written agreement consistent with Part 6.2.6.2 of the MSGP. After you submit your NOI, there is a 30-day waiting period during which the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may review your NOI. The SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may request that EPA delay authorization based on concerns about potential adverse impacts to historic properties. However, EPA would generally accept any written agreement as fully addressing such concerns unless new information was brought to the Agency's attention that was not considered in your previous discussions with the SHPO, THPO or other Tribal representative.

If you receive a response within 30 days after the SHPO, THPO, or Tribal representative received your letter and you consult with the SHPO, THPO or Tribal representative regarding adverse impacts to historic properties and measures to mitigate them but an agreement cannot be reached between you and the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative, you have still met the eligibility for Criterion C. In this case you should include in your SWPPP a brief description of potential effects to historic properties, the consultation process, any measures you will adopt to address the potential adverse impacts, and any significant remaining disagreements between you and the SHPO, THPO or other Tribal representative. After you submit your NOI, there is a 30-day waiting period during which the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may review your NOI. The SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may request that EPA delay authorization based on concerns about potential adverse impacts to historic properties. EPA will evaluate any

such request and notify you if any additional measures to address adverse impacts to historic properties are necessary.

If you have contacted the SHPO, THPO, or Tribal representative in writing regarding your potential to have an effect on historic properties and the SHPO, THPO, or Tribal representative did not respond within 30 days of receiving your letter, you have met eligibility Criterion D. You are advised to get a receipt from the post office or other carrier confirming the date on which your letter was received. In this case, you should submit a copy of your letter notifying the SHPO, THPO or Tribal representative of potential impacts with your NOI. After you submit your NOI, there is a 30-day waiting period during which the SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may review your NOI. The SHPO, THPO, or other Tribal representative may request that EPA delay authorization based on concerns about potential adverse impacts to historic properties. EPA will evaluate any such request and notify you if any additional measures to address adverse impacts to historic properties are necessary.

Addresses for State Historic Preservation Officers and Tribal Historic Preservation Officers may be found on the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation's website (<https://ncshpo.org/directory/>). In instances where a Tribe does not have a Tribal Historic Preservation Officer, you should contact the appropriate Tribal government office when responding to this permit eligibility condition.

For more information about your State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) or Tribal Historic Preservation Office (THPO), please visit the National Park Service (NPS) websites at:

**SHPO:** <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nationalregister/state-historic-preservation-offices.htm>

**THPO:** <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/historicpreservationfund/tribal-historic-preservation-office-program.htm>  
[https://grantsdev.cr.nps.gov/THPO\\_Review/index.cfm](https://grantsdev.cr.nps.gov/THPO_Review/index.cfm)