

Appendix A: Guidance for NHPA Section 106 Compliance in Massachusetts

1. Purpose & Applicability

Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended (NHPA) (54 U.S.C § 306108), requires Federal agencies to take into account the effects of their undertakings on Historic Properties and afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation a reasonable opportunity to comment on such undertakings. Therefore, in order for an activity to be eligible for authorization under the 2023 Massachusetts General Permit, the USACE must consider the effect the activity may have on historic properties. Historic properties may include, but are not limited to, historic districts, archaeological districts, sites, buildings, structures, objects, sacred sites, traditional cultural places, and traditional cultural landscapes that are included in, or eligible for inclusion in, the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP).

This guidance applies to projects that require authorization under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1344) and/or Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act (33 U.S.C. §403) and will assist applicants when evaluating and documenting the presence of historic properties within or near their project site(s). The prospective applicant will evaluate their proposed project using the criteria below to determine if their project has the potential to affect historic properties and if so, whether or not historic properties are present or are likely to be present. All activities authorized under these GPs shall follow the terms outlined in General Condition 14: Historic Properties and General Condition 6: Tribal Rights & Burial Sites. Prospective applicants shall complete their due diligence according to the procedures below for their application to be deemed complete.

2. No Potential to Affect Historic Properties

Certain activities do not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present, based on the nature of the activity and site-specific conditions. Therefore, these activities **do not** require historic property identification efforts or notification of the SHPO, THPOs, and/or BUAR under Section 106. The USACE has determined the following activities within the stated parameters have no potential to affect historic properties:

General Permit	Activity Parameters
1	Temporary buoys, markers and similar structures that are placed during winter events on ice and removed before spring thaw.
2	Repair or rehabilitation of structures that are less than 45 years in age. Any temporary structures or fills or work necessary to complete repairs or rehabilitation must not result in any ground disturbance.
3	Maintenance and replacement of moorings that are less than 45 years in age.
6	Maintenance, repair, replacement, or removal of utility lines, oil or natural gas pipelines, outfall or intake structures, and/or appurtenant features that are less than 45 years in age when all access, staging, and ground disturbance is strictly limited to previously disturbed areas (including any previous ground disturbance). Replacement must be in kind or smaller in size. Installation of tide gates on outfall structures that are less than 45 years in age.
7	Maintenance dredging of previously dredged areas where dredging does not extend beyond the original bottom elevations.

	Disposal of dredged material at an existing established and USACE-approved confined aquatic disposal cell. Beach nourishment in ongoing existing nourishment areas.
11	Fish and wildlife harvesting and attraction devices and activities.
13	Cleanup of hazardous and toxic waste materials, including contaminated sediments, that are less than 45 years in age.
16	Removal of land-based and water-based renewable energy generation facilities and hydropower projects that are less than 45 years in age.
18	Installation of buoys, floats, racks, trays, nets, lines, tubes, containers, and other structures for previously authorized by the USACE and ongoing aquaculture activities. Discharges of dredged or fill material into tidal or non-tidal waters necessary for shellfish seeding, rearing, cultivating, transplanting, and harvesting activities for previously authorized and ongoing aquaculture activities.
20	Maintenance activities for existing living shorelines <u>excluding</u> maintenance activities that require new ground disturbance such as excavation or re-sloping of the bank/shoreline.
22	Reshaping or maintenance of existing drainage ditches less than 45 years in age <u>excluding</u> ditch enlargement.
23	Placement of temporary and removable linear transportation and wetland/stream crossings that have no ground disturbance prior to placement, during placement, and during removal (i.e., placed on the surface and subsequently removed within one year of placement).
24	Placement of temporary and removable crossings and cofferdams that have no ground disturbance prior to placement, during placement, and during removal (i.e., placed on the surface and subsequently removed within one year of placement).
25	Emergency repair of existing structures and/or fills less than 45 years in age.

3. Historic Property Identification

If the activity does not fit under the criteria above, the following historic property identification efforts must be completed to demonstrate compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. This includes documenting previously identified and unidentified historic properties in the project area.

a. Previously Identified Historic Properties: The prospective applicant shall document if previously identified historic properties are present on or adjacent to the project site by notifying the Massachusetts Historical Commission (MHC) and the Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR), as appropriate, of the proposed project. The MHC and BUAR will check their records for the presence of any previously identified historic properties. The following outlines how prospective applicants should notify the MHC and BUAR.

i. The prospective applicant will notify the SHPO and BUAR to identify any previously recorded cultural resources. Applicants shall mail a completed Project Notification Form¹⁸, project narrative, location (coordinates), plans, soil maps, and information on known cultural resources to the MHC. The MHC does not accept submissions via email. Applicants shall email or mail this information to the BUAR when the activity is located in lakes, ponds, rivers, and/or navigable waters in MA. Emailed file attachments should be <10MB. Any files >10MB shall be delivered via a file exchange system or the hard copy documents shall be mailed. Preferred contact information is listed below.

ii. **When sending this information, applicants must also document proof of receipt OR proof the information was delivered.** Proof of receipt constitutes a certified mail receipt, read email receipt, or other mail/email/online tracking services that document the information has reached the intended recipient(s). Proof the information was delivered constitutes a certificate of mailing, email delivery receipt, or other mail/email/online services that document the information was sent at a particular time. When using proof of delivery such (e.g., certificate of mailing), applicants should add 5 days to the 30-day notification period so the mail has time to reach its intended recipient. When using proof of receipt, the applicant may begin the 30-day notification period from the date received by the intended recipient.

iii. When mailing or emailing the application materials, applicants should include the following statement: “Please send responses to this notification directly to the USACE via email: cenae-r-ma@usace.army.mil or address regular mail responses to: Regulatory Division, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, New England District, 696 Virginia Road, Concord, Massachusetts 01742-2751.” Email responses to the USACE are strongly preferred. The SHPO and BUAR will contact the USACE and cc the applicant(s) within 30 days of receiving the notification if their records indicate that historic properties are located in the project vicinity, and if additional review and/or surveys are recommended to ensure NHPA compliance. If the SHPO and/or BUAR do not respond within 30 days of receiving the notification, it is presumed that no known historic properties are present.

b. Previously Unidentified Historic Properties: The prospective applicant shall evaluate the project site and determine the sensitivity for the presence of historic properties if the project site has not been previously surveyed for cultural resources within the last 10 years. If the sensitivity is determined to be moderate to high, an intensive archaeological and/or architectural survey is required to investigate the potential presence of historic properties. The individual conducting this survey must meet the Secretary of the Interior’s Standards for Professional Qualifications (48 FR 44738-44739) in the discipline relevant to a particular resource type. For example, archeologists should not document and evaluate buildings or structures and architectural historians should not document and evaluate archaeological sites. The identification and qualifications for those participating in any survey and evaluation of resources should be included with the survey results. The criteria listed below are indicators of low sensitivity for the presence of historic properties for consideration when determining if an archaeological or architectural survey is needed.

Low sensitivity indicators:

- Previous archaeological and/or architectural survey within the last 10 years with negative results.
- In a location created in modern times (i.e., built on fill placed within the last 45 years or within an area excavated within the last 45 years).
- USACE has reviewed the project description and determined that a survey is not warranted based on the proposed activity and its location.

State survey guidance and standards are provided in the September 1995 Historic Properties Survey Manual Guidelines for the Identification of Historical and Archaeological Resources in Massachusetts available. State survey guidance and standards for underwater surveys are provided

¹⁸ <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/mhc/mhcform/formidx.htm>

in the Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources' 2022 Policy Guidance on Archaeological Investigations and Related Survey Standards for the Discovery of Underwater Archaeological Resources. This guidance is available on the NAE Regulatory website: <https://www.nae.usace.army.mil/Missions/Regulatory/State-General-Permits/Massachusetts-General-Permit/>.

Please note, a negative result from MHC and/or BUAR does not necessarily mean no historic properties are present. Often proposed project sites have not been previously subject to a survey, so historic properties which may be present have not been previously recorded.

4. Tribal Coordination

Prospective applicants shall mail the Project Notification Form, project narrative, location (coordinates), plans with locus map, soil maps, and information on cultural resources to the Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah), Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe, Narragansett Indian Tribe, and/or Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians with interests in the project location. Preferred tribal contact information, including their respective areas of interest, can be found below. Applicants shall follow the same procedures as identified in Section 3(a)i-iii above when notifying Tribes of the proposed activity. Applicants shall provide the USACE with any responses received from the tribe(s) with their PCN application. If a tribe does not respond within 30 days of receiving the notification, the applicant shall provide USACE with all documentation of tribal outreach with their SV or PCN submission (e.g., emails, letters, phone call log, etc.). If the tribe indicates the presence of a previously unrecorded cultural resource, including a traditional cultural property (TCP) or traditional cultural landscape (TCL), a PCN is required.

5. Effect Determination

The project may have the potential to affect historic properties and/or tribal resources if 1) notification recipients respond within 30 calendar days of notification with concerns, 2) historic properties eligible for listing, or potentially eligible for listing in the NRHP, are present or 3) tribal resources are known to be present. The USACE may need to further review the project to confirm potential effects to historic properties and/or tribal resources. A PCN is required for any activity that may affect a historic property.

The USACE may determine the project will have 'no effect' on historic properties (i.e., no historic properties affected) when procedures outlined in Section 3 above are followed and no cultural resources are identified. Similarly, if historic properties are identified and will be completely avoided, the USACE may determine 'no effect.'

6. Contact Information:

Massachusetts Historical Commission

The Massachusetts Archives Building
220 Morrissey Boulevard
Boston, Massachusetts 02125

No email. Applicants or their representatives must send project information via certified mail and submit the certified mail receipt to the USACE or send via regular mail and submit proof of delivery.

Area of concern: All of Massachusetts.

Massachusetts Board of Underwater Archaeological Resources (BUAR)

100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, Massachusetts 02114
Email: david.s.robinson@mass.gov

Applicants or their representatives must send project information via email (***strongly preferred***) or regular mail and provide proof of receipt or proof of delivery.

Area of concern: All waterbodies in Massachusetts.

Wampanoag Tribe of Gay Head (Aquinnah)

Bettina Washington
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
20 Black Brook Road
Aquinnah, Massachusetts 02535
Email: thpo@wampanoagtribe-nsn.gov

Applicants or their representative must send project information via email (***preferred***) or regular mail and provide proof of receipt or proof of delivery.

Area of concern: All of Massachusetts.

Mashpee Wampanoag Tribe

ATTN: David Weeden
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
483 Great Neck Road South
Mashpee, Massachusetts 02649
Email: 106review@mwtribe-nsn.gov
Cc: David.weeden@mwtribe-nsn.gov

Applicants or their representative must send project information via email (***preferred***) or regular mail and provide proof of receipt or proof of delivery.

Area of concern: All of Massachusetts.

Narragansett Indian Tribe

ATTN: John Brown
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO)
Narragansett Indian Longhouse
4425 South County Trail
Charlestown, Rhode Island 02813
Email: tashtesook@aol.com

Applicants or their representative must send project information via email (***preferred***) or regular mail and provide proof of receipt or proof of delivery.

Area of concern: Massachusetts east of the Connecticut River.

Stockbridge-Munsee Community Band of Mohican Indians

ATTN: Jeff Bendremer
Tribal Historic Preservation Manager
Stockbridge-Munsee Community
Tribal Historic Preservation Extension office
86 Spring Street
Williamstown, Massachusetts 01267
Email: thpo@mohican-nsn.gov

Applicants or their representative must send project information via email (**preferred**) or regular mail and provide proof of receipt or proof of delivery.

Area of concern: West of the Connecticut River and Northfield, Montague, Miller's Falls, Turner's Falls, Sunderland, Amherst, Hadley, South Hadley, Chicopee, Springfield and Longmeadow.