



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

CONNECTICUT HISTORICAL COMMISSION

May 26, 1998

Mr. Joseph H. Hand
Attn: CESAM-PD
Corps of Engineers
109 St. Joseph Street
Mobile, AL 36602

Subject: Stratford Army Engine Plant
Stratford, CT

Dear Mr. Hand:

The State Historic Preservation Office has reviewed the *Draft Environmental Impact Statement for Disposal and Reuse of the Stratford Army Engine Plant, Stratford, Connecticut*, prepared by the Corps of Engineers Mobile District and Tetra Tech Inc. This office notes its extensive prior coordination with the U.S. Army Materiel Command concerning historic and archaeological resources located at the Stratford Army Engine Plant.

The State Historic Preservation Office notes that the *Draft EIS* includes the Memorandum of Agreement ratified by the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation concerning the Stratford Army Engine Plant. This office encourages the adaptive reuse of historic structures 2 and 16 and believes that the encumbered disposal alternative is consistent with the preservation covenant provisions of the Memorandum of Agreement. Furthermore, we note that the Connecticut Coastal Management Program requires coordination with our professional staff concerning the state's cultural resources pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Section 22a-90(1)(J).

In light of the Town of Stratford's adopted comprehensive reuse plan that incorporates demolition of Buildings 2 and 16, the State Historic Preservation Office strongly encourages the Corps of Engineers and the Town of Stratford to initiate coordinated consultation with our professional staff. In particular, the identification and implementation of suitable mitigative measures that would be consistent with the extant Memorandum of Agreement for the closure action at the Stratford Army Engine Plant need to be examined.

For further information please contact Dr. David A. Poirier, Staff Archaeologist.

Sincerely,

Dawn Maddox
Deputy State Historic
Preservation Officer

cc: CDEP/OLIS

Connecticut Historical Commission

- (1) Comment noted.
- (2) The Army has been requested to undertake its Coastal Zone Management Act compliance through coordination with the Department of Environmental Protection, Office of Long Island Sound Programs.
- (3) It is the Army's understanding that the Town of Stratford has reexamined a number of the original proposals presented in the comprehensive reuse plan and now has no immediate plans to demolish Buildings 2 and 16. Therefore, the Army believes that these two buildings will be adequately protected by the deed preservation covenants that will be applied in accordance with the Memorandum of Agreement concluded between the Army, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and the Connecticut Historical Commission before proceeding with the action.