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Governor

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Commissioner

New York State Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation

Historic Preservation Field Services • Peebles Island, PO Box 189, Waterford, New York 12188-0189

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January 5, 2010

Rachel Shatz
Empire State Development Corporation
633 Third Avenue
New York, NY 10017

Re: FRA/ESDC
James A. Farley Building
New York County
06PR02122

Dear Ms. Shatz:

Thank you for requesting the comments of the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) for the proposed rehabilitation of the Farley Post Office in Manhattan. We have continued to review the project in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966. These comments are those of the SHPO and relate only to the Historic/Cultural resources. They do not include other environmental impacts to New York State Parkland that may be involved in or near your project. Such impacts must be considered as part of the environmental review of the project pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and/or the State Environmental Quality Review Act (New York Environmental Conservation Law Article 8).

The SHPO has reviewed the conceptual design for the project included in your e-mails dated November 18, 2009. From our review it appears the project is progressing well. At this time we continue to not expect that any significant adverse effects would result from the proposed conceptual designs provided that designs are continued to be developed in consultation with our office. Given the magnitude of the proposed project, we further understand that a Programmatic Agreement (PA) is under development. This PA will provide the framework for the on-going consultation process. If adverse effects are encountered during the consultation process, the PA procedures would be followed to avoid and/or mitigate such effects.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. We look forward to on-going consultation on this project. If you have any questions, I can be reached at (518) 237-8643, ext. 3282. Please refer to the Project Review (PR) number in any future correspondences regarding this project.

Sincerely,

Beth A. Cumming
Historic Site Restoration Coordinator
e-mail: Beth.cumming@oprhp.state.ny.us

CC: Robin Stout – ESDC
Ruth Pierpont - OPRHP