



City of Portland
Historic Landmarks Commission

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Magalaie R. Salas, Secretary
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First St NE
Washington DC, 20426

June 30, 2003

Re: P-6957
Mount Tabor Reservoirs
Portland Oregon

Dear Ms Salas:

This letter is to inform you that the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission unanimously recommends against the currently proposed replacement of the open public water reservoirs on Portland's Mount Tabor with closed subterranean tanks, and work related to those efforts.

These reservoirs are inexorably entwined with the rich daily experience and memories held by generations of Portlanders. Furthermore, they are the major large-scale element defining Mount Tabor Park as a city-wide treasure. We are strongly concerned that the work can not be accomplished without permanently damaging these Historic Resources, thereby irreparably reducing their cultural value to Portland's community and to the nation.

The Portland Historic Landmarks Commission is understood by the Oregon State Historic Preservation Office as the vehicle of public involvement for the Section 106 process in Portland. In that capacity, we have held several public meetings regarding proposed work affecting these public water reservoirs on Mount Tabor. The City of Portland Bureau of Water briefed the Commission on plans for replacing the open reservoirs with closed subterranean holding tanks during those meetings. The vote on this recommendation was taken at our latest Public Meeting, held June 23, 2003.

We appreciate playing a part in the Section 106 process and in Portland's efforts toward preservation of our Historic Resources. Please do not hesitate to contact the Commission with questions or if we can be of further service.

Sincerely,

John Czarnecki, Chair
Portland Historic Landmarks Commission

Dan Volkmer, 2nd Vice-Chair

cc: Mayor Katz and City Commissioners
Cielo Lutino, Bureau of Planning
Christine Curran, SHPO Review and Compliance Specialist
Mary Ellen Collentine, Bureau of Water works
Janet Bebbe, Bureau of Parks
Jeff Joslin, Bureau of Development Services