

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed demolition of the 7-by-10-Foot High Speed Tunnel (Building 1212B) at NASA Langley Research Center

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center (LaRC)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. 4321 *et seq.*), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA's policy NPR 8580.1, "Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114," NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed demolition of the 7-by-10-Foot High Speed Tunnel (HST) (Building 1212B) at NASA LaRC in Hampton, Virginia. In 1994 NASA closed the 7-by-10-Foot HST because it was underutilized, and because comparable and superior wind tunnel capabilities existed at other locations. The tunnel is no longer needed to support the Agency's mission and has no foreseeable future use. NASA is proposing to demolish the facility in order to reduce NASA's infrastructure and allow LaRC to redirect resources toward mission critical infrastructure. Demolition of the facility is anticipated to begin in Fiscal Year (FY) 2007 and would involve removal of the tunnel circuit portion of the facility.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Roger Ferguson, NASA LaRC Environmental Management Team, MS 213, Hampton, VA 23681-2199, (757) 864-6912.

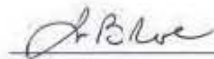
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the EA prepared for the proposed demolition project and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

The Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative were considered in the EA. Under the No-Action Alternative, NASA would not demolish the 7-by-10-Foot HST. The No-Action Alternative would not fulfill the need to reduce NASA's infrastructure and allow maintenance resources to be redirected toward mission critical infrastructure.

The EA addressed environmental impacts in the areas of Land Use; Noise; Cultural Resources; Hazardous, Regulated and Solid Waste; Health and Safety; Visual Resources; Air Quality; Water Resources; and Fish and Wildlife. In most of these resource areas the impact of the Proposed Action would be extremely minor and temporary. Adverse impacts to cultural resources would likely occur under the Proposed Action. NASA has determined that the 7-by-10-Foot HST is eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places, not individually, but as a contributing resource to a proposed historic district. In compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, NASA has consulted with the Virginia Department of

Historic Resources and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation regarding the proposed demolition of the facility. Pursuant to a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) between NASA and the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), NASA has prepared Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) documentation of the facility to mitigate the effects of the demolition. Additional mitigation measures specified in the MOA will also be carried out by NASA. As a result of the consultation and mitigation, the impacts to NASA's cultural resources would not be significant.

On the basis of the information provided in the EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with this project will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is not required.



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Lesa B. Roe  
Director, NASA Langley Research Center

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5/7/07  
Date