

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 94-LERC-02

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Addition to Building 49 - renamed the Composite Technology Center at the Lewis Research Center

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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 Procedures for Implementing NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the planned construction project for the Composite Technology Center (CTC) at the Lewis Research Center located in Cleveland, Cuyahoga County, Ohio. The CTC project includes both the renovation of the existing building (49) and an addition which will house related materials research activities currently performed elsewhere at the LeRC.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing no later than (30 days after the first date of publication in the local newspaper).

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Office of Environmental Programs, NASA Lewis Research Center, Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone 216-433-8852. The Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Building 49 Addition (Composite Technology Center) which supports this FONSI can be reviewed at:

NASA Lewis Research Center
Office of Environmental Programs, Building 6
(Contact Peter W. McCallum, 216-433-8852)

Berea Public Library, 7 Berea Commons
(Contact Mary Ellen Nichols, 216-234-5475)

Fairview Park Public Library, 4449 West 213th Street
(Contact Gary Claxton, 216-333-4700)

North Olmsted Public Library, 27425 Butternut Ridge Road
(Contact Donna Meyers, 216-777-6211)

Rockport Branch, Cleveland Public Library
4421 W. 140th Street
(Contact Eunice Peters, 216-623-7053)

NASA Headquarters Information Center
Room 1H23
Two Independence Square, S.W.
Washington, DC 20546
(Contact Kenneth Kumor, 202-358-1112)

A limited number of copies of the EA are available by contacting Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Office of Environmental Programs, at the address and/or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Office of Environmental Programs, NASA Lewis Research Center, Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone 216-433-8852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

NASA has independently reviewed the EA prepared concerning the proposed construction project for the Composite Technology Center 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 NASA Lewis Research Center is proposing a project which will completely renovate Building 49 and construct a two-story addition with basement. The complete facility, Building 49 and the addition, will be designated the Composite Technology Center. When the project is completed, the CTC will house all elements of the Structures Division in close proximity with those of the Materials Division thereby encouraging and enhancing joint research ventures.

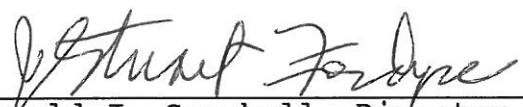
The proposed action includes upgrading existing electrical, plumbing and heating, ventilating and air conditioning systems, and removal of certain lead-bearing paint and asbestos containing materials. The complete renovation and construction of the two-story addition will consolidate in one building, several research and testing labs currently located in many different buildings and create modern laboratory space for new technology research. The proposed construction schedule will permit the critical materials characterization laboratories to remain in operation during most of the construction.

Two major alternatives to the proposed action were considered. First, the implication of not doing the work was examined. This alternative was judged to be significantly less desirable than the proposed action since it would result in continued degradation of Building 49, continued fragmentation of current and future materials research activities, and continued environmental, health and safety problems associated with overall research operations in Building 49 and elsewhere.

The second alternative considered involved a duplicate CTC Facility at an alternate site. That alternative presents environmental impacts similar to or greater than the proposed action, it was judged to be inferior since this alternative would do nothing to correct the problems associated with aging mechanical/electrical systems in Building 49. In addition, developing an alternate-site would be more expensive and is considered to have a greater impact on both the social and economic factors.

The proposed construction effort will generate some excavated material that must be disposed of according to EPA guidelines. The Building 49 renovation work includes asbestos abatement in accordance with federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration and Environmental Protection Agency regulations. There will also be a minor impact on local air quality due to dust generated by demolition, excavation, and painting, and a minor amount of construction noise will occur. NASA has determined that the proposed project will not affect long-term air or water quality, wetlands, cultural resources, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, or other flora or fauna. The facilities are not located in a floodplain. No other matters of potential environmental concern have been identified.

On the basis of the EA developed in connection with the Rehabilitation of the Rocket Engine Test Facility (Lewis Research Center) and underlying reference documents, 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 environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. NASA will take no final action or authorize construction activities prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.

for 

 Donald J. Campbell, Director
 Lewis Research Center

6/14/94

 Date

Concurrence:



 Billie J. McGarvey, Director
 Facilities Engineering Division
 NASA Headquarters

6/6/94

 Date