

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Demolition of the Aircraft Landing Dynamics Facility Complex 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 nine buildings and the test track associated with the Aircraft Landing Dynamics Facility (ALDF) Complex at NASA LaRC. The facility is abandoned and no longer operational, and NASA has determined it is no longer needed to support the Agency's current and future missions. The proposed action is intended to reduce the LaRC's infrastructure and allow LaRC to direct limited resources towards facilities that support NASA's overall mission, both currently and in the future. Demolition activities would begin in 2013 and would involve a "deconstruction" approach, whereby building materials and debris would be recycled to the maximum extent practicable. The project would reduce the footprint of LaRC facilities by approximately 8,086 square meters (87,045 square feet) and create additional green space at the Center.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Gainer, NASA LaRC Environmental Management Branch, MS 133, Hampton, VA 23681-2199, (757) 864-7762.

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 remove the facilities. The No-Action alternative would not fulfill the need to reduce NASA's infrastructure and allow operations and 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; Pollution Prevention and Environmental Management System, Health and Safety; Visual Resources; Air Quality; Water Resources; Wildlife Resources; and Vegetation. With the exception of Cultural Resources, the impact of the Proposed Action on the identified resource areas would be extremely minor and temporary. Implementation of the Proposed Action would impact LaRC's cultural resources since nine of

the ten facilities are eligible for listing in the National Register. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and the *Programmatic Agreement (Agreement) Among NASA, the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office, and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation for Management of Buildings, Infrastructure and Sites at NASA Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA*, NASA LaRC plans to minimize the impact to cultural resources by completing mitigation measures prescribed in the Agreement to include large format photography and a written history of the facility, salvage and display of architectural elements from the facility, and supplementing the publicly available LaRC Cultural Resources website (<http://crgis.ndc.nasa.gov/historic/Larc>) with information about the ALDF Complex to include scanned test videos and interviews with researchers who worked at the facility.

On the basis of the information provided in the EA, NASA LaRC 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 or natural environment. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is not required.

Original Signed by

Lesa B. Roe

Director, NASA Langley Research Center