

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE – LaRC EA031

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed demolition of fourteen buildings 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 NPG 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 fourteen buildings at NASA LaRC in Hampton, Virginia. NASA is proposing the demolition because the facilities are considered by NASA to be nonessential and are no longer required for the LaRC to conduct its daily operations. Additionally, NASA’s budget for facility maintenance has been significantly reduced over recent years. Twelve of the fourteen buildings were closed in the mid 1990’s. Demolishing the buildings would allow NASA to redirect funds presently being used for maintenance of these facilities to aid in maintenance of facilities considered to be essential to NASA’s mission.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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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.

NASA proposes to demolish fourteen buildings located at NASA LaRC in Hampton, Virginia. The buildings were determined “under utilized” and are not essential to the NASA LaRC mission. Twelve of the fourteen buildings were closed in the late 1990’s and the other two are pending closure. All but one of the buildings is less than fifty years old and all of the buildings are located on disturbed ground. The demolition would involve razing the buildings down to slab with minimal ground disturbance. Any asbestos or lead-based paint would be removed prior to demolition and disposed of in accordance with applicable environmental regulations. Some of the equipment, machinery and building materials may be salvaged or recycled and other demolition debris would be sent to a local landfill.

The Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative were considered in the EA. Under the No-Action Alternative, NASA would not demolish the buildings and they would remain closed and abandoned. NASA would continue to maintain the fire suppression system of each of the facilities.

The EA addressed the environmental impacts in the areas of Land Use, Noise, Cultural Resources, Hazardous Materials and Waste Management, Air Quality, Water Resources, Fish and Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species, and Wetlands. The environmental impacts of the Proposed Action and the No-Action Alternative on each these resources were deemed less than significant.

No other issues of environmental concern were identified.

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 Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), is not required.

Delma C. Freeman
Acting Director, NASA Langley Research Center

Date