

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE: National Environmental Policy Act; Environmental Assessment for the NASA Photovoltaic System at the Goddard Space Flight Center, White Sands Complex, New Mexico

AGENCY: NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) White Sands Complex (WSC)

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact

SUMMARY: Based upon the analyses and evaluations in the environmental assessment, it is concluded that an environmental impact statement is not required. NASA proposes to design and build a photovoltaic (PV) system that would generate renewable energy at the Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC) White Sands Complex (WSC) facility. This PV system would be comprised of a large array of standard fixed tilt solar panels and may eventually include energy storage options that would optimize energy management and overall long-term performance. NASA is planning three separate locations for these PV arrays around the perimeter of the facility that would be completed over several years. An energy storage capability using specialized battery systems would be considered at a later time to assist with effectively managing and distributing the power in an efficient manner. One reasonable alternative is considered, a no-action alternative.

DATE: June 10, 2020

ADDRESS: An electronic copy of the environmental assessment is available at: https://www.nasa.gov/centers/wstf/about_us/environmental_management/public_reading_room/nepa.html. A copy of the assessment can be mailed upon request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Timothy J. Davis
NASA Environmental Office Chief
NASA White Sands Test Facility
575.524.5024
Fax: 575.524.5798
Email: timothy.j.davis@nasa.gov

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: Cumulative impacts are those environmental impacts that result from the incremental effects of the proposed action. The installation of a PV system at the WSC would make minor contributions to the overall cumulative impacts at WSC. Waste generated during this project would be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, state, and federal regulations. Overall greenhouse gas air emissions associated with power use at the site would be beneficially reduced by using onsite renewable energy. Noise associated with construction activities would be temporary and localized to areas with existing human activity. Vehicle traffic associated with construction and maintenance activities would slightly increase but would not significantly increase traffic loads on the existing and future road network. Reducing materials or recycling materials whenever possible during the project would reduce the overall project cost and resources used. These minor effects, when offset by the

benefits of a renewable energy installation, do not represent any cumulative effects that would rise to a level of concern while constructing and operating this PV system.

SIGNATURE: _____

Robert M. Cort
Manager, White Sands Test Facility