

Significant issues which have been identified to be addressed in the EIS include but are not limited to impacts to water and air quality, surface and ground water resources, land use, prime and unique farmlands, public health, cultural and biological resources, threatened and endangered species, recreation, and environmental justice.

Accordingly, specific purposes were developed to focus water supply scenarios and to establish criteria to be used by decision-makers in judging the alternatives during the NEPA process. Project alternatives considered for the environmental impact studies should protect and maintain sustainability of the Mesilla aquifer, and extend the longevity of the Hueco aquifer by limiting ground water depletions and by implementing aquifer storage.

Project alternatives should provide year-round drinking water supply from the Rio Grande Project of sufficient quantity and quality to meet anticipated municipal needs. Alternatives considered in the NEPA process should meet year 2030 M&I needs of Hatch, Las Cruces, northern and southern Doña Ana County, Anthony/Canutillo area, northwest and northeast El Paso, and areas served by the Canal and expanded Jonathan Rogers Water Treatment Plants. They should also attempt to provide raw drinking water supply with total dissolved solids (TDS) less than 1,000 parts per million (ppm) and sulfates less than 300 ppm since water with higher quantities cannot be conventionally treated. Additionally, project alternatives should also protect and enhance riverine ecosystems, specifically aquatic and riparian habitats; and should facilitate the efficient conveyance of agricultural water and water conservation.

Coordination with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service will ensure compliance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act and section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended. Cultural resources reconnaissance for the project area will be coordinated with both the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer and the Texas State Historic Preservation Officer. Other federal and state agencies, as required, will also be consulted to ensure compliance with federal and state laws and regulations.

3. Scoping Process

The USIBWC and EPWU/PSB will conduct scoping meetings and workshops to obtain information on which to base alternatives to be analyzed in the NEPA process. The USIBWC is the federal lead agency in the NEPA process and development of

the EIS. The United States Bureau of Reclamation and United States Fish and Wildlife Service have indicated that they will participate as cooperating agencies pursuant to 40 CFR 1501.6, to the extent possible. Other federal and state agencies may also become cooperators as they are identified during the scoping process.

Three public scoping meetings and workshops for the proposed project will be conducted from 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. MDT on Wednesday, September 16, 1998 at the Gadsden Middle School Cafeteria, 1325 West Washington, Anthony, New Mexico; on Wednesday, September 23, 1998 at the Farm and Ranch Heritage Museum, 4100 Dripping Springs Road, Las Cruces, New Mexico; and on Thursday, September 24, 1998 at Jefferson High School Cafeteria, 4700 Alameda, El Paso, Texas. Comments are encouraged to be sent to the address given in this notice and will be accepted for 60-days following the date of this notice.

The environmental review of this project will be conducted in accordance with the requirements of NEPA, CEQ Regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500–1508), other appropriate federal regulations, and the USIBWC procedures for compliance with those regulations. Copies of the EIS will be transmitted to federal and state agencies and other interested parties for comments and will be filed with the Environmental Protection Agency in accordance with 40 CFR Parts 1500–1508 and USIBWC procedures.

The USIBWC anticipates the Draft EIS will be made available to the public by March, 2000.

Dated: August 20, 1998.

William A. Wilcox, Jr.,

Legal Advisor.

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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

[Notice (98–114)]

National Environmental Policy Act; Mars Surveyor 1998 Missions

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA).

ACTION: Finding of no significant impact (FONSI).

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (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 policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216 Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a FONSI with respect to the proposed Mars Surveyor 1998 missions, which would involve two flights to Mars. The baseline plan calls for each of the two spacecraft to be launched aboard a separate Delta II 7425 from Cape Canaveral Air Station (CCAS), Florida, between December 1998 and January 1999.

DATES: Comments on the FONSI must be provided in writing to NASA on or before October 5, 1998.

ADDRESSES: Comments in response to this FONSI should be addressed to Dr. William L. Piotrowski, NASA Headquarters, Code SD, 300 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20546. The Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Mars Surveyor 1998 missions which supports this FONSI may be reviewed at the following locations:

(a) NASA Headquarters, Library, room 1J20, 300 E Street, SW, Washington, DC 20546 (202–358–0167).

(b) NASA, Spaceport USA, Room 2001, John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899. Please call Lisa Fowler beforehand at 407–867–2497 so that arrangements can be made.

(c) Jet Propulsion Laboratory, Visitors Lobby, Building 249, 4800 Oak Grove Drive, Pasadena, CA 91109 (818–354–5179).

The EA may also be examined at the following NASA locations by contacting the pertinent Freedom of Information Act Office:

(d) NASA, Ames Research Center, Moffett Field, CA 94035 (650–604–4191).

(e) NASA, Dryden Flight Research Center, Edwards, CA 93523 (805–258–2663).

(f) NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center, Greenbelt, MD 20771 (301–286–0730).

(g) NASA, Johnson Space Center, Houston, TX 77058 (281–483–8612).

(h) NASA, Langley Research Center, Hampton, VA 23665 (757–864–2497).

(i) NASA, Lewis Research Center, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135 (216–433–2755).

(j) NASA, Marshall Space Flight Center, Huntsville, AL 35812 (256–544–5549).

(k) NASA, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529 (228–688–2164).

A limited number of copies of the EA are available, on a first request basis, by contacting Dr. William L. Piotrowski, at the address or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Dr. William L. Piotrowski, 202–358–0316.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the EA prepared for the Mars Surveyor 1998 missions and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is hereby incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

NASA is proposing to launch the Mars Surveyor 1998 missions, which would deliver a lander and an orbiter spacecraft to Mars. Current plans call for using two Delta II 7425 launch vehicles with a Star 48 upper stage to launch the two spacecraft onto Mars transfer trajectories in December 1998 and January 1999 respectively. The proposed mission design calls for the orbiter spacecraft to be placed into orbit at Mars in September 1999, and the lander spacecraft to be placed on Mars' surface in December 1999. During its mission, the orbiter would map the surface and atmosphere of Mars and serve as a communications relay for the lander mission. The lander would photograph and sample the surface of Mars near the south pole. Neither spacecraft nor the lander would carry radioactive material.

The primary scientific objectives of these missions are to search for evidence of past or present life, understand the climate and volatile history of Mars, and assess the nature and inventory of resources on Mars. These objectives are linked by the influence of water. The missions would map past and present potential water sources and the exchange between subsurface, surface and atmospheric media. While environmental impacts would be avoided by cancellation of the proposed mission, the loss of the scientific knowledge and database from carrying out the missions could be significant.

Of the reasonable launch vehicle alternatives, the Delta II 7425/Star 48 most closely matches the Mars Surveyor 1998 mission requirements, while minimizing adverse environmental impacts within the cost constraints of these missions.

Expected impacts to the human environment associated with the missions arise entirely from the normal launch of the Delta II 7425. Air emissions from the exhaust produced by the solid propellant graphite epoxy motors and liquid first stage primarily include carbon monoxide, hydrochloric acid, aluminum oxide in soluble and insoluble forms, carbon dioxide, and deluge water mixed with propellant by-products. Air impacts would be short-term and not substantial. Short-term water quality and noise impacts, as well

as short-term effects on wetlands, plants, and animals, would occur in the vicinity of the launch complex. These short-term impacts are of a nature to be self-correcting, and none of these effects would be substantial. There would be no impact on threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, cultural resources, or floodplains. Accident scenarios have also been addressed and indicate no potential for substantial impacts to the human environment.

The launch vehicles' second stage would be ignited at an altitude of 118 kilometers (74 miles), which is in the ionosphere. Although the second stage would achieve orbit, its orbital decay time would fall below the limit NASA has set for orbital debris consideration. After burning its propellant to depletion, the second stage would remain in low Earth orbit (LEO) until its orbit eventually decays. The second stage is designed to burn up as it reenters Earth's atmosphere. The Mars Surveyor 1998 Project has followed the NASA guidelines regarding orbital debris and minimizing the risk for uncontrolled reentry into the Earth's atmosphere. No other impacts of environmental concern have been identified.

The level and scope of environmental impacts associated with the launch of the Delta II 7425 vehicle are well within the envelope of impacts that have been addressed in previous FONSI's concerning other launch vehicles and spacecraft. No significant new circumstances or information relevant to environmental concerns associated with the launch vehicle has been identified which would affect the earlier findings.

On the basis of the Mars Surveyor 1998 EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the mission would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. NASA will take no final action prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.

Wesley T. Huntress, Jr.,

Associate Administrator for Space Science.

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NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION

Records Schedules; Availability and Request for Comments

AGENCY: National Archives and Records Administration, Office of Records Services—Washington, DC.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed records schedules; request for comments.

SUMMARY: The National Archives and Records Administration (NARA) publishes notice at least once monthly of certain Federal agency requests for records disposition authority (records schedules). Once approved by NARA, records schedules provide mandatory instructions on what happens to records when no longer needed for current Government business. They authorize the preservation of records of continuing value in the National Archives of the United States and the destruction, after a specified period, of records lacking administrative, legal, research, or other value. Notice is published for records schedules in which agencies propose to destroy records not previously authorized for disposal or reduce the retention period of records already authorized for disposal. NARA invites public comments on such records schedules, as required by 44 U.S.C. 3303a(a).

DATES: Requests for copies must be received in writing on or before October 19, 1998. Once the appraisal of the records is completed, NARA will send a copy of the schedule. NARA staff usually prepare appraisal memorandums that contain additional information concerning the records covered by a proposed schedule. These, too, may be requested and will be provided once the appraisal is completed. Requesters will be given 30 days to submit comments.

ADDRESSES: To request a copy of any records schedule identified in this notice, write to the Life Cycle Management Division (NWML), National Archives and Records Administration (NARA), 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Requests also may be transmitted by FAX to 301-713-6852 or by e-mail to records.mgt@arch2.nara.gov.

Requesters must cite the control number, which appears in parentheses after the name of the agency which submitted the schedule, and must provide a mailing address. Those who desire appraisal reports should so indicate in their request.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Michael L. Miller, Director, Modern Records Programs (NWM), National Archives and Records Administration, 8601 Adelphi Road, College Park, MD 20740-6001. Telephone: (301)713-7110. E-mail: records.mgt@arch2.nara.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Each year Federal agencies create billions of records on paper, film, magnetic tape,