

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 94-SSC-03

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Restoration of the Gaseous Nitrogen System at the High Pressure Gas Facility on the Stennis Space Center.

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

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 restoration of the gaseous nitrogen system located at Stennis Space Center. NASA is planning restoration of this facility to meet operational requirements of the Stennis Space Center Missions.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing within 30 days of (first date of publication).

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, Code GA00, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; Telephone (601) 688-7384. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for restoration of the gaseous nitrogen system that supports this FONSI may be reviewed at:

NASA Research Library, Building 1100, Stennis Space Center, MS

Hancock County Library, Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS

Margaret Reed Crosby Library, Picayune, MS

St. Tammany Parish Library, Slidell, LA

NASA Headquarters Information Center, Room 1H23, Two Independence Square, S.W., Washington, DC

A limited number of copies of the EA are available by contacting Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, at the address and/or telephone number indicated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, Code GAOO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; Telephone (601) 688-7384

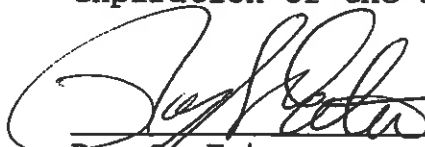
SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has determined that the Environmental Assessment for restoration of the gaseous nitrogen system at SSC represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

The mission at the Stennis Space Center is to provide propulsion testing to support NASA's rocket propulsion and subsystem development, acceptance testing, and certification. The proposed restoration of the gaseous nitrogen system is designed to maintain the mission readiness of the Stennis Space Center. Specific design elements for the restoration of the gaseous nitrogen system are replacement of the existing pumps and piping, installation of new atmospheric vaporizers and the demolition of the natural gas fired vaporizers.

Alternatives considered include the No Action Alternative (i.e., no modification) as well as alternative construction of a new facility. Cancellation of the project would result in possible termination of operation of the propulsion testing program and significant costs to the operation of SSC.

The environmental impacts identified as a result of the Environmental Assessment are as follows. Air emissions include minor fugitive emissions from construction of the foundation for the atmospheric vaporizers. Beneficial environmental impacts would result from the demolition and removal of the natural gas fired vaporizers. This action will remove a permitted air emissions source. NASA will pursue modifications to its existing air permit with the appropriate regulatory agencies to cover this activity. The proposed project site is in an existing facility and is not located in wetlands or floodplains. No threatened or endangered species, critical habitats, historical or cultural resources will be affected by the project. No other matters of potential environmental concern have been identified. Under planned operation of the facility, no significant effects to the environment are anticipated.

On the basis of the EA 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.

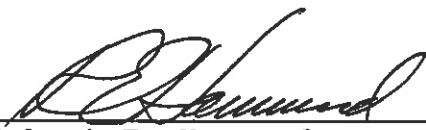


Roy S. Estess
Center Director
John C. Stennis Space Center



Date

Concurrence:



Robert E. Hammond
Director, Environmental Management Division
NASA Headquarters



Date