NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE: 98-LERC-01

Finding of No Significant Impact;
Repair of Sewers at the NASA Lewis Research Center

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lewis Research Center, Cleveland, Ohio

ACTION: Sewer system repair and modification

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 Procedures for Implementing NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed repair and modification of sewers at the Lewis Research Center located in Cleveland, Ohio. NASA has independently reviewed the Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the proposed sewer system repair and modification, 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. Based upon the analyses and evaluations developed in the EA, it is concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement is not necessary.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing no later than May 10, 1998.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL: Donald J. Campbell, Director, NASA Lewis Research Center

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Environmental Management Office, NASA Lewis Research Center, Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone (216) 433-8852. The EA prepared for the proposed sewer system repair and modification, and from which this FONSI was developed, may be reviewed at:

NASA Lewis Research Center
Building 500, Room 1303

Mr. Eric Dawson
NASA Headquarters Library
Room IJ20
300 E. Street
Washington, DC 20546

Cuyahoga County Public Library
Fairview Park Regional Library
4449 West 213th Street
Fairview Park, OH 44126

Cleveland Public Library
Government Documents
325 Superior Avenue, NE
Cleveland, OH 44114

Copies of the EA are available for review by contacting Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Environmental Management Office, at the address and/or telephone number noted above.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Environmental Management Office, NASA Lewis Research Center, Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone (216) 433-8852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The NASA Lewis Research Center is proposing actions which include the repair and modification of approximately 6,000 feet of sanitary sewer line that is currently in disrepair. The proposed action would be carried out in five phases from 1999 to 2004. The proposed action includes repairs to the existing sewer system which will require excavation and similar activities generally associated with sewer construction work. Vitrified clay sewer pipe will be excavated, disposed of, and replaced.

The possible environmental impacts of the proposed action and the no-action alternative have been analyzed and are characterized in this EA. Possible impacts associated with the proposed action include those to water resources, biota, historic or cultural resources, and from the generation of waste. The potential for these environmental impacts is negligible to minor, and temporary in nature. The proposed construction activities will generate some excavated material and construction debris that must be disposed of in accordance with Federal and state regulations and guidelines. There will be a minor, temporary impact on local air quality due to the generation of dust by excavation. Temporary, minor noise impacts will likely result from construction activities. The EA concluded that the proposed project will not negatively affect long-term air or water quality, wetlands, cultural resources, environmental justice, threatened or endangered species or critical species, or other biotic resources. There will be no permanent aboveground construction in the 100-year floodplain.

The No-Action Alternative, not to repair or modify the existing sewer system at this time, was examined and determined to be inferior to the proposed action. Failure to repair and modify the existing deteriorating sewer system may result in non-compliance with Clean Water Act regulations, minor impacts should recurrent failures of the existing sanitary system result in flow of wastewater to streams, and increased costs associated with unnecessary treatment of stormwater infiltrating into the sanitary sewer system.

On the basis of the EA developed for analysis of the potential environmental impact of the proposed sewer system repairs, 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.

Donald J. Campbell

March 11, 1998

Donald J. Campbell, Director
Lewis Research Center

Date