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NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 94-LERC-01

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Repair Sanitary Sewer System (Phase I) and Sanitary Treatment Plant (Phase II) at the Plum Brook Station (Lewis Research Center)

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration

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 the planned Sanitary Sewer System Repair, Phase I and the Sanitary Treatment Plant Repair at the Plum Brook Station (PBS) located in Sandusky, Erie County, Ohio. The Sanitary Sewer and Treatment Repair projects involve the planned rehabilitation of existing sanitary sewer lines, connection of the rehabilitated sanitary sewer lines to the Erie County Sewer System and the City of Sandusky Wastewater Treatment Plant, decommission/demolition of the PBS-Taylor Road wastewater treatment plant, and separate connection of the homes and school system buildings (which currently use the PBS-Taylor Road wastewater treatment plant) to the Erie County Sewer System.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing no later than (30 days after the first date of publication in the local newspaper).

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Office of Environmental Programs, NASA Lewis Research Center, Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone 216-433-8852. The Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Sanitary Sewer System Repair, Phase 1, PBS, and Sanitary Treatment Plant Repair, PBS which supports this FONSI can be reviewed at:

NASA Lewis Research Center
Office of Environmental Programs, Building 6
(Contact Peter W. McCallum, 216-433-8852)

NASA Plum Brook Station
Plum Brook Management Office, Building 7141
(Contact Amy L. Bower, 419-621-3233)

Sandusky Library
114 W. Adams Street
Sandusky, OH 44870
(Contact Gail Riedy, Head of Reference Services)

NASA Headquarters Information Center
Room 1H23
Two Independence Square, S.W.
Washington, DC 20546
(Contact Kenneth M. Kumor, 202-358-1112)

A limited number of copies of the EA are available by contacting Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Office of Environmental Programs, at the address and/or telephone number indicated herein.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Mr. Peter W. McCallum, Chief, Office of Environmental Programs,
NASA Lewis Research Center, Mail Stop 6-4, 21000 Brookpark Road,
Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone 216-433-8852.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

NASA has independently reviewed the EA prepared for the Sanitary Sewer System Repair, Phase 1, PBS, and the Sanitary Treatment Plant Repair, PBS, 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.

The NASA Lewis Research Center is proposing action which include:

- o rehabilitation of the existing sanitary sewer lines to eliminate excessive inflow/infiltration into the sewer lines thereby reducing the flow into the treatment plant;
- o connection of the rehabilitated sanitary sewer lines into the Erie County Sewer System and City of Sandusky Wastewater Treatment Plant;
- o decommissioning, abatement, and demolition of the Taylor Road wastewater treatment plant;
- o the separate connection of the homes and school system buildings, currently using the PBS-Taylor Road wastewater treatment plant, to the Erie County Sewer System, effectively segregating their wastewater from the NASA wastewater.

The proposed action includes repairs to the existing sanitary sewer system which necessitate some excavation, grading and trenching normally associated with sewer construction work. The

proposed demolition of the PBS-Taylor Road wastewater treatment plant will generate a considerable amount of debris. PBS has contracted with an off-site disposal company to remove debris of this type and properly dispose of it at the Erie County Landfill.

Three major alternatives to the proposed action were considered. First, the implication of not doing the work was examined. This alternative was judged to be significantly less desirable than the proposed action since it would result in further deterioration of the PBS sanitary sewer system. The problems of excess water infiltration and non-compliance with the National Pollution Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit would continue.

The second alternative considered the impact of sewer rehabilitation only. In this option, the existing sanitary sewer lines would be repaired, but the aging PBS-Taylor Road wastewater treatment plant would continue to be used. This option would require extensive, and costly rehabilitation of the PBS wastewater treatment plant in order to achieve long-term compliance with the NPDES permit. Continued use of the NASA sewage package plant would not only be more costly than the preferred alternative, it is contrary to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) goal of regionalization of wastewater treatment.

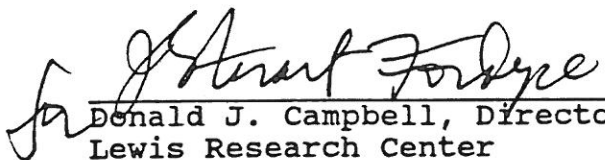
The third alternative considered the construction of a new wastewater treatment plant along with the rehabilitation of the existing sewer lines. This alternative would be considerably more expensive (approximately double the cost) than the preferred alternative. Maintaining a NASA wastewater treatment plant would not meet the USEPA objective of wastewater regionalization. Finally, construction of a new plant poses environmental uncertainties when compared with the preferred alternative.

The proposed construction activities will generate some excavated material and considerable construction debris that must be disposed of according to USEPA guidelines. There will also be a minor impact on local air quality due to dust generated by demolition and excavation. A minor amount of construction noise will occur. NASA has determined that the proposed project will not affect long-term air or water quality, wetlands, cultural resources, threatened or endangered species or critical habitat, or other flora or fauna. No permanent construction above-ground construction would occur in the 100-year floodplain. No other matters of potential environmental concern have been identified.

On the basis of the EA developed in connection with the Sanitary Sewer System Repair, Phase 1, and the Sanitary Treatment Plant Repair, both at the Plum Brook Station and underlying reference documents, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with this project will not individually or

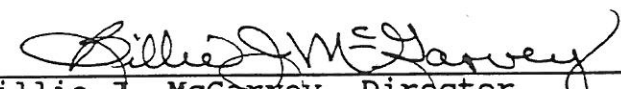
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cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. NASA will take no final action or authorize construction activities prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.


Donald J. Campbell, Director
Lewis Research Center

3/30/94
Date

Concurrence:


Billie J. McGarvey, Director
Facilities Engineering Division
NASA Headquarters

3/23/94
Date