

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 18-SSC-01

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Construction and Operation of the Renewable Energy Solar Array

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 policy and procedures (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed work with Mississippi Power Company (MPC), or like-entity, to develop two photovoltaic (PV) solar array systems for the purpose of generating renewable energy. The proposed action will assist NASA in meeting overall federal goals related to energy independence and sustainability as established by the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and Executive Order 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing by NASA no later than April 15, 2018.

ADDRESS: Comments should be addressed to Mr. David Lorance, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RA02, Building 1100, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Construction and Operation of the Renewable Energy Solar Array that supports this FONSI may be reviewed at:

Maury Oceanographic Library, Building 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Hancock County Library, Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Margaret Reed Crosby Library, Picayune, MS 39466

St. Tammany Parish Library, Slidell, LA 70458

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. David Lorance, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RA02, Building 1100, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; Telephone (228) 688-1516

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: All impacts identified in the EA are considered to be minor or negligible. The most notable environmental impacts are associated with construction of the PV solar array systems and include air emissions, solid waste generation, storm water control, and vegetation disturbance. All other environmental concerns during construction and during operation were found to have no significant impact on the environment.

The 1 MW solar array is proposed for development within the footprint of the 2003 EA developed for the construction of the Emergency Operations Center, and the subsequent FONSI

issued in 2004. Therefore, there would be no appreciable impacts or changes beyond those previously assessed and/or as described for the No Action Alternative.

For the large-scale PV solar array system, SSC considered and evaluated the suitability of two alternative sites located north of the Fee Area within the SSC Buffer Zone - a 623 acre parcel located 2.0 miles from an existing substation and a 146 acre parcel (preferred site) located approximately 0.15 miles from a substation with an existing utility corridor in place. The 146 acre parcel is the preferred site due to its proximity to a substation, existing utility corridor, and the ability to avoid wetlands and cultural resources.

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.





Richard J. Gilbrech, Ph.D.

Date

Director, NASA Stennis Space Center