

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE: 04WFF-03

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

ACTION: Construction and Operation of the Engineering Building at the NASA, Goddard Space Flight Center's Wallops Flight Facility (GSFC's WFF), Wallops Island, Virginia

SUMMARY: NASA proposes to construct and operate the Engineering Building at the WFF Main Base. 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); NASA policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216, Subpart 1216.3); and the Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Engineering Building at WFF (80.03.34.11347), NASA has determined a Finding Of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the construction and operation of the Engineering Building at the WFF Main Base. Based on the analyses and evaluations in the EA, it is concluded that an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

DATE: September 10, 2004

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

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SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:

NASA has reviewed the EA prepared for the construction and operation of the Engineering Building at the WFF Main Base. NASA has concluded that the EA represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. NASA hereby incorporates the EA by reference in the FONSI. The EA included a review of applicable environmental statutes and regulations for the proposed action and concluded that the construction and operation of the Engineering Building is in complete compliance.

The WFF is proposing to construct the Engineering Building on the Main Base on the corner of Avery and Fulton Streets adjacent to Building E-108 and the parking lot for Buildings E-104, E-105, E-106, E-107, and E-108. The proposed location of the Engineering Building is currently a vacant, grassed lot. The Engineering Building is proposed to be approximately 4,900 square meters (52,800 square feet) and two stories in height with an open courtyard in the center. The Engineering Building would increase efficiency for project design and execution by consolidating engineers, designers, and state-of-the-art laboratories into one central location.

The EA discusses the environmental consequences of the proposed action along with mitigating efforts. Various environmental factors were identified that may be affected. These include the following resource areas: land resources, water resources, air quality, noise, radiation, hazardous materials and waste, biological resources, population, employment and income, health and safety, cultural resources, environmental justice, and utilities. NASA has identified no other issues of potential environmental concern.

This FONSI is based on the EA for the construction and operation of the Engineering Building at the WFF, and review of underlying reference documents. NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the proposed action will not have a significant effect on the quality of human health or the natural environment. Therefore, an EIS is not required.

NASA is currently soliciting public and agency review and comment on the environmental impacts of the proposed action through:

1. A notice of availability of the draft EA concerning construction and operation of the Engineering Building at WFF was published in the Eastern Shore News on August 4, 2004;
2. The WFF has currently consulting with local, State, and Federal agencies; and
3. The WFF direct mailed the draft EA to interested parties. All environmental concerns raised during the 30-day public comment period on the draft EA have been assessed.

Summary of Potential Environmental Impacts

Environmental Attribute	No-Action Alternative	Proposed Action
Land Resources	No impacts	No impacts.
Water Resources	No impacts	No impacts.
Air Quality	No impacts	Insignificant impact due to minor increase in particulate matter emissions during construction and minor impacts from operation of a fume hood for adhesives.
Noise	No impacts	Insignificant impact due to minor increase in noise levels during construction.
Radiation	No impacts	No impacts.
Hazardous Materials and Waste	No impacts	No impact during normal operations. If there is an accidental spill or release of a hazardous material, then hazardous waste would be generated. Work will cease and appropriate measures will be taken if contaminated soils are encountered.
Biological Resources	No impacts	No impacts.
Population	No impacts	No impacts.
Employment and Income	No impacts	No impacts.
Health and Safety	No impacts	Insignificant impacts due to minor increase in safety concerns during construction.
Cultural Resources	No impacts	No impacts. Work will cease and appropriate measures will be taken if archaeological resources are encountered.
Environmental Justice	No impacts	No impacts.
Utilities	No impacts	No impacts.
Cumulative	No impacts	No impacts.

ORIGINAL SIGNED BY:

John H. Campbell
 Director of Suborbital and Special Orbital Projects