

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE: KSC-03-18

National Environmental Policy Act: John F. Kennedy Space Center, Florida Power & Light Company (FPL) Solar Photovoltaic (PV) Facilities Environmental Assessment (EA), Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Florida

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended (42 United States Code 4321, et seq.); the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA; 40 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 1500-1508; and NASA policy and procedures, 14 CFR Part 1216, Subpart 1216.3, NASA has made a FONSI with respect to the proposed construction of Solar PV Facilities on KSC, Florida. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to support a partnership between NASA KSC and FPL to develop a 74.5 megawatt (MW) Solar PV Facility on NASA property on Roberts Road on KSC. In addition, NASA proposes to develop a number of smaller solar installations (ground mount and canopies) at up to 12 additional sites on KSC.

DATE: This Proposed Action may proceed as of the date of signature of this FONSI.

ADDRESSES: Written comments or questions should be addressed to:

Mr. Donald Dankert
Environmental Management Branch
NASA Kennedy Space Center
Mail Code: SI-E3
Kennedy Space Center, FL 32899
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E-mail: Donald.J.Dankert@nasa.gov

A limited number of hard copies of the Final EA are available by contacting Mr. Donald Dankert at the address above, electronic mail address, or telephone indicated herein. The Final EA is available online in Acrobat format at <https://environmental.ksc.nasa.gov/EnvironmentalPlanning/NEPA>.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA initiated a 30-day public review and comment period for the Draft EA for the FPL Construction of Solar Photovoltaic Facilities on KSC, Florida, by publishing a notice in the *Florida Today* newspaper on September 26, 2018, and by providing copies to the Florida State Clearinghouse. The public review period closed on October 29, 2018.

The Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission submitted comments through the Florida State Clearinghouse on October 5, 2018. These comments were considered in the Final EA preparation. NASA determined the Final EA represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. This FONSI incorporates the Final EA by reference.

The EA addresses potential impacts associated with the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative. Both were evaluated for the following impacts of construction and operation of the FPL Solar PV Facility on Roberts Road:

- Typically, a 74.5 MW solar facility requires 400 to 600 acres (162 to 243 hectares [ha]) to ensure the facility can be designed to avoid and minimize wetland impacts to the greatest extent practicable.
- A 702-acre (284-ha) area on NASA KSC property has been evaluated in the EA to allow for engineering flexibility.
- The power generated from this facility would feed into FPL's general power supply and would be available to FPL's customers.
- The No Action Alternative assumes there would be no EUL between NASA and FPL; the Solar PV Facility on Roberts Road, as well as the smaller solar distribution sites, would not be constructed on KSC.

Environmental impacts from the Proposed Action construction and associated operations were classified none or minor. The EA considered the following resource areas:

- Land use/visual resources
- Noise
- Biological resources
- Cultural resources
- Air quality
- Climate
- Hazardous materials/hazardous waste (includes solid waste and pollution prevention)
- Water resources
- Geology and soils
- Transportation
- Utilities
- Health and safety
- Socioeconomics
- Environmental justice

Where NASA anticipates minimal impacts may occur, FPL would employ various best management practices and other mitigation measures, as defined in the Biological Opinion issued by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, during construction and operation of the proposed development. There would be no impacts from the No Action Alternative, with the exception of the local economy not realizing beneficial impacts because of the creation of jobs and labor income.

Based on the Final EA, I have determined that the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the biological or physical environment.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

Robert D. Cabana

Robert D. Cabana
Director, John F. Kennedy Space Center
Kennedy Space Center, Florida

14 Dec 18

Date