

**NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION
NOTICE 2004-KSC-01**

**National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Engineering
Technology Development Complex, Kennedy Space Center, Florida**

AGENCIES: Lead: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

ACTION: Construction of the Engineering Technology Development Complex (ETDC) at the John F. Kennedy Space Center (KSC), Kennedy Space Center, Florida

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as Amended (NEPA) (942 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 Procedural Provisions of NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the construction of the ETDC at KSC, Florida.

DATE: Published on November 19, 2004
Deadline for comments January 3, 2005

ADDRESS: Written comments should be addressed to Mr. Mario Busacca, Environmental Program Office, Mail Code TA-C3, John F. Kennedy Space Center, NASA, Kennedy Space Center, Florida 32899; telephone: 321-867-8456; fax: 321-867-8040; and e-mail: mario.busacca-1@nasa.gov. The Environmental Assessment (EA) is available for public review at the Central Brevard Library and Reference Center in Cocoa and the Cocoa Beach, Melbourne, Merritt Island, Port St. John, and Titusville Public Libraries.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The EA prepared for this proposed project addresses the Proposed Action to construct the ETDC at KSC, Florida, on approximately 2.89 hectares (7.14 acres) west of the Launch Equipment Test Facility (LETF), south of the Operations and Checkout Facility (O&C), and east of D Avenue Southeast. This site uses an existing parking lot and a demolished facility footprint for the development area. The ETDC would consolidate existing research and development activities that integrate academia, industry, and Government entities for the enhancement of KSC's mission.

Two alternatives were also evaluated. The Alternative Action One location consists of approximately 5.33 hectares (13.17 acres) of land south of the LETF, south of Third Street Southeast, and east of D Avenue Southeast. This alternative uses existing high-quality uplands for the development area, which is evaluated and discussed in detail within this document.

The Alternative Action Two location consists of approximately 2.07 hectares (5.12 acres) of land northeast of the LETF, south of the O&C Facility, and west of E Avenue Southeast. This alternative uses existing developed land for the site area, which is also evaluated and discussed in detail within this document.

Finally, a No Action Alternative was evaluated to determine the impact of not constructing the ETDC to the environment at KSC.

The EA describes those portions of the KSC environment that relate to each of the alternatives. Issues identified and addressed were transportation, utilities, air quality, biological resources, threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, geology and soils, noise, surface water quality, groundwater quality, socioeconomics, and land use.

The ETDC would be designed and constructed as a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building. The design and construction of the ETDC would be aimed to improve occupant well-being, environmental performance, and economic returns. This would be accomplished through the design and use of innovative practices, standards, and technologies.

The results of the analyses performed as a result of the EA indicate that the environmental construction issues would produce minimal impacts to transportation at the Proposed Action site. These impacts would be due to increased construction traffic within the ETDC site at KSC.

Minimal impacts to surface water due to site preparation would be seen, but would all be contained within the existing permitted storm water system servicing the KSC Industrial Area. Impacts to threatened and endangered species due to removal of habitat by impacting ditches in and around the site may occur, but are unlikely. An increase in socioeconomic inputs to the County due to temporary addition of local construction workforce are also expected, but are considered to be positive. No impacts would be expected to land use at the Proposed Action location as the land use is currently urban, and it would remain urban with the addition of the ETDC. Minimal impacts would also be expected to air quality at the Proposed Action location due to land clearing, facility demolition, vegetation removal, and heavy equipment operation. Minimal impacts would be expected due to increased noise levels and increased traffic during construction of the Proposed Action. Minimal impacts would be expected to line-of-sight, vegetation, wildlife, and geology. No impacts during construction would be expected to cultural resources, utilities, or groundwater.

The results of the assessment of these operational issues indicate that there would be minor impacts due to increased loads to some existing utilities. Minimal impacts would be expected to some utilities, line-of-sight, noise, and surface water quality once the Proposed Action is in operation. However, these would not result in effects off KSC. No impacts would be expected to vegetation, wildlife, and threatened and endangered species due to construction on existing urban land. No impacts would be expected to air quality and transportation due to the relocation of existing KSC employees and laboratory functions as no additional personnel would be coming to KSC. No impacts to operation would be expected to existing facilities, land use, cultural resources, socioeconomics, geology and soils, or groundwater.

Similar impacts as those resulting from the Proposed Action would be expected to occur for the other construction alternatives assessed. There would be minor impacts expected for the implementation of the No Action Alternative. These include the degradation of existing facilities and the operational impacts to the functions they house.

Federal agency activities that affect Florida's Coastal Zone are required by Section 37 of the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972, 16 U.S.C. Section 1456(c), and implementing regulations (15 CRF Part 930), to be consistent with Florida's Coastal Management Program (FCMP). Under Florida's Statutes (Chapter 380.23), only those Federal activities that significantly affect Florida's Coastal Zone will be evaluated for consistency with the FCMP. Since the Proposed Action is not expected to have any significant offsite effects, it has been judged to be consistent with the FCMP. The same condition is expected for the other construction alternatives assessed.

On the basis of the analyses performed as part of the EA and reference material used in the investigation, NASA has concluded that implementation of the Proposed Action would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the environment. Therefore, the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. NASA will take no final action or authorize construction activities prior to 45 days following the publication of the Notice of Availability of this FONSI.

RESPONSIBLE OFFICIAL:

_____ Original Signed by _____

James W. Kennedy

Director

John F. Kennedy Space Center

Kennedy Space Center, Florida

October 27, 2004

Date