

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)  
Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: Based upon information presented in the DRAFT Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA) and comments received during the public comment period, NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the adoption of the JSC Master Plan for the JSC Main Campus, NASA-Ellington Field, El Paso Forward Operating Location, the Sonny Carter Training Facility, and the White Sands Test Facility. This finding is based upon the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), NASA's regulations implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA (14 CFR 1216.3), and NASA Procedural Requirement 8580.1.A, *Implementing NEPA and Executive Order 12114*.

The JSC Master Plan is needed for JSC to secure funding to support core capabilities, meet mission requirements, and respond effectively to future mission changes. The overall goals of the Master Plan are to further human spaceflight by developing resilient buildings, reliable infrastructure, safe and secure access, and a livable campus. The Master Plan is a management tool to achieve JSC's vision to develop, operate, and integrate human space exploration activities involving commercial, academic, international, and U.S. Government partners. As such, the JSC Master Plan includes a 20-year revitalization strategy to support redevelopment of JSC's real property assets and comply with Executive Order 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*.

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Comments received during the comment period will be addressed within the Final PEA, and will be considered in the decision to finalize this FONSI.

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: To support the decision-making process to adopt and socialize the JSC Master Plan, NASA-JSC prepared and finalized a Programmatic Environmental Assessment (PEA). The PEA represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the associated environmental impacts of the Proposed Action.

Under the No-Action Alternative, NASA would not adopt the JSC Master Plan and JSC would continue to operate and maintain the buildings and infrastructure currently in use. Because of the age and configuration of its installations, many of which are now over 50 years old, JSC would risk the capability of meeting human spaceflight mission requirements. Thus, JSC would not achieve the goals of

developing resilient buildings, reliable infrastructure, safe and secure access, and a livable, sustainable campus as envisioned under Executive Order 13693, *Planning for Federal Sustainability in the Next Decade*.

The revitalization strategy includes a combination of new highly efficient construction, demolition (deconstruction) of inefficient irreparable buildings, infrastructure enhancements to improve energy and water utilization, and other improvements that will result in better safety, security, and communication systems.

The PEA evaluated the environmental consequences of the proposed action on surface water; groundwater; wetlands; floodplains; coastal zone management; noise; air quality; greenhouse gas emissions and climate change; hazardous material uses, hazardous waste generation and pollution prevention; ecosystems (e.g., vegetation; wildlife; endangered species); land use; socioeconomic and cultural resources. Where NASA anticipates that insignificant (minor, temporary and primarily construction-related) impacts may occur, JSC would employ various Best Management Practices and other mitigation measures along with appropriate monitoring activities to reduce adverse impacts during implementation of the JSC Master Plan.

During the public comment period on the DRAFT PEA, JSC received only one comment. Appendix B of the PEA includes the comment letter and JSC's response. In addition, minor changes were made to the text of the PEA, and the long-term plan for NASA-EF was altered to include expansion to the south for a new warehouse.

Implementation of the JSC Master Plan is contingent upon the availability of funding. As such, as individual elements of the JSC Master Plan receive funding, NASA will perform an environmental analysis (per 14 CFR 1216.3) to determine whether the individual element is eligible for a categorical exclusion (per 14 CFR 1216.4(d)), whether a tiered environmental assessment off of the Master Plan PEA is appropriate, or whether a stand-alone environmental document (EA/FONSI or EIS) is necessary. Adoption of the Master Plan would ensure that individual projects do not result in the appearance of segmentation or adverse cumulative effects.

Per its procedural guidelines, NASA has committed to reviewing the JSC Master Plan PEA as significant changes to the JSC Master Plan occur, or at least every five years, to determine whether any changes would necessitate the preparation of a Supplemental PEA. At a minimum, NASA will prepare a Memorandum for the File, documenting the outcome of each JSC Master Plan PEA review.

Based upon the information presented in the PEA, I have determined that the environmental impacts associated with the adoption of the JSC Master Plan would not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the human environment. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is unnecessary.



Ellen Ochoa  
Director, Johnson Space Center

  
Date