

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION**NOTICE (04-GRC-01)****National Environmental Policy Act; Gulf of Maine Research Laboratory, Portland, Maine****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 (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA's policies and procedures for implementing NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a finding of no significant impact (FONSI) with respect to the partial funding by NASA of the construction of the Gulf of Maine Research Laboratory (GMRL) located at the former Naval Reserve Center (NRC) site in Portland, Maine. NASA proposes to provide \$1.8 million to enable further construction of the GMRL.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Trudy Kortes, NASA Glenn Research Center, Environmental Management Office, M.S. 6-4, Cleveland, OH 44135; telephone: 216-433-3632; electronic mail: trudy.f.kortes@nasa.gov. A copy of the Environmental Assessment that has been adopted by NASA and supports this FONSI can be obtained by request to Ms. Kortes.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the Environmental Assessment for "Relocation of the Naval Reserve Center at Portland to the Naval Air Station at Brunswick, Maine" dated December 18, 2000 and prepared by the U.S. Department of the Navy. That EA includes analysis of the proposed subsequent construction of the Gulf of Maine Research Laboratory. Based on our review, NASA has determined that the EA represents an adequate and accurate analysis of the alternatives and the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. Therefore, NASA has adopted the EA and hereby incorporates it by reference in this FONSI.

The EA documents the potential environmental impacts from the Gulf of Maine Research Laboratory which is located at the former NRC in Portland, Maine. Construction of the GMRL was initiated in July, 2003 and all ground disturbing activities have been completed. The analysis conducted in support of the EA indicates that the proposed NASA funding will have no adverse long-term impact arising from development and operation of the laboratory on land use, socioeconomic, noise, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, solid waste management, road congestion, toxic substances, wetlands, health and safety, and environmental justice.

NASA funding and consequent construction may result in minor, temporary impacts to the environment. The site is located on and drains to the shore of the Fore River Estuary

in Portland Harbor. Therefore, careful design considerations and strict adherence to erosion and sedimentation control procedures during construction have been implemented to prevent impacts to adjacent aquatic resources.

No other issues of environmental concern have come to NASA's attention.

On the basis of the analyses performed in support of the EA and reference material used in the investigation, NASA has concluded that providing \$1.8 million for continued construction of the GMRL will 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.

for *Subana J Cherry*
Dr. Adena Williams Loston
Associate Administrator
NASA Headquarters, Office of Education

4/14/04
Date

JOB STATUS REPORT

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Fax

To: Don Perkins, President, GMRI **From:** Trudy Kortez, Environmental Engineer
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Phone: **Date:** 4/15/2004
Re: **CC:**

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Don,

A copy of the signed FONSI for your records. Please contact me with any questions at 216-433-3632.

Trudy