

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE: GSFC-15-01

NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT: Instrument Development Facility Area Development Plan at NASA Goddard Space Flight Center (GSFC), Maryland

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)

ACTION: Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI)

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended (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 policy and procedures (14 CFR Part 1216, Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a FONSI with respect to the proposed implementation of an Instrument Development Facility (IDF) Area Development Plan (ADP) at the NASA GSFC, Greenbelt, Maryland. NASA is proposing to redevelop an approximately 10-acre area within the GSFC Greenbelt campus. The redevelopment would occur in phases and would involve both the deconstruction of existing buildings and the construction of new facilities, the first of which would be the IDF.

ADDRESSES: The Final EA may be viewed at the following locations:

- a) Prince George's County Memorial Library, Greenbelt Branch, 11 Crescent Road, Greenbelt, MD 20770 301-345-5800
- b) Prince George's County Memorial Library, Laurel Branch, 8101 Sandy Spring Road, Laurel, MD 20707 301-776-6790
- c) Prince George's County Memorial Library, Bowie Branch, 15210 Annapolis Road, Bowie, MD 20716 301-262-7000
- d) Goddard Space Flight Center Visitor Center, 8800 Greenbelt Road, Greenbelt, MD 20771 301-286-8981
- e) <http://code250.gsfc.nasa.gov/docs/idf-adp-finalEA.pdf>

A limited number of hard copies of the Final EA are available by contacting Ms. Lizabeth Montgomery at the address or telephone number indicated below.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Lizabeth Montgomery
GSFC NEPA Program Manager
NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center, Code 250,
8800 Greenbelt Road
Greenbelt, Maryland 20771
Email: gsfc-enviro@lists.nasa.gov
Telephone: 301-286-0469

SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the EA for the IDF ADP and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The Final EA is hereby incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

NASA solicited public and agency review and comment on the environmental impacts of the Proposed Action through a 30-day comment period on the Draft EA. Notices were published on January 29, 2015, in the *Greenbelt Gazette*, *Bowie Blade*, and *Laurel Leader* newspapers. Printed copies of the Draft EA were mailed to local libraries in Prince George's County, and an electronic version was emailed to interested parties and posted online. Comments received were considered in the preparation of the Final EA.

The EA addressed the potential environmental impacts of implementing an ADP for redevelopment of an approximately 10-acre site within GSFC's campus, as well as the No Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action, NASA would construct and operate up to four distinct, but connected, facilities as part of the Engineering Renewal initiative aimed at improving aging engineering capabilities, the first of which would be the IDF. The construction and operation of this new complex is aimed at promoting synergistic collaborations between the Applied Engineering and Technology Directorate and the Sciences and Exploration Directorate.

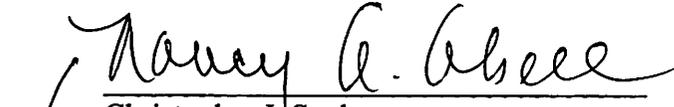
The Proposed Action entails the phased construction of the four buildings, parking, and utility infrastructure within the site. Phase I of this action includes the deconstruction of existing buildings (Buildings 16, 16A, 16B, 17, 84, and 86; and the buildings in Area 400) and the construction of the IDF, consisting of approximately 4,645 square meters (m²) (50,000 square feet [ft²]) of laboratory and office space to accommodate approximately 100 staff and associated parking spaces. Phases II through IV would include the deconstruction of Building 27 and the construction of three facilities with additional office and laboratory space. Personnel staffing the IDF would be relocated from existing facilities; thus, there would be no increase in personnel at GSFC. In total, site improvement activities include the construction of four connected facilities totaling up to 18,580 m² (200,000 ft²), with up to 2,787 m² (30,000 ft²) of expansion potential, to accommodate approximately 400 to 550 staff and associated parking spaces

Four alternatives for the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative were analyzed in detail in the EA. The location of the Proposed Action would remain the same for each of the alternatives; however, the layout of the IDF and its phases would vary. Under the No Action Alternative, the IDF and other facilities would not be constructed and no structures would be demolished.

Analysis in the EA showed that adverse and beneficial impacts on environmental resources would result from implementation of the Proposed Action. These impacts would range from short to long-term and minor to moderate. Variations in impacts between the Proposed Action alternatives are minimal. Construction and deconstruction activities would result in short-term, minor, adverse impacts on soil and water quality as a result of erosion, sedimentation, and storm water runoff. There would also be short-term, minor, adverse impacts on local traffic from construction vehicles. Short-term, minor to moderate, adverse impacts from generation of solid waste would result from construction and deconstruction activities. Long-term, moderate, adverse impacts on historic and cultural resources would occur from deconstruction of contributing resources to the National Register of Historic Places-eligible GSFC Historic District. A Memorandum of Agreement is being developed between NASA GSFC and the Maryland Historical Trust to resolve the adverse effect of the project on historic properties. The new buildings would incorporate energy-efficient designs which would result in long-term, moderate, beneficial impacts on electrical and heating and cooling systems. This would also have long-term, minor, beneficial impacts on air quality from reduced generation of greenhouse

gas emissions. Long-term, minor, beneficial impacts on water resources would occur due to facility designs that would reduce impervious surfaces and improve storm water management. Under the No Action Alternative there would continue to be minor adverse impacts on air quality and water resources due to less efficient building utility and storm water systems.

On the basis of the Final EA, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with the Proposed Action (any of the alternative layouts, including the preferred alternative) would not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required.



Christopher J. Scolese
Director
Goddard Space Flight Center

7/9/2015

Date