

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact for the Proposed Deconstruction and Transfer of the Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel Complex at NASA Langley Research Center

AGENCY: National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Langley Research Center (LaRC)

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 Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500 - 1508), and NASA's policy NPR 8580.1, "Implementing the National Environmental Policy Act and Executive Order 12114," NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed deconstruction of four facilities and transfer to Langley Air Force Base (LAFB) of one facility associated with the Low-Turbulence Pressure Tunnel (LTPT) Complex at NASA LaRC. All of the buildings are located on land leased by NASA from LAFB. The buildings are abandoned or are in the process of being closed, and NASA has determined they are no longer needed. The proposed action is intended to reduce the Center's infrastructure and allow LaRC to direct limited resources towards facilities that support NASA's overall mission, both currently and in the future. The deconstruction and transfer activities would begin in 2010 and continue into 2012. Following removal of the facilities, NASA LaRC would return the land to LAFB.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Ms. Mary Gainer, NASA LaRC Environmental Management Branch, MS 213, Hampton, VA 23681-2199, (757) 864-7762.

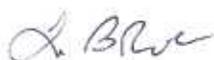
SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION: NASA has reviewed the EA prepared for the proposed deconstruction and transfer project and has determined that it represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

The Proposed Action, one Alternative and the No-Action Alternative were considered in the EA. Under the one Alternative, there would be no building transfer to LAFB and all five of the LTPT Complex facilities would be deconstructed. All other aspects of the project would be the same as under the Proposed Action. Under the No-Action alternative, NASA would not remove the facilities. The No-Action alternative would not fulfill the need to reduce NASA's infrastructure and allow operations and maintenance resources to be redirected toward mission critical infrastructure.

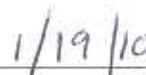
The EA addressed environmental impacts in the areas of Land Use; Noise; Cultural Resources; Hazardous, Regulated and Solid Waste; Pollution Prevention, Health and Safety; Visual Resources; Air Quality; and Water Resources. With the exception of Cultural Resources, the impact of the Proposed Action on the identified resource areas would be extremely minor and temporary. Implementation of the Proposed Action would impact LaRC's cultural resources

since all of the facilities have been identified by NASA as being eligible for listing in the National Register as contributing resources to the LaRC Historic District. In accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and in consultation with the Virginia State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), LaRC plans to minimize the impact to cultural resources by completing mitigation measures prescribed in the Memorandum of Agreement that was recently executed between NASA LaRC and the SHPO for the Proposed Action.

On the basis of the information provided in the EA, NASA LaRC has determined that the environmental impacts associated with this project will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the human or natural environment. Therefore, issuance of a FONSI is warranted, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, is not required.



Lesa B. Roe
Director, NASA Langley Research Center



Date