

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 00-SSC-02

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; Construction of the Lockheed Martin Propulsion, Thermal, and Metrology Center at Stennis Space Center

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 Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and NASA's policy and procedures (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed construction and operation of the Lockheed Martin Propulsion, Thermal, and Metrology Center (hereinafter referred to as the "Center"). The Center would be used for the production of propulsion systems such as thrusters for satellites and other spacecraft, thermal control systems to protect space vehicles from extreme temperatures, and for development of standards to calibrate test equipment. The Center would be constructed within NASA's John C. Stennis Space Center (SSC) in Hancock County, Mississippi.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing by NASA no later than November 8, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RAOO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Propulsion, Thermal, and Metrology Center that supports this FONSI may be reviewed at:

Maury Oceanographic Library, Building 1003, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529

Hancock County Library, Highway 90, Bay St. Louis, MS 39520

Margaret Reed Crosby Library, Picayune, MS 39466

St. Tammany Parish Library, Slidell, LA 70458

NASA Headquarters, Library, 300 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20546

A limited number of copies of the EA are available by contacting Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, at the address and/or telephone number herein indicated.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RAOO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; Telephone (228) 688-7384

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: NASA has determined that the EA for the construction of the Lockheed Martin Propulsion, Thermal, and Metrology Center represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is incorporated by reference in this FONSI.

NASA, under the terms of a lease with the State of Mississippi, will allow construction of a Propulsion, Thermal, and Metrology Center at SSC. Lockheed Martin Space Systems will operate the Propulsion and Thermal Center and Lockheed Martin Technology Services will be responsible for Metrology. The Center would be used for the production of propulsion systems such as thrusters for satellites and other spacecraft, thermal control systems to protect space vehicles from extreme temperatures, and for development of standards to calibrate test equipment. The building would consist of a total of 20,440 square meters (220,000 square feet); 1240 square meters (13,400 square feet) of office and administrative space, 18,500 square meters (199,100 square feet) of operation and assembly space, and 700 square meters (7,500 square feet) of warehouse space. The decision to construct this Center at SSC was based in part on Lockheed Martin Technology Services' desire to be in close proximity to NASA's Lead Center for Propulsion Testing. Reasonable alternatives considered are locating the Center near the intersection of Standby Road and Mainline Road; near the H1 Test Stand; across the SSC canal from Building 3202; and the "No Action Alternative". The "No Action Alternative" would result in no new construction.

Based upon the EA for this project and other logistics, the area at the intersection of Standby Road and Main Line Road was selected as the preferred alternative. The environmental impacts of the proposed construction and operation include fugitive air emissions, erosion control, wetlands disturbance, traffic, flora and fauna, and temporary intermittent noise. There is no practicable alternative that would avoid location in wetlands, and appropriate mitigation as described in the EA will be implemented for a 13.8 hectare (34 acre) site. All alternatives are classified as Pine Savannah type wetlands that have been subject to forest management practices. The wetlands, woodlands and traffic impacts would not be substantial. Impacts of the proposed project would be temporary (with the exception of wetlands, woodlands and traffic) and would not measurably affect the local community and will have minimal impact at the SSC facility.

This project would not alter the architecture or historic attributes of the facility and would not affect the property from a cultural resource standpoint. The proposed project site would not be located in floodplains. No threatened or endangered species or critical habitats will be affected by the project. No other matters of potential environmental concern have been identified. On the basis of the EA and underlying reference documents, NASA has determined that the environmental impacts associated with this project will not individually or cumulatively have a significant effect on the quality of the environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required. NASA will take no final action or authorize construction activities prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.



Roy S. Estess, Center Director
John C. Stennis Space Center

10/06/2000

Date