

NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION

NOTICE 00-SSC-01

National Environmental Policy Act; Finding of No Significant Impact; E4 Test Stand Construction at the John C. 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 Procedures for Implementing NEPA (14 CFR Subpart 1216.3), NASA has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to the proposed construction of the E4 Test Stand at Stennis Space Center. NASA is planning construction of this test stand to meet requirements for testing of Rocket Based Combined Cycle (RBCC) engines.

DATE: Comments in response to this notice must be received in writing within 30 days of June 25, 2000.

ADDRESSES: Comments should be addressed to Ronald G. Magee, NASA Environmental Officer, Code RAOO, Stennis Space Center, MS 39529-6000; Telephone (228) 688-7384. The Environmental Assessment (EA) for the E4 Test Stand that supports this FONSI may be reviewed at:

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

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

Margaret Reed Crosby Library, Picayune, MS

St. Tammany Parish Library, Slidell, LA

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 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 Environmental Assessment for the E4 Test Stand at SSC 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 is planning to build a new test stand for testing of rocket engines using RBCC technology. The stand would be capable of three different test regimes: sea level static tests, sea level free jet tests, and altitude tests. The primary benefit of this test stand and associated engines is the development of new propulsion systems for reusable launch vehicles that will significantly reduce the cost of launching payloads to orbit. Alternatives considered are locating the test stand near the A Test Stands; near the H1 Test Stand; north of the E2 Test Stand; and the "No Action Alternative". The "No Action Alternative" would result in no new construction.

Based upon the Environmental Assessment for this project, the area north of the E2 Test Stand was selected as the preferred alternative and therefore will be called the E4 Test Stand. The environmental impacts of the proposed construction include fugitive air emissions, erosion control, wetlands disturbance, and noise. These temporary impacts will not affect the local community and will have minimal impact at the SSC facility. Engine testing that would be associated with the test stand may have environmental impacts from intermittent rocket engine air emissions, cooling water discharges, spill potential from propellant storage tanks, and noise. These impacts have been previously reviewed in NASA's Environmental Impact Statement of Engine Technology Support for NASA's Advanced Space Transportation Program, 1996.

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 along 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

6/21/21

Date