

## NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION NOTICE

**Notice:** National Environmental Policy Act; The Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC), a NASA installation, proposes to construct a new Life Sciences Laboratory (Building 21) and demolish multiple structures as part of a recapitalization program. **This Notice announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact for the proposed activity.**

**Agency:** NASA and the Lyndon B. Johnson Space Center (JSC)

**Action:** Publication of a 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 1500-1508), and implementing NASA policy/procedures (14 CFR 1216), NASA announces the availability of the Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) that address the environmental impacts expected to result from the construction of proposed Building 21 and demolition of Building 37 (Life Sciences Laboratory), Building 37 adjoining storage facilities, and other associated structures located in the 200 Area at JSC. The areas associated with structure demolition will revert to green space. The proposed action will result in temporary adverse impacts to environmental resources in the vicinity of the proposed construction site of Building 21 and areas associated with demolition activities. No long-term adverse impacts to the human environment will be realized after completion of the proposed action. The proposed action will result in beneficial impacts to energy usage due to the sustainable design of Building 21 and the estimated 10 percent reduction in air-conditioned square footage at JSC.

**Date:** Published in *Houston Community Newspapers*, December 20, 2012

**Address:** NASA-JSC (Mail Code JE); 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, TX 77058

The EA which supports this FONSI is available for public review at JSC's on-site Industry Assistance Office, Building 111, 2101 NASA Parkway, Houston, Texas 77058 between the hours of 7:30 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. and at the Clear Lake City - Harris County Freeman Branch Public Library, 16616 Diana Lane, Houston, Texas 77062.

**For Further Information:** Requests for copies of the EA and FONSI, or for additional information, please contact Mr. David Hickens, Chief, NASA-JSC Environmental Office at the above address or by E-mail: [david.hickens-1@nasa.gov](mailto:david.hickens-1@nasa.gov).

**Supplemental Information:** NASA prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the construction of Building 21 and demolition of Building 37, Building 37 adjoining storage structures, and other associated support structures in the 200 Area. The EA represents an accurate and adequate analysis of the scope and level of associated environmental impacts. The EA is hereby incorporated by reference into this FONSI and both are available for public and interagency review and comment.

NASA fully evaluated two alternatives, the Proposed Action Alternative and the No Action Alternative, within the EA. The Proposed Action Alternative includes the construction of Building 21 and a new parking lot, located just west of Second Street, and the demolition of Building 37, Building 37 adjoining storage structures, and six structures in the 200 Area. The laboratories to be housed in the new Building 21 are currently located in Building 37 and other buildings on campus including six buildings in the 200 Area. Under the No Action Alternative, NASA will not take action to modify Building 37 or construct a new laboratory and will result in no impacts to the environment. This alternative will not improve the infrastructure deemed necessary to meet the current and future initiatives of NASA and JSC.

NASA fully evaluated the potential physical, water, coastal, biological, cultural, and socioeconomic impacts of the construction of Building 21 and demolition of associated structures and no related impacts were identified. Potential resource impacts related to construction and demolition activities included, but were not necessarily limited to: land resources, air quality, surface water, groundwater, wetlands, floodplains, coastal resources, biological resources, cultural resources, noise levels, hazardous materials, socioeconomics, and environmental justice. The proposed construction of Building 21 and demolition activities will have no long term adverse impact on any of these resources.

**Cumulative Impacts:** The EA reviewed cumulative impacts that could result from the incremental impact of proposed activities when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Development projects within this context will be consistent with the JSC Master Plan. Cumulative beneficial impacts to certain environmental resources may result from current and future development as NASA Policy Directive 8820.2C requires new construction to incorporate sustainable design features with the current recommendation to achieve, at a minimum, a Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Silver certification through the U.S. Green Building Council. Building 21 will be built to meet the Gold certification.

**Mitigation:** Standard construction best management practices (BMP) will be implemented to reduce erosion potential during ground disturbing activities and compliance with regulatory requirements to ensure appropriate storm water runoff control. The construction contractor will be required to develop a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and file a Notice of Intent with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) and the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) prior to the start of construction. Areas of construction near drainage features will need to employ sedimentation controls to ensure minimal discharge of sediment to nearby ditches. Prior to demolition, the proper handling of asbestos, lead paint, and other hazardous materials and industrial solid and hazardous waste will be determined and incorporated into project requirements and specifications. Any hazardous waste generated during construction will be managed and disposed of in accordance with applicable local, State, and Federal regulations. To minimize construction noise impacts to surrounding residential areas, construction will take place during normal business hours and equipment will meet all local, State, and Federal noise regulations. To reduce potential impacts to traffic in the immediate vicinity of the proposed activities construction vehicles and equipment will be stored on-site during project construction and appropriate signage will be posted on affected roadways. Additionally, all construction activities will be performed by qualified personnel and in accordance with the standards specified in Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) regulations and JSC's Safety and Health Handbook (JPR 1700.1).

On the basis of the EA, NASA has determined that the physical, biological, socioeconomic, and cultural impacts associated with the construction of Building 21 and related demolition activities will not individually or cumulatively have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, NASA has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement need not be prepared. NASA will take no final action prior to the expiration of the 30-day comment period.

Ellen Ochoa  
Ellen Ochoa, Director  
Johnson Space Center

3/14/13  
Date